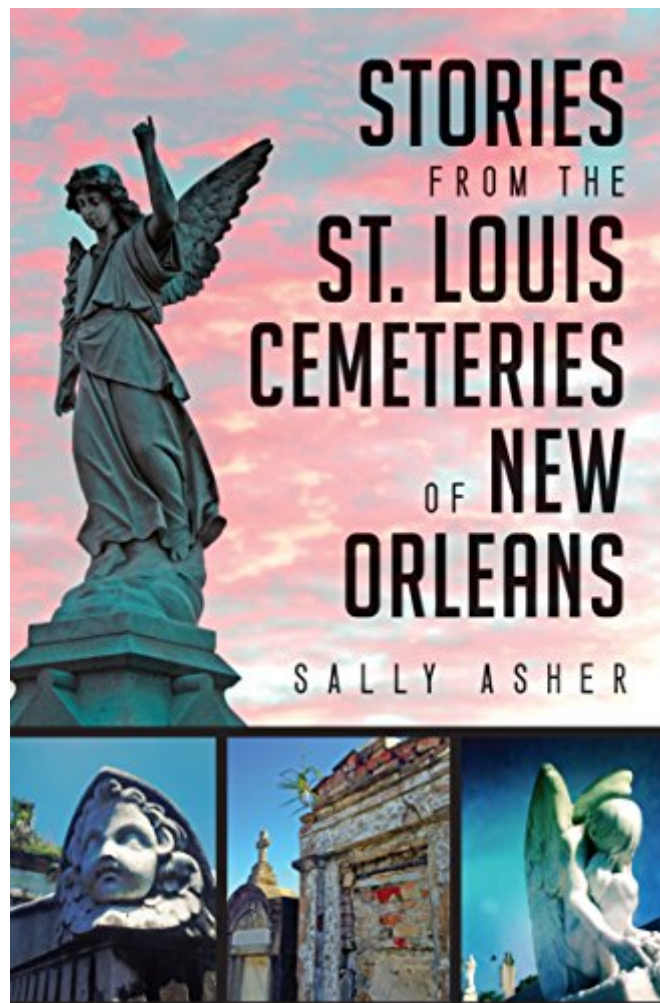




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Stories From The St. Louis Cemeteries Of New Orleans (Landmarks)



Synopsis

The tombs and graves of the St. Louis Cemeteries rise from the ground, creating labyrinthine memorials aptly dubbed "cities of the dead." Most are in even rows with quaint street names. Some are of crumbling brick and broken marble. Others are miniature mansions clad in decorative ironwork with angelic guardians. Grand or humble, each is a relic of the story of New Orleans. Politicians, pirates, Mardi Gras Indian chiefs and one voodoo queen rest below. In an unprecedented inquiry, author Sally Asher reveals the lives within the mysterious and majestic tombs of the St. Louis Cemeteries.

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Customer Reviews

I have been coming to New Orleans off and on for over a decade. I soon started taking tours to find out more and the more I learned the more I wanted to know. I am not much of a reader so I have resisted delving into lengthy volumes of history. I much prefer to hear the story's of the city history served up to me in a clear well-researched and organized (at least as organized as the chaotic history of the city will allow) fashion. Sally Asher's book is enjoyable to read, well-researched and

beautiful to look at. The photographs are beautiful and sometimes haunting. Walking the aisles of New Orleans most famous cemeteries can be at once inspirational and daunting. Even a well-read history buff can be over whelmed at the sheer number and diversity of names and dates on the tombs. The tombs themselves can be majestic and ornate or reduced to rubble because of neglect. The physical condition of these monuments and the juxtaposition of family tombs and various social society tombs makes it difficult to process and associate these stone monuments with the history of the city. By focusing her research on accurately and respectably telling the stories of the people buried in the tombs Asher has brought much needed relevance and perspective. The book contains excellent and artistic photographs that further underscore Asher's reverence and respect for the people she brings to life again. With over 500 hundred footnotes she provides us a road map to follow if we are interested in learning more. Detailed directions to help find each tomb are included along each story.

I have been a frequent visitor to New Orleans for over 17 years and have made many trips to the famed St. Louis Cemeteries - and I still learned new things from this book! What Ms. Asher has done is create a touchstone of knowledge for these landmarks that both locals and tourists can use as a thoroughly compelling guide for navigating the obscure and mysterious tales behind the tombstones. The remains that rest in the St. Louis Cemeteries weave a narrative of the city from its founding to the present day, and the author has selected the most intriguing stories to recount here, along with providing the specific tomb location for each. This makes Stories from the St. Louis Cemeteries not only an enjoyably engrossing read, but also a literary "walking map" of the people and events who shaped the city's colorful history. I can't believe how much I'd overlooked on previous visits to New Orleans! After reading this book, I immediately made a list of sites within the three cemeteries that I plan to pay my respects to on my next visit. Whether you're a history buff or fascinated with the macabre, a native New Orleanian or simply a fan of the city's culture, buying - and reading - this book is money and time well spent.

I bought this book as a research resource and it fulfills that purpose perfectly.

This one is a favorite now. I loved reading about the cemeteries I have not yet explored in New Orleans.

great book of history and info

The cemeteries of the Gulf South coastal towns, and especially New Orleans, are so unique. There is so much mystery and beauty, and Sally Asher captured that in her gorgeous photographs. (Especially love the cemetery cat!) The book offers a unique history of the city through the stories of some of the colorful characters who lived here (and died here). It's fascinating. And Asher has fun with her topic.... there are tales not just important military figures, politicians, priests and nuns, but also jazz musicians, rollergirls, bloggers, restaurateurs and actors.

I have passed by the St. Louis Cemeteries far more often than I have ever set foot inside of them. I thought that cemeteries are a place for those who have passed and, at times, their descendants by blood or by memory. But Sally Asher's book brings those souls back to life, in the good way(!), by sharing short histories of life and accomplishments whether famous or infamous, and often both. Scattered throughout the book are smart and beautiful photos of the cemetery architecture, sculptures, and visitors, taken by the equally smart and beautiful author herself. "Directions" to each vault and person discussed are provided, and with this book any resident or visitor to New Orleans can take a unique and special tour of the city and its history, whether in person or on your sofa. I recommend it highly!

What a wonderful look at the St Louis Cemeteries! I'm fascinated by the New Orleans burial practices and traditions and this book is an introduction three beautiful historic cemeteries. The book contains beautiful photographs of tombs and their unique adornments. The details of the notable residents from 1789 to present time are not only well researched but also an engaging read. This is a great visit to very special treasures of New Orleans.

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