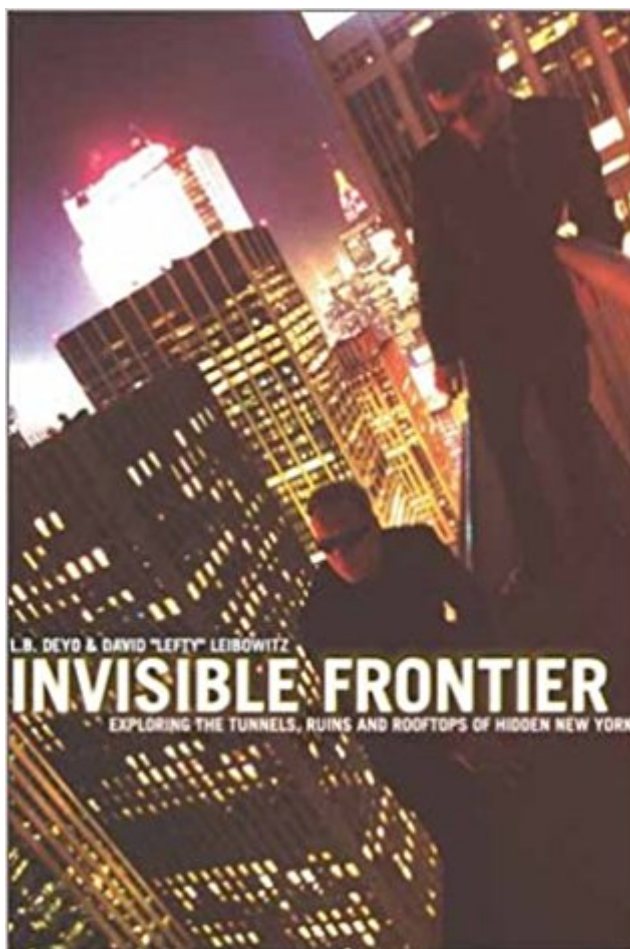


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# Invisible Frontier: Exploring The Tunnels, Ruins, And Rooftops Of Hidden New York



## Synopsis

In the shadows of the city waits an invisible frontier—a wilderness thriving in the deep places, woven through dead storm drains and live subway tunnels, coursing over third rails. This frontier waits in the walls of abandoned tenements, hides on the rooftops, infiltrates the bridges—steel. It's a no-man's-land, fenced off with razor wire, marked by warning signs, persisting in shadow, hidden everywhere as a parallel dimension. Crowds hurry through the bright streets, insulated by pavement, never reflecting that beneath their feet or above their heads lurks a universe. Led by its two founding agents, L. B. Deyo and David "Lefty" Leibowitz, Jinx is a stylish urban adventure not known for its daring—if sometimes ridiculous—forays into the hidden wonders that lurk above and beneath America's greatest city, New York. In Invisible Frontier L. B. and Lefty chronicle Jinx—a dramatic—if sometimes absurd—exploration of a Dante-esque New York, from the depths of the city's underground Hell (abandoned aqueducts and subway tunnels) to the pinnacles of its Paradise (rooftops and bridges) and everything in between, capturing the genius of the city's engineering, the vibrancy of its found art, and the elegiac beauty of its ruins. Here is a true series of wittily narrated adventures into the hidden world beneath a great civilization.

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## Customer Reviews

This book's intriguing topic and delightful presentation by its knowledgeable and eccentric authors will enthrall New Yorkers and non-New Yorkers alike. Deyo and Leibowitz, editors at Jinx, a zine devoted to the urban exploration movement, illumine what drives them to explore cities'

infrastructure, the places few consider going (including sewage systems, subway tunnels and bridge spans). A charming pastiche of Alice in Wonderland and The X Files, this is both a paean to New York and a chronology of a love affair with the unusual. The authors take readers on a hike to Manhattan from the Bronx via the Croton Aqueduct, which was one of the major engineering feats of the 19th century, providing water for most New Yorkers. They also traverse the tunnels under Riverside Park to find the so-called mole people who live in the Amtrak system and to seek out graffiti artists. A semi-break-in takes readers into the Roosevelt Island Smallpox Hospital. Other treks include exploring a condemned building in East Harlem, a nondiplomatic maneuver at the United Nations and climbing to the summit of the George Washington Bridge. Rife with literary quotations, historical and scientific tidbits, political and social commentary plus a plethora of details about the explorations the authors and their strange cadre have made (despite the muck and mire, the men always wear suits and ties and the women cocktail dresses), this smart, quirky book will delight spelunkers, couch potatoes and all in between. 25 line drawings, 25 b&w photos. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Adult/High School--The authors are editors of Jinx, a magazine devoted to urban exploration--or, as one explorer puts it, "going places you're not supposed to go." The book is structured around 10 "missions" that the two took on in the summer of 2001, and lovingly describes their failures (attempting to slog from the Bronx to Manhattan entirely underground) as well as their successes (flying the Jinx flag at the U.N. building). The astonishing, delicious twist is that these operatives are far from the pranksters they might sound like. As if they were touring the GalÃ¡pagos, they are careful to preserve the dignity of the spaces they explore; they may admire beautiful graffiti, but they'd never leave any. On missions they wear Men in Black-style suits and sunglasses (the occasional female wears a cocktail dress). Most importantly, though, they know and cherish New York history. They speak so excitedly and reverently of the city--how it was formed and who formed it--that they come off more like endearingly geeky archaeologists than hip adventurers. And their awed enthusiasm is infectious, increasing readers' sensitivity to the urban environments around them. A thoughtful anomaly of a book, sure to intrigue and surprise YA readers.--Emily Lloyd, Rehoboth Beach Public Library, DE Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

What appealed to me most was the spirit of the kids involved, that they were getting outside the boundaries of convention and taking risks speaking to the adventurous inherent in humanity. The

historical background integrated into each chapter was another pleasant surprise. If you come to this expecting a serious scholarly tome you will be disappointed. But if you are open to getting insight into a group of bright and somewhat irreverent youth you won't be disappointed.

I've read this beautiful book twice and I'm sure I will read it again in the not too distant future. This book is a celebration of a city that inspires you, steals your heart, grinds you down and builds you up again. It is not a 'how to' guide for Urban Exploration, it's the deeply personal account of two young men who live in and love New York City, with the added benefit that they and their male and female friends happen to love to explore their city by going underground, above the water, high on the towers and into abandoned buildings. The descriptions of the city, told from such a unique perspective remind you of why you put up with what you do to live here, or why you should move here at once!

This book was so much fun to read. There was a certain amount of excitement reading the authors adventures in the tunnels, bridges and other areas that I would never get to see. Wondering if they would get in trouble, hurt or arrested. Read it.

This is truly armchair escapism. As one ages and successfully takes on the image of a responsible adult, what has been left behind is the freedom of adventure, the excitement of possible discoveries, and the accomplishments of being part of the team. "Invisible Frontier" allows one to imagine what might have been if somehow you met up with people who participated in the adventures related in this book.

What a breathtaking story of real-life adventurers in the world's greatest city. I loved the way the authors combined personal stories with historical facts. I can't wait to read the sequels. I hope there are two more--every great story comes in threes these days!

This is a nonfiction account of a pre-9/11 urban exploration group's exploits in NYC. It's a quick read, and recounts their adventures in locales as diverse as the chthonic Croton Aqueduct to the United Nations and the roof of Grand Central Station. Its authors are erudite and clever, and charmingly present their often silly antics with wit and faux-gravitas. However, I think I came to this book with higher expectations; I had an idea of what actually existed beneath New York City, but was hoping that this group's explorations would reveal a whole underworld beneath the city. Other

than abandoned subway stations, the old Amtrak Tunnel that runs at great length along the West side of Manhattan beneath Riverside Park, and the Croton Aqueduct that connects the Bronx to Manhattan, there was little else revealed. Also, they simply weren't as hard core as I had hoped. They were eccentric kids going where they shouldn't, having a blast and recounting their exploits, but they were easily dissuaded from plumbing the depths of their exploration sites. For example, after a couple of hours worth of following the Croton Aqueduct south toward Manhattan, they are stymied by a room filled with waist deep water. Not wishing to endanger their camera equipment, they turn back. When they set out to explore the abandoned City Hall subway station, they never manage to do more than ride past it in an empty subway car. While exploring the tunnels beneath Grand Central (rumored to have twelve subterranean layers), they only manage to scope out one path for about 15 minutes before being sighted and bolting for the surface. Common sense prevails, and while I don't fault them for not wishing to be arrested or hurt, this is a book that promises to reveal the hidden corners of the city, to expose the secrets to the light of day, but often at best manages to only show glimpses of what lies below.

Part history, part travel log, part action adventure, part philosophy, entirely entertaining- Invisible frontier lays open whole new worlds contained within NYC. The adventures are exciting and the social commentary spot on.

A thoroughly enjoyable read! The authors' bravado, imagination, sharp wit and intellect make it so. The decision to write about these adventures in a way that compares the architecture and layout of the city to the Dante's striations of heaven and hell is brilliant-- and masterfully pulled off. A very clever piece of work.

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