

(Ebook free) Beautiful Crescent: A History of New Orleans

Beautiful Crescent: A History of New Orleans

Joan B Garvey, Mary Lou Widmer
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Joan B Garvey, Mary Lou Widmer : Beautiful Crescent: A History of New Orleans before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beautiful Crescent: A History of New Orleans:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Skip this book. By -klant Just as a city is more than a collection of buildings, so is a history - or it should be - more than a collection of facts. This book really doesn't deserve the caption 'history'; it consists merely of paragraph after paragraph filled with facts on historical events and people and it lacks any attempt at analysis of why things happened or what they caused. Further, there are glaring mistakes, as already pointed out in other reviews. It is concise only in the sense that encyclopedia entries are concise: high on information and woefully short on insight. But even this comparison with an encyclopedia does the book more honor than it deserves, because the 'facts' and 'information' that made it onto its pages seem pretty one-sided and incomplete. I read a positive review of this book by a New Orleans native and I can certainly understand his favorable outlook: for those who already know the city, are steeped in its atmosphere and are, in fact, living its contemporary history, this data-filled tome may be just what they need to enhance their existing knowledge. For the rest of us, who are looking for any insight into the roots, social development and present status of the fabled city of New Orleans: skip this book. Anything positive about the book? Yes: nice title. Who knows, one day, a writer will turn out a similarly named book that actually does it justice. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Doesn't know what it wants to be By Scott Scott (aka Romantics) This is a book that doesn't quite know what it wants to be: there are notes in it as if it is academic, but it's not a particular rigorous read nor does it take any point of view. It begins as a historical and chronological narrative but shifts gears midstream and turns to a topical approach that quickly leaps centuries and back

again. Toward the end, it becomes a tourist guide book (There's a brief chapter called "Directions in New Orleans") and then a compilation of lists ("noted personalities" and "statues and monuments" and "hurricanes") that are of dubious use or interest and without context. In addition, there are some cringeworthy passages in which Widmer appears to suggest the lives of the slaves or New Orleans were ok because they were allowed to gather in dances, and they were fed, and they could hire themselves out for pay. On a basis relative to the rest of the South, that may well be true, but Widmer's patronizing tone made it sound as if the slaves were not only lucky but happy-go-lucky in their bondage. In addition, Widmer makes a half-hearted attempt to rescue the reputation of General Butler, the Civil War occupier, but her argument is not particularly persuasive and has been made better by others. That said, Beautiful Crescent is not without virtue. Widmer unearths some wonderful historical tidbits (the famous whore called "La Sans Regret") and her writing is breezy and workmanlike, if not particularly poetic. Notwithstanding its pretensions to academic scholarship, this is a fair high-level overview, at least until it devolves into tour guide and book of lists. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Basic facts, unfortunately dull read. By hey you This is written kind of like a school text book: basic information as just a collection of facts. I'm reading it to prepare for the New Orleans tour guide test, but why they use this book as suggested reference I haven't a clue. Even the attention to facts is troublesome. The book says the Mississippi is the third largest river in the world after the and the Congo. If it gets such simple facts wrong - how can you trust the others? It's also troublesome to know this is the guide used for teaching tour guides when it is tone deaf to racism (and even sexism on occasion: p. 43 - There was a shortage of unmarried women in the colony and the men were forced to take Indian squaws as brides.) Most of us would call that abduction and rape, but okay... There are many books about the city that are so much more inclusive and appealing. Want an intriguing read? The World That Made New Orleans is much better.

BEAUTIFUL CRESCENT is a good short basic history of New Orleans. This chronology has factual political history, and plenty of people history which makes it a fun read for everyone who loves New Orleans.