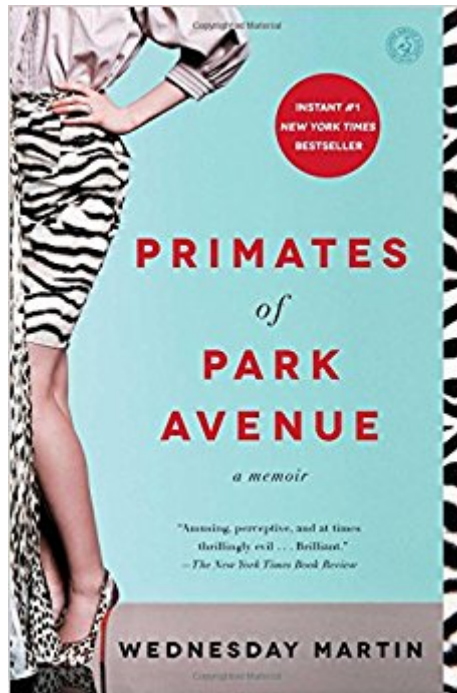


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# Primates Of Park Avenue: A Memoir



## Synopsis

An instant #1 New York Times bestseller, *Primates of Park Avenue* is an “amusing, perceptive and deliciously evil” (The New York Times Book Review) memoir of the most secretive and elite tribe of Manhattan’s Upper East Side mothers. When Wednesday Martin first arrives on New York City’s Upper East Side, she’s clueless about the right addresses, the right wardrobe, and the right schools, and she’s taken aback by the glamorous, sharp-elbowed mommies around her. She feels hazed and unwelcome until she begins to look at her new niche through the lens of her academic background in anthropology. As she analyzes the tribe’s mating and migration patterns, childrearing practices, fetish objects, physical adornment practices, magical purifying rituals, bonding rites, and odd realities like sex segregation, she finds it easier to fit in and even enjoy her new life. Then one day, Wednesday’s world is turned upside down, and she finds out there’s much more to the women who she’s secretly been calling Manhattan Geishas. “Think Gossip Girl, but with a sociological study of the parents” (InStyle.com), Wednesday’s memoir is absolutely “eye-popping” (People). *Primates of Park Avenue* lifts a veil on a secret, elite world within a world—the strange, exotic, and utterly foreign and fascinating life of privileged Manhattan motherhood.

## Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster; Reprint edition (May 31, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1476762716

ISBN-13: 978-1476762715

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars 688 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #27,779 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Motherhood #183 in Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Humor #199 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Anthropology > Cultural

## Customer Reviews

"Think privileged NYC wives are another species? Martin goes undercover in this dishy memoir and reminds us that we all have something in common." (Glamour) "Amusing...incisive...a wryly

entertaining guide to this rarefied subculture." (The Economist)"Any population is fair game for anthropological research, so why not the super-rich, super-thin, and oh-so-well-dressed mothers of New York's Upper East Side?... Illuminating and fun." (BookPage)"I absolutely loved this memoir and could not put it down! It's incredibly clever; Martin uses anthropology to analyze Upper East mothers, and it's astonishingly illuminating. Somehow, Martin manages to be caustically perceptive but also generous, funny, moving, and erudite all at the same time. This is one of the most fascinating books I've read in a long time." (Amy Chua, Yale Law Professor and author of Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother and The Triple Package)

Wednesday Martin, PhD, has worked as writer and social researcher in New York City for more than two decades. The author of *Stepmonster* and *Primates of Park Avenue*, she has appeared on Today, CNN, NPR, NBC News, the BBC Newshour, and Fox News as an expert on step-parenting and parenting issues. She writes for the online edition of Psychology Today and her work has appeared in The New York Times. She was a regular contributor to New York Post's parenting and lifestyle pages for several years and has written for The Daily Telegraph. Wednesday received her PhD from Yale University and lives in New York City with her husband and their two sons.

I thought the author's method of studying the sub culture of the Upper east side of New York's mothers was really fascinating. She describes them as dreadful people at first and then as she becomes one of them is accepted into their world. At that point she finds they are mere humans with their own struggles in life. She writes in an amusing way often, and also uses comparisons to studies of other primate cultures as well as other truly foreign human cultures. The oyster thing keeping me from giving it 5 stars is that sometimes the time sequence felt out of whack and frankly made it a little confusing at times. It didn't make a huge difference, as it's still a good read.

It went on too long; it was amusing at first to see the relationship of the women to the primates, but it got overworked. I wasn't on her side - I thought she didn't belong on the east side and her desire to be like all the other ladies didn't match the thesis she was trying to explain.

Enjoyed the descriptions of life as an new mom in Upper East/west sides of NYC. I grew up in New England and often encountered these ladies on summer vacations. Several of my close girlfriends from NE prep schools hoped to achieve that lifestyle. I joined the military and did search & rescue

for a living. The author did an excellent job in drawing contrasts between the UES & the rest of America. Enjoyed her primate behavior comparisons. Final thought - I believe I was charged -- however I stood my ground & knocked her on her butt!

Even though this seems like it would be silly good fun, it's only the first of those three. The memoirist is dull and self-involved, and her attempts to ape (pun not even worth noting) cultural anthropology are laughably clumsy and witless. You can find more trenchant observations from friends in your Facebook feed.

This book was incredibly boring. It was part academic paper part novel and not enough of either to be cohesive or interesting. The over use of the line "another drop of wine" made me want to throw my iPad out the window.

What a cheesy excuse for likening a comparative "study" of anthropology to these sickening self-important people. If this is really what it is like to lead their lives I beg them to get into the real world and invest in a more meaningful existence. I'm sorry that I wasted my time reading this. Why would someone ever want to try to become one of this group? Does it really make your life better to have a purse that could potentially be a home for deserving family? I just want to say grow up and find a meaningful purpose.

This was a fascinating book to read and well told. Wednesday, the author, tells the story of her "indoctrination" to the upper east side (think tiny little enclave of the uber rich). She tells it from her personal experience but she is also an anthropologist (or sociologist?) and so she uses that lens as well. She explains things in anthropological terms at times that makes the insanity of they way things are done there a little more understandable for us "normal" folks.

Disappointing. really had high hopes for this but got bogged down in sociology lingo and primate comparisons. Seemed very boring. Her style of writing was plodding slowly along and her amazement at the lifestyle seemed extremely fake. Even I, a wisconsin wife and mom knew it would be like that. Couldn't easily finish

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