



# Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America)

By Mark Kingwell

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

## Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America) By Mark Kingwell

This elegantly written appreciation of the Empire State Building opens up the building's richness and importance as an icon of America. The book leads us through the facts surrounding the skyscraper's conception and construction, then enters into a provocative theoretical discussion of its function as an icon, its representation in pictures, literature, and film, and the implications of its iconic status as New York's most important architectural monument to ambition and optimism.

The Empire State Building literally cannot be seen in its totality, from any perspective. And paradoxically, this building of unmistakable solidity has been made invisible by familiarity and reproduction through imagery. Mark Kingwell encourages us to look beneath the strong physical presence of the building, to become aware of its evolving layers of meaning, and to see how the building lives within a unique imaginative space in the landscape of the American consciousness. He offers new ways of understanding the Empire State Building in all its complexity and surprising insights into its special role as an American icon.

 [Download Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Buildi ...pdf](#)

# **Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America)**

*By Mark Kingwell*

**Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America)** By Mark Kingwell

This elegantly written appreciation of the Empire State Building opens up the building's richness and importance as an icon of America. The book leads us through the facts surrounding the skyscraper's conception and construction, then enters into a provocative theoretical discussion of its function as an icon, its representation in pictures, literature, and film, and the implications of its iconic status as New York's most important architectural monument to ambition and optimism.

The Empire State Building literally cannot be seen in its totality, from any perspective. And paradoxically, this building of unmistakable solidity has been made invisible by familiarity and reproduction through imagery. Mark Kingwell encourages us to look beneath the strong physical presence of the building, to become aware of its evolving layers of meaning, and to see how the building lives within a unique imaginative space in the landscape of the American consciousness. He offers new ways of understanding the Empire State Building in all its complexity and surprising insights into its special role as an American icon.

**Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America)** By Mark Kingwell **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #2164628 in Books
- Published on: 2007-12-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.21" h x .57" w x 6.14" l, .77 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

 [Download Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Buildi ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America) By Mark Kingwell

---

### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Kingwell's portrayal of the Empire State Building as an architectural and cultural icon straddles the line between personal essay and historical nonfiction. A philosophy professor and Harper's contributing editor, Kingwell discusses the building's aesthetics and before riffing philosophically about how "the truth of the building lies in its entire universe of use and meaning." Namely, the people who have worked in the Empire State Building and visited it, and the memories that have been made there. Kingwell's tone-nostalgic, reflective, respectful-will appeal to readers with similar reverence for architecture (New York architecture, especially). Rather than reading like a history textbook, its seven stand-alone sections (with titles like "Palace of Dreams" and "Scrape the Sky") move between philosophical questions ("Why do we value what we value?") and more specific, colorful descriptions ("it was the world's first mega-project, employing...the equivalent of a small industrial town"). The author has left out some nuts and bolts, making the book frustrating for those looking for technical details, but the absorbing prose and casual pace will appeal to readers interested in the bigger picture. Photos.

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

### Review

"This book is surely one of the literary highlights of the year... Go out now, buy and read this book for yourselves. It is a rare treat." Peter J. M. Wayne, *Spectator* 'The tone of this scholarly tribute to "the building" is fun-loving cultural studies, with references to Don DeLillo, Barthes, Virilio et al as the author takes a leisurely conceptual stroll around it.' Steve Poole, *The Guardian* 'A thoughtful book... In tracing the Empire State Building's multiple meanings and associations, Kingwell ranges widely.' Andrew Mead, *Architects Journal*"

### About the Author

**Mark Kingwell** is professor of philosophy, University of Toronto, a contributing editor of *Harper's Magazine*, and the author of eight books.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

#### Warner Samuels:

In other case, little individuals like to read book Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America). You can choose the best book if you like reading a book. Provided that we know about how is important a new book Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America). You can add expertise and of course you can around the world by just a book. Absolutely right, due to the fact from book you can know everything! From your country until finally foreign or abroad you will find yourself known. About simple point until wonderful thing you can know that. In this era, you can open a book or maybe searching by internet system. It is called e-book. You can utilize it when you feel bored to go to the library. Let's go through.

**Francis Mason:**

What do you in relation to book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you need something to explain what your own problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. They have to answer that question mainly because just their can do in which. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on pre-school until university need this Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America) to read.

**Judy Young:**

The e-book untitled Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America) is the reserve that recommended to you to study. You can see the quality of the reserve content that will be shown to you. The language that creator use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The article writer was did a lot of exploration when write the book, hence the information that they share for your requirements is absolutely accurate. You also could get the e-book of Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America) from the publisher to make you far more enjoy free time.

**Audra Yoder:**

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read the book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day every day to reading a book. The book Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America) it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book has high quality.

**Download and Read Online Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America) By Mark Kingwell #5UD3SHY2QJX**

# **Read Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America) By Mark Kingwell for online ebook**

Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America) By Mark Kingwell Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America) By Mark Kingwell books to read online.

## **Online Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America) By Mark Kingwell ebook PDF download**

**Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America) By Mark Kingwell Doc**

**Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America) By Mark Kingwell MobiPocket**

**Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America) By Mark Kingwell EPub**

**5UD3SHY2QJX: Nearest Thing to Heaven: The Empire State Building and American Dreams (Icons of America) By Mark Kingwell**