



999: A History of Chicago in Ten Stories

Richard B. Fisdale

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The story of 999 is the story of Chicago at one of the most pivotal and explosive moments in its history. Set along the city's storied lakefront, **999** details the wealth, greed, power, corruption and even murder that accompanied the rise of arguably the most beautiful and historical residential building in Chicago. Lavishly illustrated and well researched, Fizdale's vivid account of a land grab so extensive that it was contested for more than five decades, sets the stage for the war for what would become Streeterville. He includes fascinating and largely unknown details of the lives of the boldfaced names of Chicago's past -- from the period just after the Chicago fire to the present. The extraordinary people who lived at 999 -- with a range of personalities, passions, flaws and accomplishments -- boldly influenced the city we know today, including the gangster who left his jail cell at night to visit his pretend wife, the widow who died in a hotel room with \$500,000 in her suitcase, the Army officer who chased Pancho Villa across the Rio Grand in his Cadillac touring car, the Rockefeller who married a ghost, the man who saved 60 Jewish children from the Nazis, the couple who turned a broken down Colorado town into Aspen, the German spy, the man who helped win World War II with a welding machine, the anthropologist who invited a live camel into his dining room... among a few hundred others who lived at 999. This compelling and insightful account lays new ground in the continuing saga of a great city and will leave readers marveling at the broad engagement of its residents with American History.

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