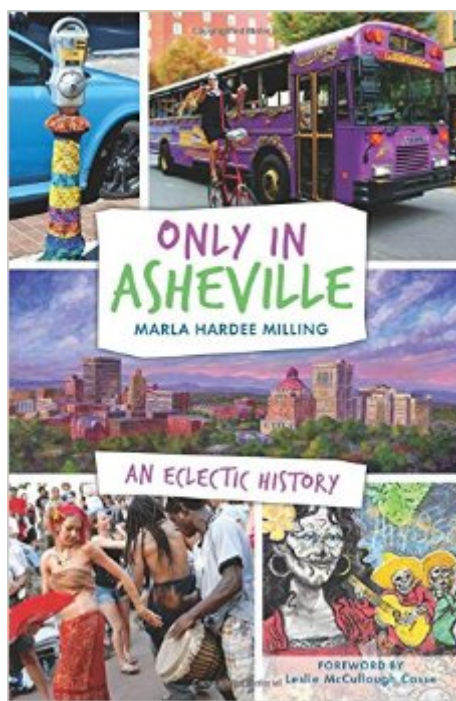


The book was found

Only In Asheville:



Synopsis

A unique blend of visionaries, risk takers and creative souls lends energy to Asheville's historic streets. Today, bohemian street performers, funky shops, exquisite art galleries, restaurants and craft breweries blend in among some of the most revered vintage architecture in the country. Discover quirky figures like a nun named Sister Bad Habit, who entertains passengers on the LaZoom bus; the Man in White living statue; and Asheville's Village Witch. Be inspired by innovative dreamers such as Julian Price, who invested millions in the once-desolate downtown Asheville, giving money to an eclectic mix of restaurateurs and shop owners. Author Marla Milling traces the people and places that make her hometown a truly unique city.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (15 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This was such a fun read! Having lived in Asheville for 17 years, I'd heard many of the stories in Milling's book before, but I enjoyed reading this in-depth account of the events and the people who have made Asheville great; the stories and memories of some of these people were at times fascinating to read. An example would be the wrapping of downtown in fabric (to demonstrate the extent of the proposed destruction) when developers wanted to raze a number of historic buildings to build a mall-- I'd heard a bit about this over the years, but never knew the specifics or saw pictures until reading *Only in Asheville*. Milling's book is a reminder to Ashevilleans of what a unique and special place we are lucky enough to live in.

The author of *Only in Asheville*, Marla Milling, is an Asheville native and a veteran writer and

journalist, so her intent is authentic and her stories are well-researched and well-written. She's no newcomer to Asheville but instead respects it as her home and relishes in its recent success. She brings light to some parts of Asheville's history and current culture that have been in the shadows but are central to Asheville's fabric. Her extensive interviews with numerous Asheville artists, musicians, restaurateurs, politicians, small business owners, and other locals bring a breadth of viewpoints and experiences to her "eclectic" account. Even those of us who have lived here for years or natives themselves will learn something new from reading *Only in Asheville*. The book is ideal for locals and tourists alike. The author also maintains a Facebook page for the book and updates it frequently with more interesting stories: <https://www.facebook.com/onlyinavl>

"Only In Asheville: An Eclectic History" is a book that explains everything you need to know about Asheville, NC, its past and present and all of its eclectic spots, if you will. It goes into the past history of Asheville, NC from the Roaring 1920's, the Great Depression, the threat of a Downtown Mall in the early 1980's, explores the Present and provides viewpoints from locals that are native or transplants regarding expectations for its future. The book also gives you a glimpse of the buskers of Downtown Asheville, the players who have shaped or currently are working to shape Asheville, NC's present and future. Having lived in Asheville for almost 19 years, NC for school and work and having personally met some of the people who have done and are doing great things for this town and featured in this book, "Only In Asheville: An Eclectic History" is very nicely written by Marla Hardee Milling and is a definite read. It's taken me under three hours to read through the book. If you buy this book, you're not going to regret it!

This is an amazingly comprehensive look at the history and status of Asheville NC as the quirky place it has become and is endangered of becoming no more. It touches on the many ways the town has gone its own way and why it has managed to survive because of, or despite itself. Current places and people are given moments of illumination to explore for the visitor and resident alike. I am a resident and was amazed to learn some of the tidbits the book mentions. The author gets it right. My only criticism would be that I wished more of the photos could've been in color to really put the amazement of some of the areas into perspective. A good read for the residents and a great introduction or guidebook for the traveler!

I did not buy the book through . I bought it from the author, who is a friend. But I did not expect for my friend's book to be so wonderful! She truly catches the essence of Asheville with hilarious

stories and poignant thoughts. If you live in Asheville, or are thinking about visiting, I highly recommend it!

I am a 52 year old native of Asheville and I learned some new things about my hometown by reading this book! It also sparked some nostalgic memories of visiting downtown as a child when it was still active and vibrant before becoming a ghost town, then seeing it revive and come back from the dead years later. Marla Hardee Milling has done a wonderful job digging up the stories-behind-the-stories and telling them with wonderful flare, as well as with an apparent love of the city and its eclectic history. This is a good read for both Ashevilleans and visitors.

When I moved to Asheville less than a year ago, I ran across snippets of comments saying that Asheville used to be a run-down town not so many years ago. It made me curious about how that changed. Marla Hardee Milling did an excellent job of explaining how the transition from run-down to unique and wonderful came to pass in a relatively short period of time. Just the portion describing why there's not a mall in downtown Asheville today is worth the purchase price. I'm still waiting to personally see the nun on the bike :)

This book thoroughly and authentically describes this truly unique small city. As a native of Asheville, I've witnessed the changes that have occurred over the last couple of decades, and this book nails it in every category. If you know Asheville, you'll recognize the scenes described here, and if you haven't been to Asheville, this book will surely entice you to check it out. I highly recommend this for a good read.

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