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Floating City: A Rogue Sociologist Lost and Found in New York's Underground Economy

By Sudhir Venkatesh

Penguin Books. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 304 pages. Dimensions: 8.0in. x 5.3in. x 0.9in. New York is a city of highs and lows, where wealthy elites share the streets with desperate immigrants and destitute locals. Bridging this economic divide is New York's underground economy, the invisible network of illicit transactions between rich and poor that secretly weaves together the whole city. Sudhir Venkatesh, acclaimed sociologist at Columbia University and author of *Gang Leader for a Day*, returns to the streets to connect the dots of New York's divergent economic worlds and crack the code of the city's underground economy. Based on Venkatesh's interviews with prostitutes and socialites, immigrants and academics, high end drug bosses and street-level dealers, *Floating City* exposes the underground as the city's true engine of social transformation and economic prosperity, revealing a wholly unprecedented vision of New York. A memoir of sociological investigation, *Floating City* draws from Venkatesh's decade of research within the affluent communities of Upper East Side socialites and Midtown businessmen, the drug gangs of Harlem and the sex workers of Brooklyn, the artists of Tribeca and the escort services of Hell's Kitchen. Venkatesh arrived in the city after his groundbreaking research in Chicago, where crime...



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