

**MANSIONS, MONUMENTS AND MANIACS
ON NEW YORK'S UPPER WEST SIDE:
NEW BOOK, *HEAVEN ON THE HUDSON*, TELLS THE TALE**

- The only freestanding privately owned villa in New York City
- A tomb that's not a tomb
- The home of a dentist who poisoned his in-laws to more quickly access his wife's inheritance

What do they have in common?

They all stand today on Riverside Drive, a quiet street on New York City's Upper West Side. Their stories and more are told in a new book, *Heaven on the Hudson: Mansions, Monuments, and Marvels of Riverside Park*, the colorful tale of a singular New York City neighborhood and the personalities who make it special.

On Riverside, there are miles of mansions and monuments, acres of flora, and – in the middle of Manhattan -- fauna ranging from falcons to goats. It's where the Gershwins and Babe Ruth once lived, William Randolph Hearst ensconced his paramour, and Amy Schumer owns a penthouse. It's also where the ruthless Robert Moses created a glorious recreational space on the city's West Coast.

Told in the personal voice of a long-time resident, *Heaven on the Hudson* is the only New York City book that features the history, architecture, and people of this often overlooked neighborhood, from its earliest days through the present. It traces the evolution of Park and Drive from the beginning – no one wanted to live near the “maniacs” at the local asylum -- and from squalor to splendor, exploring the reasons why Riverside Drive never became the “new Fifth Avenue” that promoters anticipated. From grand “country seats” to squatter settlements to multi-million-dollar residences, the book follows the neighborhood's roller-coaster highs and lows over time. It shares headline-making scandals, architectural highlights and hidden gems.

Heaven on the Hudson's author, Stephanie Azzarone, has lived on Riverside Drive most of her life and created the book as a love letter to her neighborhood. Azzarone is a former journalist who also ran an award-winning New York City public relations agency.

Heaven on the Hudson: Mansions, Monuments, and Marvels of Riverside Park is published by Fordham University Press/Empire State Editions. It is available for pre-order now on [Amazon](#) and [Barnes & Noble](#) and will be sold at local bookstores, including Shakespeare & Co., Strand and Book Culture, starting September 20. Retail price: \$39.95.

For additional information, please contact [Stephanie Azzarone](#).

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