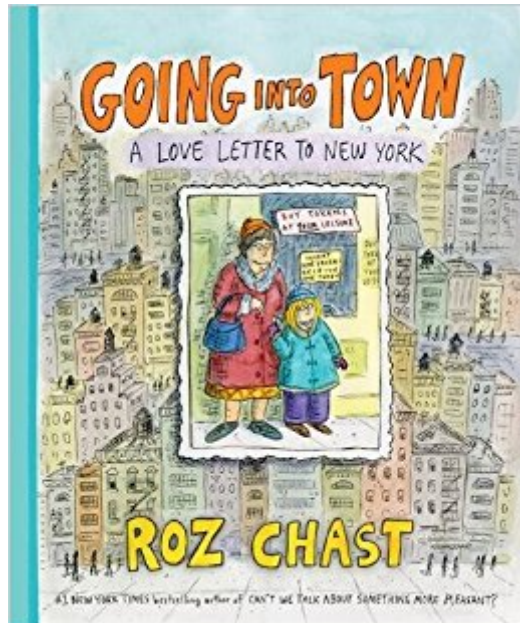


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Going Into Town: A Love Letter To New York



Synopsis

From the #1 NYT bestselling author of *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*, Roz Chast's new graphic memoir--a hilarious illustrated ode/guide/thank-you note to Manhattan as only she could write it. For native Brooklynite Roz Chast, adjusting to life in the suburbs (where people own trees!?) was surreal. But she recognized that for her kids, the reverse was true. On trips into town, they would marvel at the strange world of Manhattan: its gum-wad-dotted sidewalks, honey-combed streets, and "those West Side Story-things" (fire escapes). Their wonder inspired *Going into Town*, part playful guide, part New York stories, and part love letter to the city, told through Chast's laugh-out-loud, touching, and true cartoons.

Book Information

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"Chast's voice and vision make this a singular love letter to a singular city." - starred review, *Kirkus Reviews*"Observations and advice on making one's way through the city's diversions are mixed with the quirky character that oozes from the metropolis's every concrete pore. It's all delivered with obvious and knowing affection and captured with a keenly observant pen." - starred review, *Publishers Weekly*"Chast applies her appealingly shaggy drawing style and ever-so-slightly skewed

worldview to New York's subways, museums, ethnic restaurants, and other attributes." - Booklist "Love New York? So does Roz Chast, and we're the luckier for it . . . A handy reminder of what makes the city lovable, maddening and a little gross." - The Forward's "These Are the 23 Books You Need to Read this Summer" "The wonderful and inimitable Roz Chast introduces her old friend, New York City, in a beguiling way that will illuminate newcomers, prompt old-timers to nod in recognition, and inspire a whole new generation of siamese standpipe buffs." - Luc Sante "I love this book as much as one can love a book without getting arrested." - Patricia Marx "Those of us who prefer Roz Chast's work to just about any other amalgam of words and pictures since the Egyptian hieroglyphs will not be surprised that her book about New York is a complete delight from first page to last--but all of us may be instructed anew in how much her art depends on her close observation of detail. Everything in the city--from the positive emptiness of the Metropolitan Museum to the ominous emptiness of a subway car--is registered with a discriminating eye for the truth as real as her matchless sense of the wacky." - Adam Gopnik "By turns grim and absurd, deeply poignant and laugh-out-loud funny. Ms. Chast reminds us how deftly the graphic novel can capture ordinary crises in ordinary American lives." - Michiko Kakutani, New York Times on CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING MORE PLEASANT? "A tour de force of dark humor and illuminating pathos about her parents' final years as only this quirky genius of pen and ink could construe them." - Elle on CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING MORE PLEASANT? "An achievement of dark humor that rings utterly true." - Washington Post on CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING MORE PLEASANT? "Revelatory . . . So many have faced (or will face) the situation that the author details, but no one could render it like she does. A top-notch graphic memoir that adds a whole new dimension to readers' appreciation of Chast and her work." - starred review, Kirkus Reviews on CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING MORE PLEASANT?

Roz Chast grew up in Brooklyn. Her cartoons began appearing in the New Yorker in 1978, where she has since published more than one thousand. She wrote and illustrated the #1 NYT bestseller (100+ weeks) Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?, a National Book Critics Circle Award and Kirkus Prize winner and finalist for the National Book Award; What I Hate: From A to Z; and her cartoon collections The Party, After You Left and Theories of Everything.

Cartoonist Roz Chast - whose work has appeared often in the The New Yorker and in previously published books, seemed to strike gold in her last book of cartoons, "Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant". That book, which was about the aging of her parents and how she

coped with it, "spoke" to many, many people in my age group, who often had elderly parents we were responsible for. And, the book reminded US of OUR coming problems, as WE aged. "Good times...", as they say, bemoaning our current lot and fearing for the future, all in one book. Roz Chast's newest book, "Going Into Town: A Love Letter to New York", is a bit of a different animal. Please note that to Roz Chast, "New York City" actually means the island of Manhattan. Originally set forth as a guide to her college-age daughter who had grown up in the northern suburbs of New York, and was now moving to the city, the book is a joyful look at New York City, both its past and future, but, mostly its present. Roz had grown up in Brooklyn and ventured into Manhattan with her parents on rare, special occasions, so a lot of what she was writing to her daughter would have applied to her when she finally moved to Manhattan as a young adult. (She and her husband moved to the suburbs to raise their two children.) Chast's special drawings, combined with spot-on commentary about the city and its people, is a charming reminder to all of us poor people who may go to New York on vacation, but don't get to live in that special place, with the traffic jams, the street food, the noises and smells, all of which combine to make Manhattan, Manhattan. "Going Into Town" is a sweet book. It truly is a "love letter to New York".

Roz Chast grew up in Brooklyn (before it became trendy) in the same neighborhood that I did; in fact, we even attended the same high school. So I laughed out loud when she describes the destiny she avoided: commuting every day to Manhattan wearing beige support hose and clinging to a subway pole. Fortunately, Roz Chast evaded that fate and did move to the city. But like many city dwellers, she eventually moved an hour north of the city. When her own daughter decides to attend college in Manhattan, she created this book—a graphic memoir that is, in essence, a love note to the Big Apple. Both personal and practical (there's a great guide, for example, to the main museums and the main parks), this is a hilarious, dead-on look at Manhattan: where the city bird may well be the pigeon, the wildlife consists of mice, rats, and GIANT rats, and interesting storefronts and objects abound. Still, there's no other city like it—“the best place in the world, an experiment, a melting pot, a fight to the death, an opera, a musical comedy, a tragedy, none of the above, all of the above.” It's a must-have book for any New Yorker, former New Yorker, or anyone who has heard of or dreamt of New York. And, while it lacks the introspection and poignancy of *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*, it is what it is—a wonderfully illustrated look at a one-of-a-kind city as only Roz Chast could create.

I loved this and read the 170 pages straight through because I just couldn't stop. I enjoy the cartoons and books of Roz Chast and purchased two of her prior books. To explain my relation to Manhattan: I was a Connecticut suburb dweller for 45 years married to a NYC commuter who never wanted to return to The City on weekends so I rarely went. My early visits were in the 70s and 80s when it was dangerous. I then made more trips for museum and Broadway shows to expose my kids to art history and performance art for their homeschooling education. I then moved to Texas and now I regularly visit NYC as a tourist (and visiting my friend) for my own personal enjoyment of the arts. Chast divides the book into these topics, an introduction, layout (the map), walking around, how to use the subway, things to do, flora and fauna, food, apartments, and a chapter on how Manhattan is always changing and how it is different place to different kinds of people. Thank you to Roz Chast for finally teaching me the layout of the city, the visuals with the easy to understand explanation was effective when just hearing these things said to me by my husband and my friend failed. I needed to see it in her simplified diagrams. The rest was funny views and perspectives shared as only an insider with a sense of humor could share. The page on the empty subway car killed me. I loved the cartoons as well as the old photos. If you don't know of Roz Chast and want a fun book about Manhattan let this be your introduction. If you know and love the cartoons and illustrations and books of Roz Chast then you already know you are going to want to read and own this book. I plan to preorder this for a gift for my NYC friend and her family. If you are a lover of graphic books, cartoons or comics for adults you will enjoy this even if you have never been to The City. Love it, 5 stars.

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