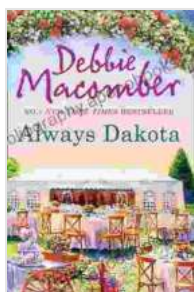


# Always Dakota: The Enduring Enchantment of a New York City Icon

Nestled amidst the vibrant tapestry of Manhattan's Upper West Side, stands the Dakota, an architectural masterpiece that has captivated hearts and imaginations for over a century. With its imposing grandeur, enigmatic past, and A-list clientele, the Dakota has become an enduring symbol of New York City's allure.



## Always Dakota (The Dakota Series Book 3)

by Debbie Macomber

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1230 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 388 pages



In "Always Dakota," architectural historian and author Martin Filler delves into the fascinating story behind this legendary building, from its inception to its present-day status as a sought-after residence for the city's elite. Through meticulous research and captivating prose, Filler unveils the Dakota's intricate design, illustrious history, and the famous personalities who have graced its hallowed halls.

## A Landmark of Architectural Splendor

Conceived by renowned architect Henry Janeway Hardenbergh, the Dakota was completed in 1884 and quickly became a sensation. Its towering stone facade, adorned with intricate carvings and wrought-iron balconies, exudes an air of both elegance and fortress-like strength. The building's asymmetrical design, with its staggered setbacks and irregular fenestration, sets it apart from its more conventional neighbors.



Inside, the Dakota's grand interiors reflect the opulence of the Gilded Age. Soaring ceilings, elaborate fireplaces, and opulent moldings create a sense of spaciousness and elegance. The building's central courtyard, surrounded by arched walkways and lush greenery, provides a tranquil oasis in the midst of the bustling city.

## A Stage for History and Celebrity

Throughout its illustrious history, the Dakota has played host to a captivating cast of characters. From its early days as a haven for well-to-do families, the building has attracted celebrities, artists, and writers drawn to its allure and exclusivity.



Among the Dakota's most famous residents was John Lennon, who downloaded an apartment in 1973 with his wife, Yoko Ono. Lennon's tragic murder outside the building's entrance in 1980 sent shockwaves

throughout the world and forever etched the Dakota into the annals of history.

Other notable residents over the years have included Leonard Bernstein, Judy Garland, Lauren Bacall, and Bono. The Dakota's reputation as a sanctuary for the famous has only added to its mystique and allure.

### **A Controversial Past and Enduring Legacy**

Despite its pristine exterior and illustrious clientele, the Dakota has also witnessed its share of tragedy and controversy. The building's early years were marked by financial difficulties and a series of lawsuits, casting a shadow over its otherwise glamorous image.

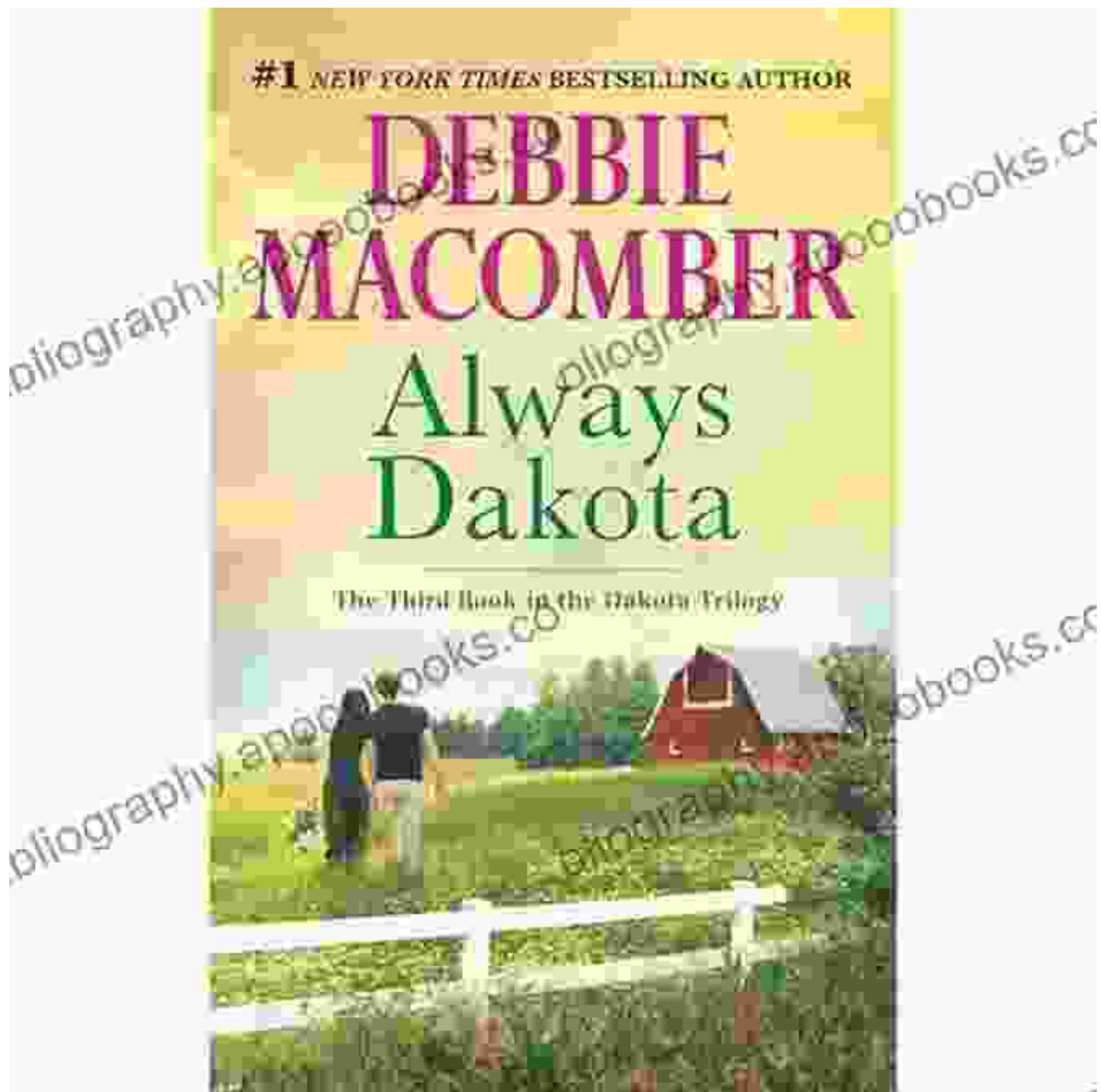


In 1969, the Dakota became the site of the brutal murders of Sharon Tate and four others by the Manson Family. This horrific crime sent ripples of fear and shock through the city and tarnished the building's reputation for a time.

Despite these setbacks, the Dakota has persevered and remains one of New York City's most sought-after addresses. Its enduring legacy as an architectural marvel, a celebrity magnet, and a symbol of both tragedy and resilience continues to captivate and intrigue.

### **"Always Dakota": A Literary Masterpiece**

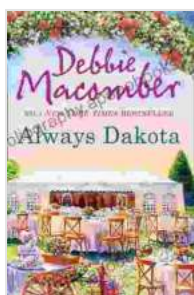
In "Always Dakota," Martin Filler explores all these facets of the Dakota's remarkable history, weaving together a narrative that is as fascinating as it is informative. Through extensive research and interviews with former residents and experts, Filler provides a comprehensive portrait of this iconic building.



The book delves into the Dakota's architectural significance, its role in New York City's social and cultural history, and the unique stories of its famous residents. Filler's vivid writing style brings the building and its inhabitants to life, creating an immersive reading experience that will captivate readers from start to finish.

"Always Dakota" is an essential read for anyone interested in the history of architecture, New York City landmarks, or the lives of the famous. Martin Filler's masterful work provides a captivating exploration of this iconic building, shedding light on its enduring allure and cementing its place as a timeless symbol of the city that never sleeps.

So immerse yourself in the fascinating world of the Dakota and uncover its captivating story with "Always Dakota."



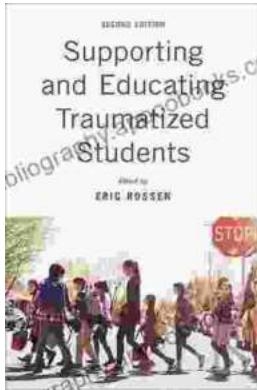
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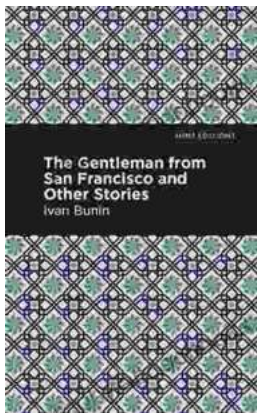
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