



Leseprobe

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The NYC Coloring Book

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INTRODUCTION

I moved to New York City in 1998, days after graduating from college. I adore it here: the way it sounds, the pace, the styles, how time moves. I wade through it all, absorbing as much as possible. It's loud and vibrant and 100 percent alive. From getting a slice of pizza to stopping to watch a game at the West 4th Street basketball court, returning books to the library or picking up a bacon-egg-and-cheese from a bodega, the list of activities I enjoy goes on and on. The things you see, hear, and take in are pure magic.

As a professional illustrator, I find endless sources of inspiration in the city. There are so many moments that feel like little victories unique to living here. For example, the worker at the laundry place knowing your name, or waving to your local shop owner as you pass by ("I'll see you tomorrow to pick up some spider mums" is something I never expected to say!). The more common things still feel precious to me, too, like riding the subway or knowing for certain where the best bagels are.

I've tried to capture as many places and experiences as possible that represent the real, authentic feeling of being in New York City that would fit into the pages of this book. I decided to focus on Manhattan because it's where I live, but also because there would be way too many great options to choose from if I opened it up to all five boroughs. I hope folks who live here will notice a lot of fun nods to common occurrences, and that visitors to the city might find some surprises in this behind-the-curtain view of daily life here. To name just a few inclusions, I've drawn a Dr. Zizmor ad for the old-timers, as well as a bodega cat for the animal lovers, plus the recently reopened Studio Museum in Harlem for the culturally inclined.

This is my fourth book inspired by New York and my first-ever coloring book. Putting together my other books—which feature full-color drawings of the city's storefronts and street vendors—felt very personal, since I was rendering tiny details that business owners and their staff had added to make their shops unique and reflect their character. Creating these black line drawings feels intimate in an entirely different way, where you get to dig into the details. Here, it's the two of us working together. Have fun! Who knows, maybe it'll even spur on a first trip if you've never visited, or motivate you to check out a place you've never been before if you're based here. Be sure to look at the captions in the back, which identify what everything is.

Oh, and remember to color however you like, for your own satisfaction. Take the majestic Empire State Building: From my apartment I can see it in all its glory and how it's lit up each night. It's so cool! When the Knicks or Mets win, it's orange and blue. For Valentine's Day, a lovely red. Or the constant classic, bright white. That's how I hope you'll approach this book and have a blast doing it. Peace!

