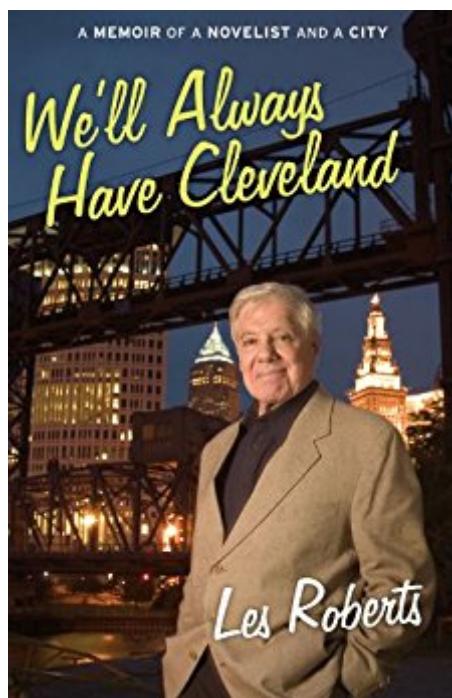


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# We'll Always Have Cleveland: A Memoir Of A Novelist And A City



## Synopsis

“Mystery readers, particularly of Cleveland and Clevelanders in general, should enjoy Roberts’ exploration of the city. Aspiring writers should enjoy his techniques and his dedication as a new mystery is born.” • Ohioana Quarterly “Les Roberts is a writer, and a damned good one . . . A nearly perfect paean to a particular place and the people who made it that way . . . It’s almost as though you were invited into a warm, charming home on a cold, snowy night in Cleveland, where else? and after you and the host are seated in front of a roaring fire, he begins to chat.” • CoolCleveland.com “Full of anecdotes and local color . . . a love letter to an adopted city.” • The Beacon Journal When novelist and television producer Les Roberts arrived in Cleveland from Los Angeles for a short-term consulting job in 1986, he wasn’t entirely prepared. It was January, and he’d brought no overcoat, no boots. That chilly Northeast Ohio surprise wasn’t all he was unprepared for. He never dreamed that, just months later, he’d find himself so completely won over by the place that he’d give up the glitz of Hollywood and put down roots in this rustbelt city. It took only a few weeks in Cleveland to convince Roberts that the city was a ripe setting for his next private-eye novel. Then, a chance meeting on an airplane led him to the inspiration for his new character: Milan Jacovich (pronounced My-lan Yock-o-vitch), a tough Slovenian-American sleuth with a master’s degree and a taste for klobasa sandwiches and cold Stroh’s beer. The combination proved very successful. Thirteen Milan Jacovich novels resulted, and with each book Roberts drew more heavily on real Cleveland places and people for the authentic local flavor of his stories. From the upscale Heights to the industrial Flats, from shiny new Jacobs Field to the aging ethnic neighborhoods, Roberts and Jacovich covered the town. They saw where the deals were made (Johnny’s Bar, Little Italy), the good times were had (The Velvet Tango Room, Vuk’s Tavern), and the bodies were found (all over the place!). In this memoir, Roberts tells how he discovered the heart and soul of a city while fictionalizing it for a series of novels. He writes about his favorite locations and his favorite people (and at least one person who was not happy to find himself in a novel). It will appeal to fans of the series, fans of the city, and aspiring novelists who want to learn how one writer took a city and made it his own through fiction.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

Yes, the book is about Cleveland. Cleveland has been good to Mr. Roberts and Mr. Roberts reciprocates with a bit of humor and only a brief dash of sentiment. I usually don't read mysteries, unless they have an extra twist, like an historical period or take place in a city I grew up in. The Cleveland I grew up in was proud of its cultural heritage - the gardens along Liberty Blvd. that celebrated the nations from which most of Cleveland's population have roots. I didn't expect anything of this sort from Les Roberts his writing is all about Cleveland today, which I know only by watching the Cleveland TV channels. Also some visits to the Cleveland Clinic and visiting my old friends along Lake Shore Blvd. who now live in Euclid or Wickliffe. If Mr. Roberts mentioned a garden, it would no doubt be something his private eye ran through while chasing a bad guy. So no, a travelogue this is not. It is more a personal take on a place, a good place, and I am looking forward to more mysteries, which Mr. Roberts does very well, and also accurately.

I just recommended this book to the Convention & Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland ~ suggesting that they purchase the book in quantity and distribute it as a gift to visitors and convention-goers here. Mr. Roberts has written a fabulous tribute to Greater Cleveland people and places, and this memoir holds broad appeal for readers whether they're visitors, newcomers, or

longtime residents. Special note to Milan Jacovich fans ~ We'll Always Have Cleveland is filled with fascinating details about the creative processes Mr. Roberts has used to bring Milan to life on the page, the ways and reasons Milan has evolved, and what the future may hold for this beloved private investigator. I also recommend the book to writers and students of writing for its insights into Mr. Roberts' methods as a novelist, in particular his daily regimen and dedication to the craft. We'll Always Have Cleveland stands alone as an eloquent, funny, and engaging tribute to this city and its people.

I'm a Clevelander and I like Les Roberts' books about Cleveland. This is the first book of his that I have read and did not like. He comes across as very pompous and full of himself in this book. If I read this book first, I wouldn't be likely to read any other book written by him.

Hoped for more information about Cleveland, but was disappointed. Maybe a historical book would have been a better choice.

Very interesting to learn about the author of some of my favorite books, Please keep on writing and I'll keep on reading.

Les's book is a memoir about his experiences in Cleveland, Ohio, his chosen home town. After living in Chicago and Los Angeles, he moved to Cleveland several years ago and fell in love with the city, the people and the ethnicity of Cleveland. A very enjoyable read by a person who has obviously fallen in love with his city.

it is great reding about Cleveland

this is an open look at the city of Cleveland, the process of writing, love, life, and above all else food and drinks all seen through the eyes of author Les Roberts. he obviously has a passion for what he writes, and his enthusiasm for Cleveland can be infectious. i recommend all of his mystery books and this book as well. (i also recommend the five dollar burgers and bloody mary's at night town in cleveland heights!)

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