THE DEATH & LIFE OF GREAT AMERICAN CITIES

Acknowledgment is made to the following publications for permission to reprint portions of this book which first appeared in their pages: Architectural Forum, the Columbia University Forum, Harper's Magazine, The Reporter.

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THE DEATH AND LIFE OF GREAT AMERICAN CITIES

To NEW YORK CITY
where I came to seek my fortune
and found it by finding
Bob, Jimmy, Ned and Mary
for whom this book is written too

Acknowledgment

So many scores of persons helped me with this book, wittingly and unwittingly, that I shall never fully be able to acknowledge the appreciation I owe and feel. In particular I am grateful for information, aid or criticism given by the following persons: Saul Alinsky, Norris C. Andrews, Edmund Bacon, June Blythe, John Decker Butzner, Jr., Henry Churchill, Grady Clay, William C. Crow, Vernon De Mars, Monsignor John J. Egan, Charles Farnsley, Carl Feiss, Robert B. Filley, Mrs. Rosario Folino, Chadbourne Gilpatric, Victor Gruen, Frank Havey, Goldie Hoffman, Frank Hotchkiss, Leticia Kent, William H. Kirk, Mr. and Mrs. George Kostritsky, Jay Landesman, The Rev. Wilbur C. Leach, Glennie M. Lenear, Melvin F. Levine, Edward Logue, Ellen Lurie, Elizabeth Manson, Roger Montgomery, Richard Nelson, Joseph Passonneau, Ellen Perry, Rose Porter, Ansel Robison, James W. Rouse, Samuel A. Spiegel, Stanley B. Tankel, Jack Volkman, Robert C. Weinberg, Erik Wensberg, Henry Whitney,

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William H. Whyte, Jr., William Wilcox, Mildred Zucker, Beda Zwicker. None of these people is, of course, responsible for what I have written; indeed, some disagree heartily with my point of

view but have helped me generously nevertheless.

I am grateful also to the Rockefeller Foundation for the financial support which made my research and writing possible, to the New School for Social Research for its hospitality, and to Douglas Haskell, the Editor of Architectural Forum, for his encouragement and forbearance. Most of all I am grateful to my husband, Robert H. Jacobs, Jr.; by this time I do not know which ideas in this book are mine and which are his.

JANE JACOBS

Illustrations

The scenes that illustrate this book are all about us. For illustrations, please look closely at real cities. While you are looking, you might as well also listen, linger and think about what you see.

JANE JACOBS was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1916. After high school and a year spent as a reporter on the Scranton Tribune, she went to New York, where she found a succession of jobs as a stenographer and wrote free-lance articles about the city's many working districts, which fascinated her. She has had a number of writing and editing jobs, ranging in subject matter from metallurgy to a geography of the United States for foreign readers; from 1952 to 1962 she was an associate editor of Architectural Forum. Gradually she became increasingly skeptical of conventional planning beliefs as she noticed that the city rebuilding projects she was assigned to write about seemed neither safe, interesting, alive nor good economics for cities, once the projects were built and in operation.

She is married to an architect, who she says taught her enough to enable her to become an architectural writer. They have two sons and a daughter and live in Greenwich Village. Mrs. Jacobs is the author of the chapter "Down-

town Is for People" in The Exploding Metropolis.



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