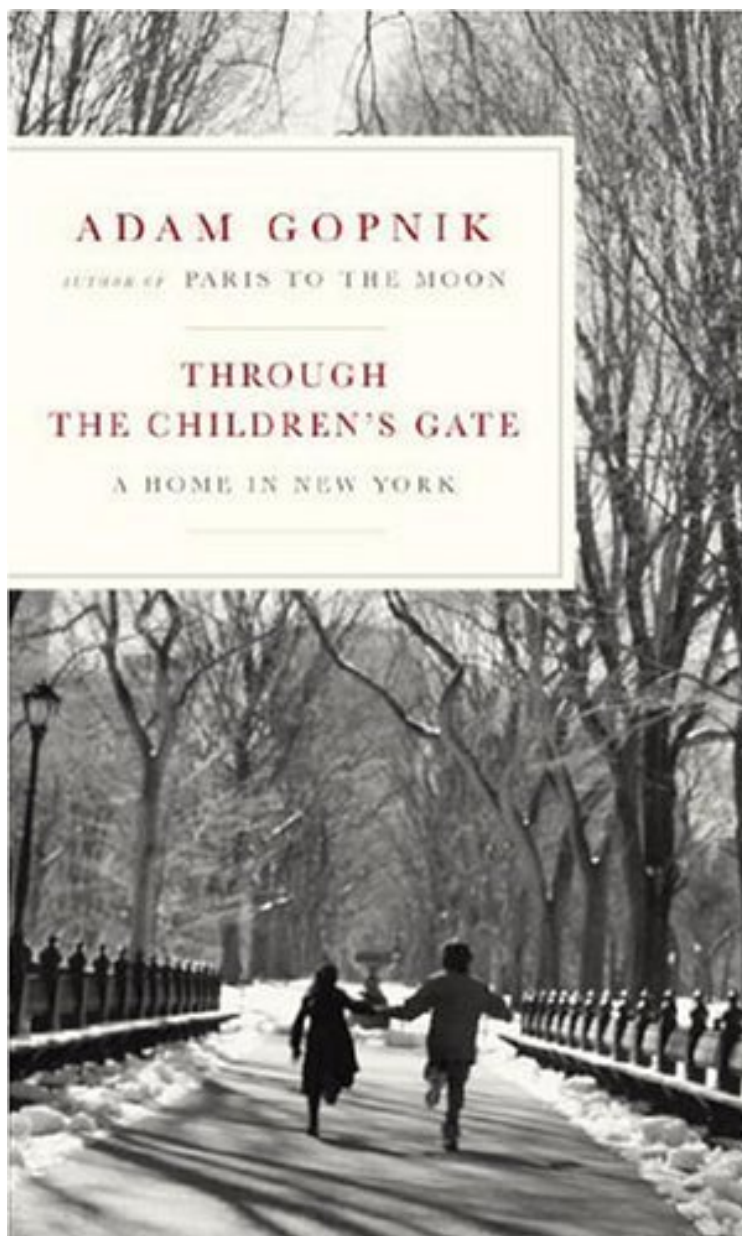


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## Through the Children's Gate: A Home in New York

*Adam Gopnik*

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#1522444 in Books 2006-10-10 2006-10-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.51 x 1.23 x 5.77l, #File Name: 1400041813336 pages Red hardcover, Jacket with winter scene of running children. 5 x 10 inches 318 pages | File size: 68.Mb

**Adam Gopnik : Through the Children's Gate: A Home in New York** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Through the Children's Gate: A Home in New York:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not what I was expecting  
By Miss PI received this book as a Christmas present, and took it with me on holiday to Japan ... because I wished that I were going to New York but was not. I expected a book of stories about life in New York. While I got this in some ways I got it in such a way as to be at times rendered speechless. This book contains laugh out loud elements (stories of his children) and parts which brought me to tears (the ending of the Giant Metrozoids). It has also inspired me to do a whole lot more reading, all the books which Gopnik refers to are now on my reading list. I am not a New Yorker, but, after a week there in 2006 now miss this city so desperately from my home in Australia, that I am amazed. Gopnik captured my feelings in this book. The moments of clarity that I had to share with the people I was travelling with, and will become pearls of wisdom for staff meetings when I am required to talk. Would I recommend this book? Of this I am unsure. It is a highly observationalist book, looking at the society in which the author lives and grasping for the truth that is found within. It is also in the nature of critical literacy, so some deep thinking is required on the part of the reader. I usually read a book every day or two when travelling (particularly when in a country where English is not found readily) my addiction is to the pages, not the 'screens or cards'. But this book took me nearly two weeks, and I feel a need now to re-read it. To high light and mark the pearls I have discovered in the manner of a university text so that I can give these the true depth of consideration they deserve. All in all though, this was a book I can see myself reading again and again one which spoke to my soul so truly that I can hear the sirens of NYC echoing down the streets, smell the hotdog vendors and feel the wind in my face. This book will tide me over until I get to go back again.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. nothing better  
By Tama Hochbaum I have finished this book at 3:19 in the morning sharing with Adam Gopnik the early morning/late night hours of his last essay here. I have laughed out loud at these essays and also cried. It is, at the moment, my favorite book. I am sure it will last beyond the light of day this designation at the top of my list. Besides making me laugh and cry these essays made me think hard and feel strongly. There is nothing better. Nothing.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable for me as I reminisce after having lived in ...  
By heartfelt44 Enjoyable for me as I reminisce after having lived in New York City for a year and having friends there, including a six year old.

Following the best-selling *Paris to the Moon*, the continuation of the Gopniks adventures against the panorama of a different though no less storied city as they attempt to make a new home for themselves. Autumn 2000: After five years in Paris, Adam Gopnik moves his family back to a New York that seems, at first, safer and shinier than ever. Here in the wondrously strange neighborhood of Manhattan we observe the triumphs and travails of father, mother, son, and daughter; and of the teachers, coaches, therapists, adversaries, and friends who round out the extended urban family. From Bluie, a goldfish fated to meet a Hitchcockian end, to Charlie Ravioli, an imaginary playmate who, being a New Yorker, is too busy to play, the Gopniks new home is under the spell of the sort of characters only the city's unique civilization of childhood could produce. Not long after their return, the fabric of living will be rent by the events of 9/11, but like a magic garment will reweave itself, reviving normalcy in a world where Jewish jokes mingle with debates about the problem of consciousness, the price of real estate, and the meaning of modern art. Along the way, the impermanence and transcendence of life will be embodied in the person of a beloved teacher and coach who, even facing death, radiates a distinctively local light. Written with Gopnik's signature mix of mind and heart, elegant and exultantly alert to the minute miracles that bring a place to life, *Through the Children's Gate* is a chronicle, by turns tender and hilarious, of a family taking root in the unlikeliest patch of earth.

From Publishers Weekly  
Back from living in Paris with his wife and two kids, as chronicled charmingly in *Paris to the Moon*, Gopnik, a writer for the *New Yorker*, records in his tidy, writerly and obsessive fashion his family's relocation to the city of his earliest professional aspiration: New York. No longer the grim, decrepit hell of the 1970s, New York of the new century has become a children's city, infused by a "new paternal feeling," and doting father Gopnik is delighted to walk through the Children's Gate of Central Park to relive the romance of childhood. His 20 various essays meander over topics dear to the hearts of New York parents, such as learning to be appropriately Jewish ("A Purim Story"); working with the ad hoc committee called Artists and Anglers at his son's hypercaring private school, on methods of flight for the production of *Peter Pan*; and his four-year-old daughter's imaginary playmate, Charlie Ravioli, who is simply too booked to play with her. The less structured series of essays on Thanksgiving are most pleasing and read like diaries, ranging from the rage over noise to the safety of riding buses. Gopnik conveys in his mannered, occasionally gilded prose that New York still represents a kind of childlike hope "for something big to happen." 150,000 copy first printing. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.  
From Booklist  
\* Starred \* Gopnik's previous book, the best-selling *Paris to the Moon* (2000), drew its material in large part from his "Paris Journal" column appearing in the *New Yorker*. That book shared his and his family's experiences living in the City of Light for five years. In 2000 he and they moved back to New York, and in his new collection of essays, he demonstrates anew how, despite tackling two of the world's greatest and oft-written-about cities, he has staked out his own mastery of the literature of place. As Gopnik ranges over contemporary life in the Big Apple, bringing into his purview and commentary such specific topics as raising children in that vastly busy

environment and indulging in one of the city's favorite preoccupations (namely, consulting a psychotherapist), he lets there be no mistake that these pieces are literate, serious in his analysis of social issues (even though he can be funny at the same time), deeply thought out and well reasoned, and arise from not only an immaculate writerly talent but also a sharp ability to understand why people, in particular places, do peculiar things. Brad Hooper Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Detailed, rhapsodic and altogether satisfying . . . Gopnik must be one of the most likable smart guys on the planet . . . He also is an anatomist of the moment and its manners . . . a wonder of a writer . . . the very model of urbanity: frankly, unsentimentally, wisely enchanted . . . This book is that rarity, an intelligent meditation that is also a pleasurable time spent with a lively thinker. Mark Doty, Los Angeles Times Brilliant . . . How can you not love Adam Gopnik? . . . The great playfulness in his work reveals that Gopnik has never lost his ability to see life through the eyes of a child . . . Careful readers may see exciting parallels between his meticulous craftsmanship and the work of J.D. Salinger. Andrea Hoag, Seattle Post-Intelligencer [A] wonderful collection. Barbara Fisher, Boston Globe "His take on this new gilded age is both acute and funny..." -Rahul Jacob, Financial Times Praise for Paris to the Moon: INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER The finest book on France in recent years. Alain de Botton, The New York Times Book A book of happiness, of civilized joy. . . . Gopnik is a writer of great learning and wit. The Globe and Mail A memoir that will surely rank with the great books about Paris. The Gazette (Montreal)