



lonely planet

NOT-FOR-PARENTS



NEW YORK CITY
Everything
you ever
wanted
to know

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Can I put this torch down for a minute?

Next winter I'm going to Florida



I'm King of this book!

Statue of Liberty



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THIS IS NOT A GUIDEBOOK. And it's definitely not for parents.

It is the real inside story about one of the world's most famous cities – New York. In this book you'll hear fascinating tales about towering **skyscrapers** and deep subways, a **naked cowboy** and the **Yankees** loudest fans.

Check out cool stories about hot dogs and **snapping alligators**, bulls in the stock exchange and sports on the street. You'll find superheroes, famous battles, **cops**, cooks and **millions of rats**.

This book shows you a **NEW YORK** your parents probably don't even know about.



WHY THE BIG APPLE?

Horses love apples. So? Stable hands, trainers and jockeys used to call horse races in New York the big apples, meaning the biggest prize a horse could win. Turf racing writer John J. FitzGerald decided to call his weekly column for the *New York Morning Telegraph* 'Notes from around the Big Apple'. The name stuck!

Food for thought

The apple is the official New York state fruit, and the apple muffin is the official state muffin. Who knew you could have an official state muffin?

KUDOS CORNER

In honour of John FitzGerald – Jack to his friends – a corner near his home was given the name 'Big Apple Corner'.



Get king kong, He'll grapple with that apple!



JOHN J. FITZGERALD

We can thank racing writer John J. FitzGerald for New York's nickname (he's the one holding the horse). In 1971, New York City began using the 'Big Apple' in tourist advertising. It was a bright, cheery image for a city that some people thought was dark and dangerous.



Tales from the tracks

Eighty years ago New York was heavily into horse-racing. The competition was fierce, the stakes were high and sabotage was rife. Race-goers relied on reporters for honest information and many people caught on to the name Big Apple.



WANT
MORE?



Dance the 'Big Apple'

Jazz musicians in the 1930s called paying gigs 'apples'. To get a paying gig in New York was the best of the best. There was a Big Apple jazz club and even a Big Apple dance craze.



GOTHAM CITY

No, New York is not nicknamed 'Gotham' because of Gotham City in Batman. Gotham is a small town in England whose folk in the Middle Ages all pretended to be insane so that the tax collectors would stay away. Writer Washington Irving in the early 19th century used the name when talking about the people of New York City. Later, when Bob Kane and Bill Finger created Batman, the name Gotham suited a city riddled with bizarre criminals!