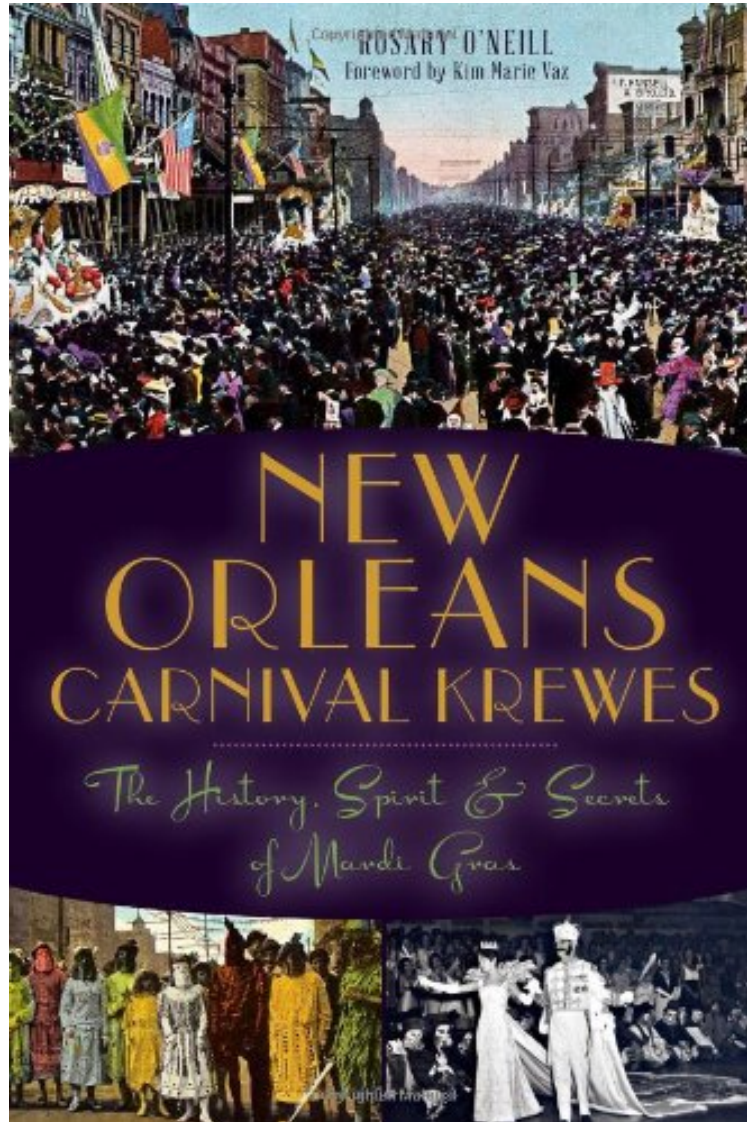


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New Orleans Carnival Krewes: The History, Spirit Secrets of Mardi Gras

Rosary O'Neill

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Rosary O'Neill : New Orleans Carnival Krewes: The History, Spirit Secrets of Mardi Gras before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised New Orleans Carnival Krewes: The History, Spirit Secrets of Mardi Gras:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. FascinatingBy Christopher GreyI picked this up for research on a novel I'm working on. My wife and I had our honeymoon in New Orleans, years before Katrina, and so I've always

been fascinated with the city--even though I'm not a resident. That said, I had NO idea about the extensive history of Mardi Gras and the krewes behind it. What an incredible journey into an exclusive subculture the rest of the country (or world) likely has no idea about. For lovers of history, revelry and the Big Easy--check this out. From what I can see, no other author has been able to have such incredible access to these secret societies and she does a delicious job in lifting the veil. Well done! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I couldn't put this down. By Monarchy Costume. If you're at all interested in the "behind the scenes" world of Mardi Gras, this is a, frankly, astounding book. I've read quite a bit about Mardi Gras, and I haven't yet found a book that is so well researched and presented. You get a history lesson about the socio-economic position of the rich and poor, presented in context of the political machinations of every generation for the past 150 years. As if that weren't enough information, she has spreadsheets that break down the average costs of everything from annual dry-cleaning and alterations of tuxedos and gowns, to the beads and throws for both Old-line and New Krewes. A special chapter focuses on African American Carnival. While the Gay Tableau societies are mentioned more than once, this may be one area where I might have liked to have had more information. But on the whole, the book is a BIBLE for anyone who wants to learn more about Carnival, or, if you're like myself and you have a business that caters to the people in the Mardi Gras world. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. By Book Lady. Very Nice!!!

New Orleans is practically synonymous with Mardi Gras. Both evoke the parades, the beads, the costumes, the food--the pomp and circumstance. The carnival krewes are the backbone of this Big Easy tradition. Every year, different krewes put on extravagant parties and celebrations to commemorate the beginning of the Lenten season. Historic krewes like Comus, Rex and Zulu that date back generations are intertwined with the greater history of New Orleans itself. Today, new krewes are inaugurated and widen a once exclusive part of New Orleans society. Through careful and detailed research of over three hundred sources, including fifty interviews with members of these organizations, author and New Orleans native Rosary O'Neill explores this storied institution, its antebellum roots and its effects in the twenty-first century.

About the Author Rosary O'Neill is a native New Orleanian living in New York City. She is Professor Emerita of Drama and Speech at Loyola University of New Orleans, a recipient of five Fulbright Senior Specialist Program Fellowship awards, Senior Fulbright Drama Specialist and author of twenty-two plays. Rosary is a member of the Playwright Directors Workshop, Actors Studio and founder of the Southern Repertory Theatre in New Orleans, the State of Louisiana's only actor's equity theatre. Kim Marie Vaz is professor of education and the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Xavier University of Louisiana. She is the author of *The "Baby Dolls": Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition*. Her book served as the basis for a major installation on the Baby Doll tradition at the Presbytere unit of the Louisiana State Museum as part of the museum's permanent display on the history of Carnival in Louisiana.