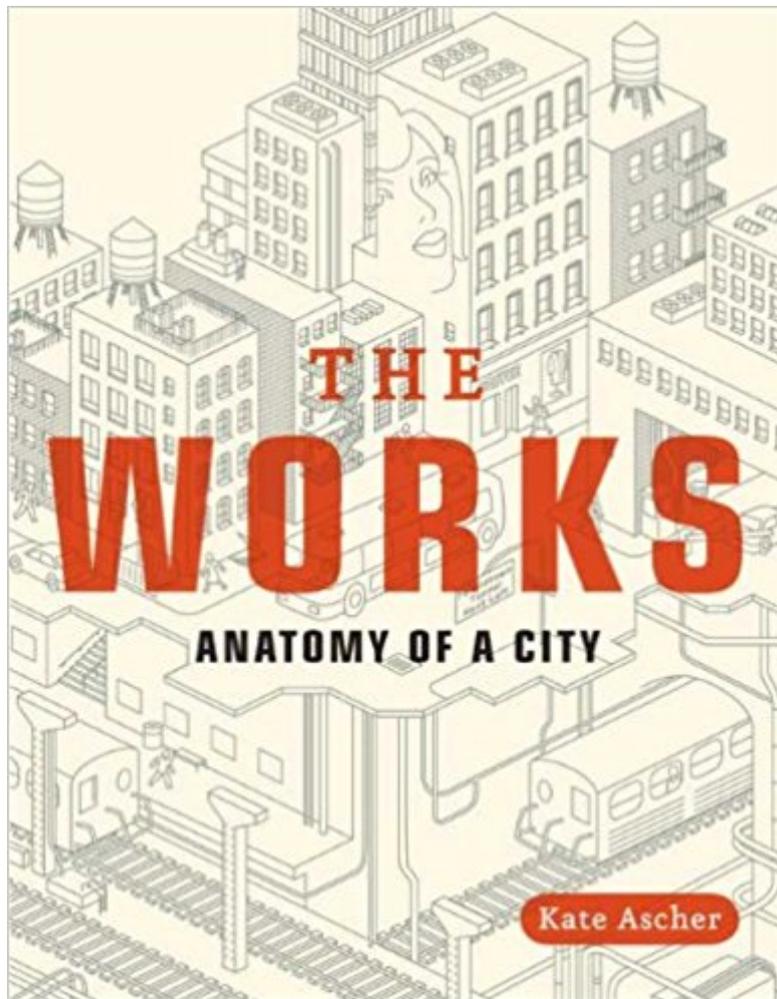


The book was found

The Works: Anatomy Of A City



Synopsis

Read Kate Ascher's posts on the Penguin Blog. A fascinating guided tour of the ways things work in a modern city. Have you ever wondered how the water in your faucet gets there? Where your garbage goes? What the pipes under city streets do? How bananas from Ecuador get to your local market? Why radiators in apartment buildings clang? Using New York City as its point of reference, *The Works* takes readers down manholes and behind the scenes to explain exactly how an urban infrastructure operates. Deftly weaving text and graphics, author Kate Ascher explores the systems that manage water, traffic, sewage and garbage, subways, electricity, mail, and much more. Full of fascinating facts and anecdotes, *The Works* gives readers a unique glimpse at what lies behind and beneath urban life in the twenty-first century.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reprint edition (November 27, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0143112708

ISBN-13: 978-0143112709

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.6 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (78 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Imagine: *an illustration of the special machinery used just to clean the ceiling of the Holland Tunnel. *a sidebar on the "Poo-Poo Choo-Choo" that for years transported waste 2,000 miles (!) from NYC to a dump in Texas. *a graphic showing payphone distribution density in all 5 boroughs. *a drawing of the simple but effective interlocking bolts and cross-tie latching that keep the corrugated metal containers on barges connected to each other so upper containers don't slide off lower ones and fall into the water. *a key to reading construction markings that crews spray paint on the streets. Such drawings, historical tidbits, and facts are more abundant in this book than leaves in

Central Park. This book is exceptional. As the former Vice-chair of Manhattan Community Board 5 (greater midtown Manhattan), chair of its parks committee, and member of its land use and zoning committee, I can attest to the great value of Kate Ascher's remarkable accomplishment, "The Works." New York City's infrastructure--from garbage collection to traffic control; subway signaling to cable TV distribution among franchise-controlled territories--is one of the world's most multifaceted, and at times a curious mix of the high-tech and the antiquated. Reviews suggesting that the text is for teenagers may be accidentally misleading. "The Works" by no means is for teenagers either *primarily* or *at the exclusion of* adults. Yes, the book--especially its more heavily-illustrated sections--will no doubt fire the imagination of many teens who have engineering, design, line drawing, architectural, historical analysis, or problem-solving aptitudes. (Have a teenager who loved Legos as a kid but has outgrown them?)

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