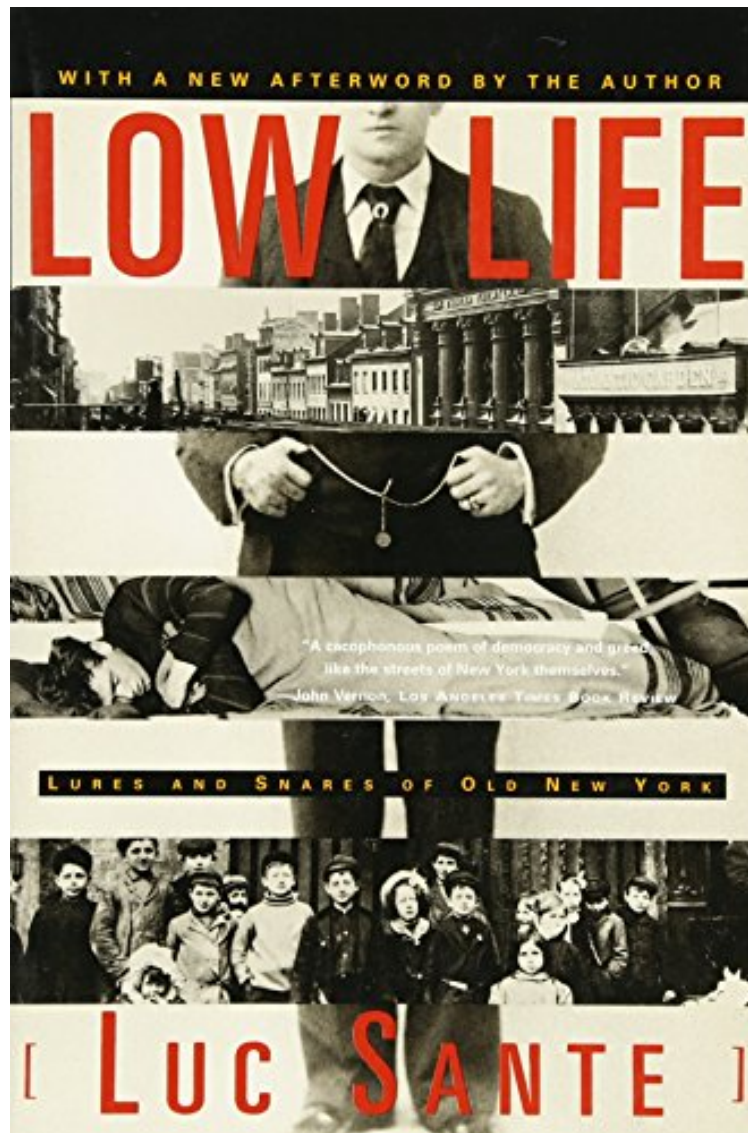


## Low Life: Lures and Snares of Old New York

Luc Sante

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**Luc Sante : Low Life: Lures and Snares of Old New York** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Low Life: Lures and Snares of Old New York:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Eye Popping Look Into DarknessBy personalnjcAwesome book that reaches into a New York that does not appear on any tourist map, and would not be somewhere you would want to visit if it did. I am not among those who miss the old New York of porn, filth, graffiti, unrestricted public displays of chaos, crime, car alarms, crack pipes, etc as some people opined as Times Square lost its criminal charm (Not a

comment about porn, but it shouldn't be the dominant character of an entire city.). This book actually goes further back and much deeper into municipal dysfunctions and is memorizing. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I love the vivid portrayals and descriptions of the various activities. By libertarian\_hammer After I finished reading this book, I started again at page one! I love the vivid portrayals and descriptions of the various activities, people, groups and fights. Luc is quite the storyteller, and I enjoyed his other book, Evidence. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A great book about New York City in the late 19th ... By Jake Fantom A great book about New York City in the late 19th and early 20th centuries -- filled with real-life characters, bizarre incidents, amazing statistics, and on-the-scene reportage from the lower depths of Manhattan. If you're a New Yorker physically or spiritually, you owe it to yourself to read this magnificent book.

Luc Sante's *Low Life* is a portrait of America's greatest city, the riotous and anarchic breeding ground of modernity. This is not the familiar saga of mansions, avenues, and robber barons, but the messy, turbulent, often murderous story of the city's slums; the teeming streets--scene of innumerable cons and crimes whose cramped and overcrowded housing is still a prominent feature of the cityscape. *Low Life* voyages through Manhattan from four different directions. Part One examines the actual topography of Manhattan from 1840 to 1919; Part Two, the era's opportunities for vice and entertainment--theaters and saloons, opium and cocaine dens, gambling and prostitution; Part Three investigates the forces of law and order which did and didn't work to contain the illegalities; Part Four counterposes the city's tides of revolt and idealism against the city as it actually was. *Low Life* provides an arresting and entertaining view of what New York was actually like in its salad days. But it's more than simply a book about New York. It's one of the most provocative books about urban life ever written--an evocation of the mythology of the quintessential modern metropolis, which has much to say not only about New York's past but about the present and future of all cities.

.com There are very few classics in the field of pop culture--the academic stuff tends to be too dry and the fun stuff is too quickly dated. This book by Luc Sante is the exception--in fluid prose liberally sprinkled with astute metaphors, Sante tells the story of New York's Lower East Side, circa 1840-1920. The personal histories of criminals, prostitutes, losers, and swindlers bring to life the social and statistical history that the author has meticulously researched. Not limiting himself to the usual sources, Sante finds his history in old copies of *Police Gazette* as well as actual police, fire, and social service records. Above all, what really makes this book work is the writing, which brings to life a culture of the streets that continues to form a silent influence on our contemporary popular culture. From Publishers Weekly Sante exposes the underside of Manhattan's underclass circa 1840-1919, presenting New York then as already a realm of danger and pleasure. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The history of New York City (Manhattan Island) is rich and varied--a veritable gold mine for writers interested in exploring some of its darker passages. Sante, Lower East Side resident, became curious about the area's 19th-century tenement buildings and how their early inhabitants lived, traveled, and were entertained. The four sections of this fascinating and thought-provoking book cover the period 1840-1919, and are entitled "The Landscape" (streets and buildings); "Sporting Life" (theater, saloons, gambling, drugs, prostitution); "The Arm" (street gangs, police, and politics); and "Invisible City" (orphans, drifters, and "Bohemians"). New York's dark side is rooted in its past. Areas such as the Bowery owe their unsavory reputations to their colonial beginnings, and the often tawdry "pop culture" of today began with Manhattan's 19th-century underclass. This book is as lively and vivid as its subject matter. Highly recommended.- Howard E. Miller, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Missouri Lib., St. Louis Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.