New York City

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The Urban Life and Urban Landscape Series
New York City
An Outsider’s Inside View

Mario Maffi

The Ohio State University Press
Columbus
A tricky business, that of understanding New York. The city is always on the move, forever shifting. You leave it one day and you come back the next to find that it has changed mood and countenance.

Observing it from afar, as the immigrants must have done more than a century ago, it comes across as a solid, immovable construction in granite—a splendid, impregnable fortress. And yet, maybe even more than Hemingway’s Paris, it is a moveable feast, spinning, throbbing, and changing, swirling and elusive. That is its charm, that is its curse. And yet, like all metropolises, New York, too, has its own deep-seated nucleus: a solid, fixed kingpin that alone allows it to spin, throb, and change.