



Questions for Annik La Farge, author of "On the High Line: Exploring America's Most Original Urban Park" (Thames & Hudson, Inc.) She is a writer and editor and a part-time resident of Greenport. She points out that the legal framework for transforming the High Line into public open space was the federal Rails to Trails program, of which the Harlem Valley Rail Trail is also a part.

Q. What is this book about?

A. It's an illustrated guide to Manhattan's celebrated "park in the sky." The High Line was an elevated freight railroad built in the 1930s, running from Spring to 34th Streets. Today it's a stunning series of gardens, woodland, grassland, thicket, bog, wildflower field, even a lawn. My book attempts to answer every question a visitor might have about the history of the place and the design of the park.

Q. How long did it take you to write it?

A. I've been writing about the High Line since 2009 on a blog, LivinTheHighLine.com.

Working with a small team, I put the book together in a year, a herculean effort.

Q. What was the most challenging part of writing this book?

A. The park is just a mile long, but everywhere the eye can see is a story, from the Hudson River piers to the streets of Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen.

The biggest challenge was paring down so much history into short pieces that, along with archival and contemporary photos, would delight and educate a reader.

Q. What made you happiest about writing this book?

A. I've never had so much fun in my life. Imagine it: every day your work causes you to walk through one of the most beautiful, fascinating urban landscapes in the world. Then you go to the library and pore through historical sources to learn the back-story of the place. Every day I learned something new and met dozens of wonderful, smart people.

<http://highlinebook.com>.

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