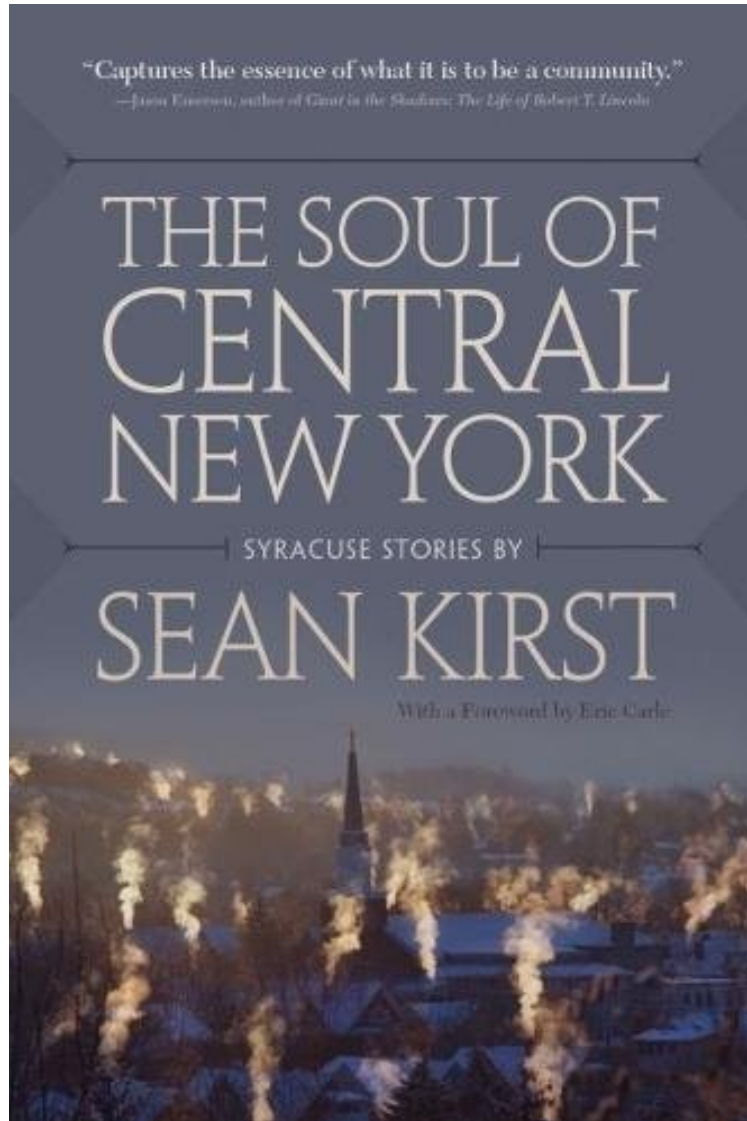


(Read free ebook) The Soul of Central New York: Syracuse Stories by Sean Kirst

## The Soul of Central New York: Syracuse Stories by Sean Kirst

*Sean Kirst*

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#751241 in Books Syracuse University Press 2016-12-27 Original language: English 9.00 x 1.00 x 6.00, .0  
#File Name: 0815610831400 pages Syracuse University Press | File size: 57.Mb

**Sean Kirst : The Soul of Central New York: Syracuse Stories by Sean Kirst** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Soul of Central New York: Syracuse Stories by Sean Kirst:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. like many in America By Eric Meola Sean Kirsts provoking new collection of newspaper columns written between 1991 and 2015 for Syracuses Post Standard newspaper, contains familiar rites of passage in the everyday life of a small city in upstate New York. Without abandoning the five ws of journalism who, what, where, when, why Kirst takes off on an inspiring examination of one city in the midst of triumph

and decay, held together by the resilience, loyalty, courage and faith of individuals bound by communal spirit. Themes of loss are as familiar as a Springsteen song, and columns about a near-death on the New York State Thruway, students who plunged to their deaths over Lockerbie, Scotland, and the exodus of industrial behemoths such as General Electric and Carrier, are tempered by introspective stories such as one about two brothers revisiting Normandy, France to make peace with the past. High school coaches, football players, craftsmen, inventors, students, barbers, ironworkers, policemen, soldiers, teachers, mothers, farmers are all part of Kirst's narrative of the tree of life, along with his special reverence for the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy (the Mohawk, Onondaga, Oneida, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora nations). What is remarkable is that Kirst takes us into the everyday lives of these people and in his straightforward prose brings us to an epiphany about the commonplace. As he states about his mother in the book's preface, she spent all of her life in three factory towns: Youngstown, Ohio, and Buffalo and Dunkirk, New York. In the quiet details, Kirst describes her hanging laundry in the back yard, spreading crumbs for the sparrows, and finding beauty all around her. This book is an accounting of how one writer can illuminate a universe, and make us see things we've never seen. Syracuse is a city, like many in America, in transition and gentrification, yet filled with history: downtown buildings once sweatshops, ice houses, places to stop, meathouses have become upscale enclaves of coffee shops and restaurants and apartments you see the porch of an apartment building where F. Scott Fitzgerald played as a young child, and the downtown streets where a brooding Frederick Douglass often walked, amid his quest to set women and men free. Yet the larger subject for Kirst is community—the tapestry woven together from countless stories that together make another story about who we are and what we live for. Sean Kirst's *The Soul of Central New York* is a quiet masterpiece, a guidebook to the lives and souls of people we have all known, growing up and living through struggle and redemption in small-town America. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If you like essays that take you through many emotions. By Customer Mr. Kirst has a social sensibility about his writing that resonates with any reader, but especially one born and raised in the northeastern USA. If you like essays that take you through many emotions, including those moments when you say, "How did I not know that?", you will enjoy this nightstand read. One essay a night will feel like a hot chocolate, sans the calories, just before slumber. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. by a superior author. By S. Jeffrey Bastable Stunning stories of local people doing real life tasks and living... by a superior author...

A group of strangers risk death along the New York State Thruway to save a soldier from a burning truck. The true story, as told by football legend Jim Brown, of how the number 44 rose to prominence at Syracuse University. The beautiful yet tragic connection between Vice President Joseph Biden and Syracuse. The impossible account of how Eric Carle, one of the world's great children's authors, found his way to a childhood friend through a photograph taken in Syracuse more than eighty years ago. All these tales can be found in *The Soul of Central New York*, a collection of columns by Sean Kirst that spans almost a quarter-century. During his long career as a writer for the *Syracuse Post-Standard*, Kirst won some of the most prestigious honors in journalism, including the Ernie Pyle Award, given annually to one American writer who best captures the hopes and dreams of everyday Americans. For Kirst, his canvas is Syracuse, an upstate city of staggering beauty and profound struggle. In this book, readers will find a nuanced explanation of how Syracuse is intertwined with the spiritual roots of the Six Nations, as well as a soliloquy from a grieving father whose son was lost to violence on the streets. In these emotional contradictions in the resilience, love, and heart-break of its people, Kirst offers a vivid portrait of his city and, in the end, gives readers hope.

Sean elegantly and accurately captures the spirit, resilience, and aspirations characterizing the souls of Upstate New York. (Mayor Stephanie A. Miner Syracuse, New York) Kirst not only shares with readers his love and passion for the people, places, and voices of his hometown, but captures the essence of what it is to be a community. (Jason Emerson author of *Giant in the Shadows: The Life of Robert T. Lincoln*) Sean Kirst is a master storyteller. The sheer beauty of any Sean Kirst column is what you learn from the people he introduces you to. There are no strangers in this book; Sean makes you feel like you've known them all. There is quiet wisdom and eternal hope on every page. And, pride too because the men, women and children in these stories have lived among us in Central New York: They're our neighbors. These are stories of life's simple pleasures enjoyed and incredible odds overcome. Some life lessons and timeless human values can only be learned when one generation tells its stories to the next. That's what Sean Kirst does so magnificently well. This collection is truly a treasure. (Dan Cummings Anchor/Reporter WSYR-TV) Sean Kirst has frequently been called an extraordinary storyteller, and *The Soul of Central New York: Syracuse Stories* by Sean Kirst certainly conveys Sean's ability to capture the reader's attention through powerful, life-changing stories. However, reading this book will show you that Sean is much more than a storyteller. He is a truth teller, and his writing does more than entertain or influence. Sean's writing is profound and gently but firmly calls us to acknowledge pain and injustice and to commit to do something about it. If you read one book this year, make it this one. (Randi Bregman Executive Director of Vera House, Inc.) Kirst demonstrates an extraordinary connection with his readers and subjects. How wonderful it would be for any community to have such an artful chronicler of its poignant moments. (Janice Bullard Pieterse author of *Our Work Is But Begun: A History of the University of Rochester, 1850-2005*) Every time I

talk to Sean, I learn something about myself. His deep, long-range understanding of people and the city of Syracuse is a beautiful thing. Every city should have a Sean Kirst. (Jason Benetti Chicago White Sox TV announcer and former Syracuse resident) Anyone lucky enough to read Sean Kirst's columns over the past 25 years know he's truly the Bard of Upstate America, sharing stories of love, loss, friendship and fealty that tell the modern history of our region. The Soul of Central New York gathers the best of these stories, led by familiar characters like Jim Boeheim to the quiet heroes of our community, in a collection that captures a place and people whose beauty are both ever-fleeting and ever-present. (Jimmy Vielkind Albany Bureau Chief, POLITICO) Few readers will be unfamiliar with the name Sean Kirst. Off to a new career after almost 30 years writing for The Post-Standard, the Ernie Pyle award recipient is publishing a collection of his columns from the paper through Syracuse University Press. The Soul of Central New York, is a collection broken down into 10 parts that include themes like "Courage," "Loyalty," and "Triumph," with stories spanning everything from Syracuse University basketball to heroic actions of local citizens. (Casey Rose Frank Syracuse.com) Kirst etches word portraits of people and places to document what Syracuse has produced, a mosaic fashioned from pieces of the Salt City puzzle. (WALT SHEPPERD Syracuse NewTimes) These well-crafted stories will grab readers with their poignancy and relevance. They are inspiring accounts that reflect this award-winning author's ability to respond to people's lives and situations with insight and sensitivity. (Laurel C. Wernett Life in the Finger Lakes Magazine) About the Author Sean Kirst is a longtime Upstate journalist, writer, and storyteller who spent nearly 25 years as a columnist for the Syracuse Post-Standard. Winner of the 2008 Ernie Pyle Award for human interest writing, Kirst is also the author of The Ashes of Lou Gehrig and Other Baseball Essays, and co-author of Moonfixer: The Basketball Journey of Earl Lloyd. He lives in Syracuse with his wife, Nora, and their three children.