



## Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir

By Wednesday Martin

Download now

Read Online →

**Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir** By Wednesday Martin

**Instant #1 New York Times Bestseller!**

**The book that has outraged the social elite!**

**“Eye-popping” —*People***

**“Amusing, perceptive and...deliciously evil” —*The New York Times Book Review***

**“Juicy, sexy, bawdy stuff” —*New York Daily News***

**“Think *Gossip Girl*, but with a sociological study of the parents.”  
—*InStyle.com***

Like an urban Dian Fossey, Wednesday Martin decodes the primate social behaviors of Upper East Side mothers in a brilliantly original and witty memoir about her adventures assimilating into that most secretive and elite tribe.

After marrying a man from the Upper East Side and moving to the neighborhood, Wednesday Martin struggled to fit in. Drawing on her background in anthropology and primatology, she tried looking at her new world through that lens, and suddenly things fell into place. She understood the other mothers' snobbiness at school drop-off when she compared them to olive baboons. Her obsessional quest for a Hermes Birkin handbag made sense when she realized other females wielded them to establish dominance in their troop. And so she analyzed tribal migration patterns; display rituals; physical adornment, mutilation, and mating practices; extra-pair copulation; and more. Her conclusions are smart, thought-provoking, and hilariously unexpected.

Every city has its Upper East Side, and in Wednesday's memoir, readers everywhere will recognize the strange cultural codes of powerful social hierarchies and the compelling desire to climb them. They will also see that Upper East Side mothers want the same things for their children that all mothers want—safety, happiness, and success—and not even sky-high penthouses and chauffeured SUVs can protect this ecologically released tribe from the universal experiences of anxiety and loss. When Wednesday's life turns upside down, she

learns how deep the bonds of female friendship really are.

Intelligent, funny, and heartfelt, *Primates of Park Avenue* lifts a veil on a secret, elite world within a world—the exotic, fascinating, and strangely familiar culture of privileged Manhattan motherhood.

 [Download Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir ...pdf](#)

# Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir

By Wednesday Martin

**Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir** By Wednesday Martin

**Instant #1 *New York Times* Bestseller!**

**The book that has outraged the social elite!**

**“Eye-popping” —*People***

**“Amusing, perceptive and...deliciously evil” —*The New York Times Book Review***

**“Juicy, sexy, bawdy stuff” —*New York Daily News***

**“Think *Gossip Girl*, but with a sociological study of the parents.” —*InStyle.com***

Like an urban Dian Fossey, Wednesday Martin decodes the primate social behaviors of Upper East Side mothers in a brilliantly original and witty memoir about her adventures assimilating into that most secretive and elite tribe.

After marrying a man from the Upper East Side and moving to the neighborhood, Wednesday Martin struggled to fit in. Drawing on her background in anthropology and primatology, she tried looking at her new world through that lens, and suddenly things fell into place. She understood the other mothers' snobbiness at school drop-off when she compared them to olive baboons. Her obsessional quest for a Hermes Birkin handbag made sense when she realized other females wielded them to establish dominance in their troop. And so she analyzed tribal migration patterns; display rituals; physical adornment, mutilation, and mating practices; extra-pair copulation; and more. Her conclusions are smart, thought-provoking, and hilariously unexpected.

Every city has its Upper East Side, and in Wednesday's memoir, readers everywhere will recognize the strange cultural codes of powerful social hierarchies and the compelling desire to climb them. They will also see that Upper East Side mothers want the same things for their children that all mothers want—safety, happiness, and success—and not even sky-high penthouses and chauffeured SUVs can protect this ecologically released tribe from the universal experiences of anxiety and loss. When Wednesday's life turns upside down, she learns how deep the bonds of female friendship really are.

Intelligent, funny, and heartfelt, *Primates of Park Avenue* lifts a veil on a secret, elite world within a world—the exotic, fascinating, and strangely familiar culture of privileged Manhattan motherhood.

## **Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir By Wednesday Martin Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #14028 in eBooks
- Published on: 2015-06-02
- Released on: 2015-06-02

- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir ...pdf](#)

## Editorial Review

### Review

"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* )

### About the Author

Wednesday Martin 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 writes for the online edition of *Psychology Today*. She has appeared on *Today*, CNN, NPR, NBC News, the *BBC Newshour*, and Fox News as a parenting expert, 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 now writes regularly for *The Daily Telegraph*. Wednesday lives in New York City with her husband and their two sons.

Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

*Primates of Park Avenue*

## CHAPTER ONE

### Comme Il Faut

#### Fieldnotes

#### Environment and ecology

The island is a geographically, culturally, and politically isolated landmass roughly seven times longer than it is wide. The climate is temperate, with relatively harsh winters and extremely hot and humid summers that, in recent years, approximate tropical conditions due in part to two centuries of intensive land clearing and industrial practices. The island's longitude is 40°43'42" N, and its latitude is 73°59'39" W.

Island dwellers live in a state of ecological release—resources such as food and water are abundant and easily procured; disease is minimal; there is no predation. Living in a niche characterized by literally unprecedented abundance, untethered from hardship, the wealthiest islanders are able to invest heavily in

each and every offspring and to invent elaborate and complex social codes and rites, the observance of which are time-, labor-, and resource-intensive.

In spite of the extraordinary abundance of food, water, and other resources island-wide, there is persistent and marked poverty in some areas. The isolation, extreme population density, and vast discrepancies in wealth, as well as traditionally gender-scripted roles and behaviors around child rearing and work, may inform and in part account for many of the strange-seeming behaviors of the wealthiest island dwellers, discussed in the following pages.

## **Island dwellings**

The island's inhabitants are primarily vertical dwellers, making their homes directly on top of one another in structures of finely ground stone. Living in these "vertical villages" allows inhabitants to maximize physical space, a precious commodity in short supply on their tiny and remarkably densely populated island. In some locations, particularly where the wealthiest islanders reside, these vertical villages are notably restrictive, with a secretive "council of elders" presiding over who will and will not be allowed to live there. Scouting out a dwelling is one of the most labor-intensive practices of the female members of the tribe I studied—most often the task is undertaken by primiparas. Almost without exception, "dwelling shamans" guide these women in their quests for homes—which are also quests for identity. The shamans offer specialized knowledge, counsel, and emotional support throughout this costly, protracted, and painstaking initiation process.

## **Geographical origins of islanders**

Island dwellers have heterogeneous geographical origins. Many dispersed at sexual maturity from their natal groups in distant, smaller, and even rural villages, immigrating to the island for enhanced professional, sexual, and marital prospects. Other island dwellers are indigenous; their status is higher than that of the nonautochthonous residents, particularly if they were raised in certain corners of the island or attended particular "learning huts" while growing up there.

## **Beliefs of and about islanders**

Whether they are autochthonous or émigrés, island dwellers are believed by outsiders, many visitors, and their countrymen to harbor haughty attitudes about themselves and their island. They are known throughout the land for their brusqueness; intellectual gifts; dazzling adornment practices; and acumen in barter, trade, and negotiation. Increasingly, their trade is in invisible ideas and abstractions, enhancing the sense that they have privileged knowledge and even "magical" powers. The journeys and tribulations of those who move to the island and struggle to succeed there are the stuff of legend, literally—there exists a long oral and written tradition about the supposedly indomitable and unique spirit of people who are able to "make it there." Once they have established themselves on the island, it is said, they can "make it anywhere."

## **Resource acquisition and distribution**

On the whole, the island dwellers are the richest in the entire nation, living untethered from the environmental constraints that have such a profound impact on life-history courses in other habitats worldwide. Obtaining adequate calories for themselves and their children, the main ecological challenge to parents worldwide and throughout our evolutionary prehistory, is a simple given for wealthy island dwellers.

However, as in many industrial and postindustrial societies, fathers of the very traditionally gender-scripted tribe I studied tend to focus on the job of provisioning their wives and families with less-tangible resources, including financial, social, and cultural capital. While many island-dwelling females work outside the home, during the childbearing and child-rearing years, many wealthy female islanders believe it is their “role” to remain home with their children, where they are often assisted by alloparents—individuals other than parents who take on parental roles. They call these alloparents “housekeepers,” “nannies,” and “caregivers.”

## **Island organization**

The island is organized, in the minds of island dwellers, into four quadrants: Up, Down, Right, and Left. The “Up” and “Down” areas are believed to be markedly distinct—with Up being preferable for raising children and Down being considered primarily a place for pre-reproductives, cultural “outsiders,” feasting, and ecstatic nighttime rites. Islanders further divide their island into left and right hemispheres. “Left” and “Right,” like “Up” and “Down,” are believed to have different—even polar opposite—characteristics. Left is believed to be more casual and progressive, in contrast to Right’s perceived formality and conservatism.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Loraine Brown:**

The feeling that you get from *Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir* may be the more deep you digging the information that hide in the words the more you get serious about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to know but *Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir* giving you joy feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood through anyone who read it because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this *Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir* instantly.

#### **Janelle Garrity:**

Hey guys, do you wants to finds a new book to study? May be the book with the subject *Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir* suitable to you? Often the book was written by well-known writer in this era. Typically the book untitled *Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir* is the main of several books that everyone read now. This specific book was inspired a number of people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new age that you ever know before. The author explained their plan in the simple way, thus all of people can easily to be aware of the core of this book. This book will give you a lots of information about this world now. In order to see the represented of the world in this particular book.

#### **Billy Migliore:**

Reading a reserve can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world likes. Do you like reading book thus. There are a lot of reasons why people like it. First reading a book will give you a lot of new details. When you read a guide you will get new information due to the fact book is one of several ways to share the information or their idea. Second, examining a book will make anyone more imaginative. When you reading

through a book especially tale fantasy book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the people do it anything. Third, you may share your knowledge to other people. When you read this Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir, you are able to tells your family, friends and also soon about yours book. Your knowledge can inspire the mediocre, make them reading a book.

**Robert Burmeister:**

Many people spending their time by playing outside with friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV the whole day. You can have new activity to shell out your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, do you think reading a book really can hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It fine you can have the e-book, taking everywhere you want in your Cell phone. Like Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir which is keeping the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's notice.

**Download and Read Online Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir  
By Wednesday Martin #4NYPX9V8UAJ**



## **Read Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir By Wednesday Martin for online ebook**

Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir By Wednesday Martin 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 Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir By Wednesday Martin books to read online.

### **Online Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir By Wednesday Martin ebook PDF download**

**Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir By Wednesday Martin Doc**

**Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir By Wednesday Martin Mobipocket**

**Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir By Wednesday Martin EPub**

**4NYPX9V8UAJ: Primates of Park Avenue: A Memoir By Wednesday Martin**