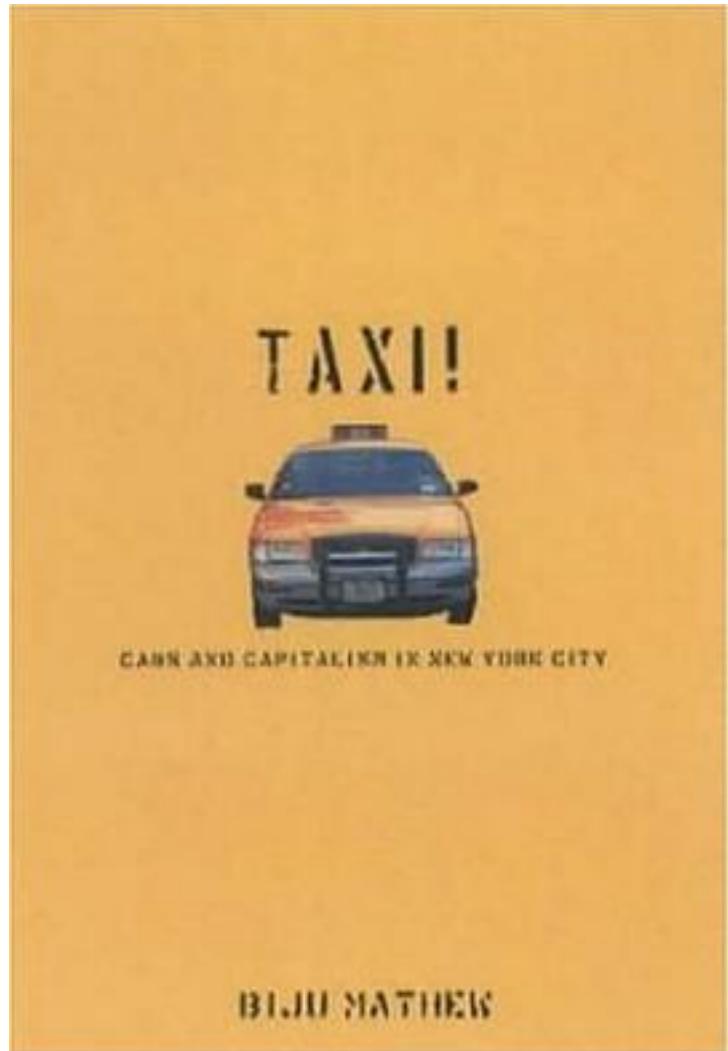


Taxi!



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As the point of entry for many of the city's visitors, the yellow cab has become an enduring metaphor for New York City and its exuberant twenty-four-hours-a-day rush. But just as the city has changed in recent years, so too has the industry that keeps it on the move. Indeed, as Biju Mathew reveals in this highly readable, fast-paced survey of New York's taxi business, just about everything has been dramatically altered except the yellow paint. Drawing on conversations with the drivers themselves, *Taxi* details both the pressures and triumphs of life behind the wheel, from the effects of ex-Mayor Giuliani's "quality of life" and "zero tolerance" programs and the structure of car and medallion ownership that often results in minimal earnings after a 12-hour shift, to the unexpected ease with which a workforce representing 80 ethnicities--and at least as many languages--organized, culminating in the 1998 strike of 24,000 taxi workers. One of the organizers of the Taxi Workers' Alliance, Mathew is uniquely qualified to survey the fascinating world of the yellow cab. Buckle up, sit back, and enjoy the ride.

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