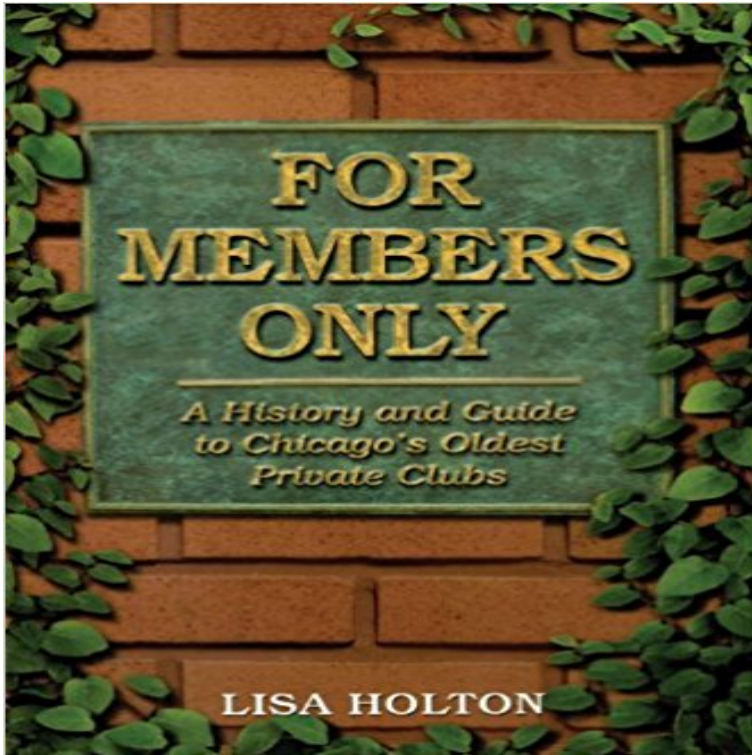


For Members Only: A History And Guide to Chicagos Oldest Private Clubs



Chicagos Private Clubs: A Rich and Unexpected History There wouldnt be a Burnham Plan. The Worlds Columbian Exposition wouldnt be in our history books. Al Capone might have lived out his days with a comfortable grasp on Chicagos crime rackets... . The 2000 moratorium on the death penalty in Illinois might not have had the support it did, and Millennium Park might still be merely a grand idea instead of the showpiece it is today. As Lisa Holton writes in her introduction, Chicago would be a very different place without the contributions made by the members of the citys private social clubs. Yet most of us walk past their stately facades without any idea what goes on within. Holton, a freelance writer and former business editor of the Chicago Sun-Times, reveals a fascinating history of the hidden world that has united--and divided--the citys leaders since Chicagos first days. These clubs have been oases for the rich and privileged, playgrounds for the social set, private watering holes for the citys movers and shakers. Places that, certainly at their inception, most of us couldnt get in. Heres your chance to enter that world, to see how the business, nonprofit, and political leaders of Chicago shaped the city for more than 140 years behind these closed doors. With chapters devoted to the citys top clubs and a guide to current membership requirements, explore the past, present, and future of these elite communities. Learn how clubs that flourished in the days of Marshall Field and Louis Sullivan, enclaves once restricted by race, sex, and birthright, have adapted to a modern society. Whether youre a prospective member or a student of Chicago history, *For Members Only* is the first comprehensive book consolidating the histories of these current and former landmark clubs in words, pictures, and first-person commentary.

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