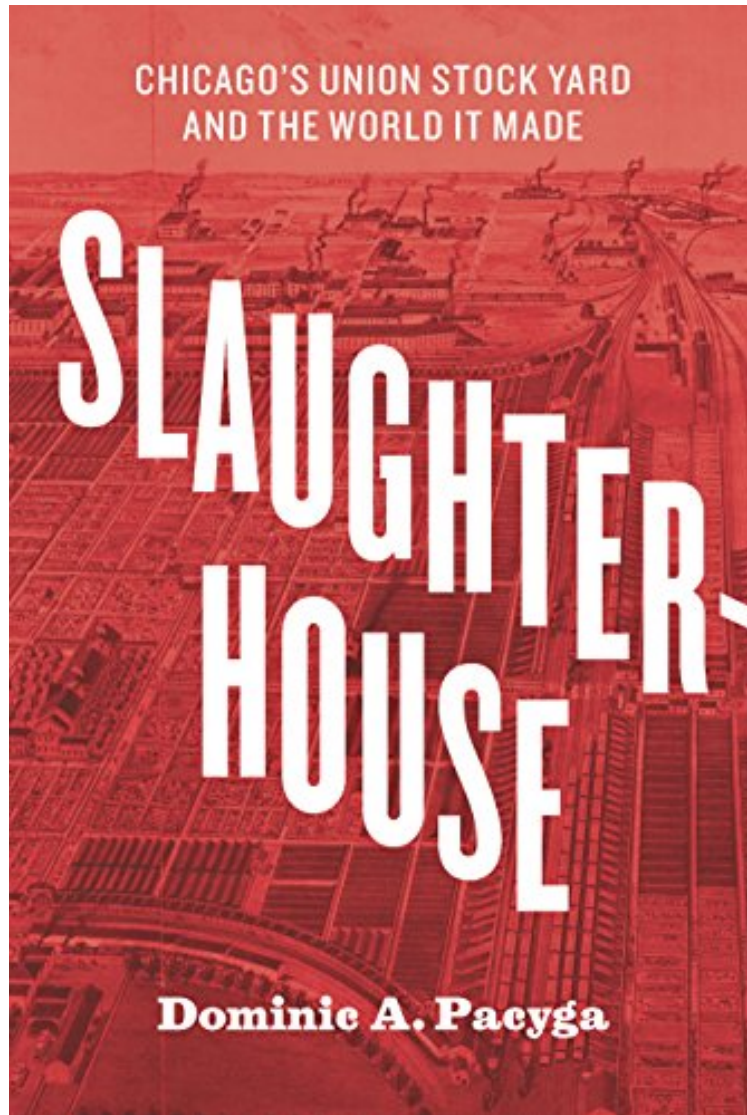


(Free and download) Slaughterhouse: Chicago's Union Stock Yard and the World It Made

# Slaughterhouse: Chicago's Union Stock Yard and the World It Made

*Dominic A. Pacyga*

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**Dominic A. Pacyga : Slaughterhouse: Chicago's Union Stock Yard and the World It Made** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slaughterhouse: Chicago's Union Stock Yard and the World It Made:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Pacyga does a nice job of illuminating how the industrialization ('modernization' in the ...By Bart CasperPacyga does a nice job of illuminating how the industrialization ('modernization' in the term of the day) of food production affected and impacted the city, the neighborhoods

surrounding the Union Stock Yards and working class people and society as a whole. Without getting too technical Mr. Pacyga examines the forces that moved a whole interconnected network of industries into a new era and the struggles and frictions that this change brought with it. The pacing of the book is good as the author takes the reader on a 360 degree tour of the societal, economic, technical and personal journey of the people and places that was the Union Stock Yards and beyond.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Illuminates the Role of the Stockyards  
By DrlrwAs a person who was raised on a farm with a feedlot in the 60s, I knew our cattle went off to Chicago. We would listen to the market figures at noon on the radio hoping to "top the market". This book provides the background I did not have to fully understand the role the Chicago stockyards played in the evolution of Chicago. I was most surprised at the activity in the yards in the 19th century. As I put my own family background together with the founding of the stockyards I realize all of the implications for immigration, the Civil War, and commerce. It is not the kind of book you read from cover to cover; it is the kind of book you look to for an understanding of the markets. The author's own connection to the yards enhances his reporting.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Chicago we don't know  
By D. NowakVery good book. It was very interesting to read about this part of the history of Chicago nobody writes about. I was looking for some names in meat market I knew from my relatives. The book inspired me to visit that historic, sad district of Chicago. The book is well written. The author which I know from documentaries , is well known professor in Chicago with a talent to tell stories.

From the minute it opened—on Christmas Day in 1865—it was Chicago's must-see tourist attraction, drawing more than half a million visitors each year. Families, visiting dignitaries, even school groups all made trips to the South Side to tour the Union Stock Yard. There they got a firsthand look at the city's industrial prowess as they witnessed cattle, hogs, and sheep disassembled with breathtaking efficiency. At their height, the kill floors employed 50,000 workers and processed six hundred animals an hour, an astonishing spectacle of industrialized death. Slaughterhouse tells the story of the Union Stock Yard, chronicling the rise and fall of an industrial district that, for better or worse, served as the public face of Chicago for decades. Dominic A. Pacyga is a guide like no other—he grew up in the shadow of the stockyards, spent summers in their hog house and cattle yards, and maintains a long-standing connection with the working-class neighborhoods around them. Pacyga takes readers through the packinghouses as only an insider can, covering the rough and toxic life inside the plants and their lasting effects on the world outside. He shows how the yards shaped the surrounding neighborhoods and controlled the livelihoods of thousands of families. He looks at the Union Stock Yard's political and economic power and its sometimes volatile role in the city's race and labor relations. And he traces its decades of mechanized innovations, which introduced millions of consumers across the country to an industrialized food system. Once the pride and signature stench of a city, the neighborhood is now home to Chicago's most successful green agriculture companies. Slaughterhouse is the engrossing story of the creation and transformation of one of the most important—and deadliest—square miles in American history.

“An illuminating history of this Chicago industry long vital to the city and the nation.”