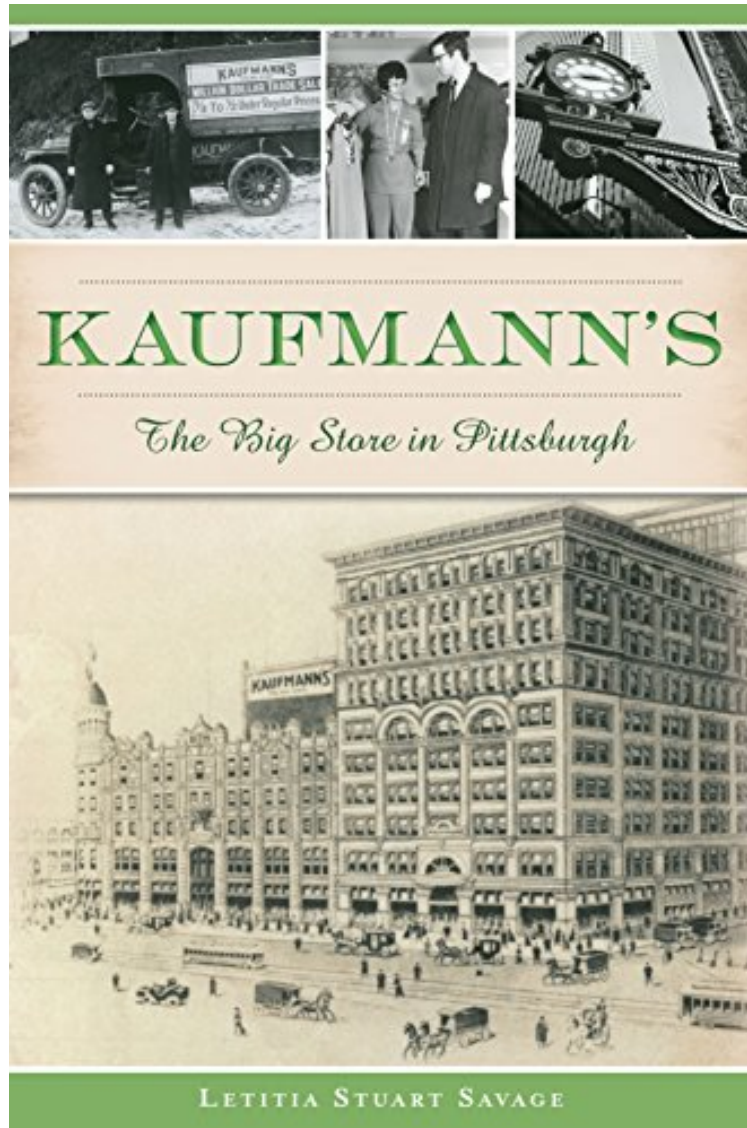


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Kaufmann's: The Big Store in Pittsburgh (Landmarks)

Letitia Stuart Savage

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Letitia Stuart Savage : Kaufmann's: The Big Store in Pittsburgh (Landmarks) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kaufmann's: The Big Store in Pittsburgh (Landmarks):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I think that's kind of sad. When it closed a couple of years ago ...By Sean MeekBecause of another book I had bought here in Canada, I gradually became interested in department store history, and this is a prime example of a store that, in my opinion, died way too soon. Sure, with the advent of on-line shopping, people aren't visiting these downtown stores anymore. I think that's kind of sad. When it closed a couple of years ago this September, there was talk of converting the space into mixed-use residential/commercial space. If that

happens, the new owners should at least turn part of the building into a retail history museum.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. An "okay" history of a great storeBy andy1116I have truly enjoyed reading the histories of iconic department stores by Bruce Allen Kopetyk, Michael Lisicky and Robert Jeschonek; I was fortunate enough to visit most of these stores even though they were well past their prime. Like many residents of the Pittsburgh PA region, I was deeply saddened when our beloved Kaufmann's was downgraded to the bland, boring, nondescript macy*s; it was especially painful to watch the wonderful downtown store run into the ground and then closed down. I was excited to learn that someone was writing a book about Kaufmann's and anxiously awaited its publication. I pre-ordered several copies from for friends who were also fans of Kaufmann's. In comparison with the other department store histories, this book was okay but nothing special (just like macy*s). It seemed the other books captured the spirit of the respective stores (Hutzler's, Woodward and Lothrop, Jaconson's, Crowley's, Wanamakers, Glosser Brothers, Gable's) so that even the reader who never visited there could gain an appreciation of why it was a unique shopping experience. The early history of the store was covered in detail, but the last years of Kaurmann's-- which most readers would remember--were basically just summarized. For example, there was no mention of the final major renovation of the downtown store which was undertaken to compete with the brand new and highly subsidized Lazarus built down the block. At that time in the mid 1990s the city of Pittsburgh attempted to reinvigorate downtown as a retail hub. Various incentives were used to convince Lazarus to open a new department store after they purchased and later shuttered the landmark Joseph Horne Company (Horne's) several blocks away. The city also attracted Lord Taylor to open in the classic Mellon Bank building across from Kaufmann's, and there was talk of Nordstrom locating downtown. Unfortunately the grand plans failed to materialize, and within a few years both Lazarus and Lord Taylor left downtown; Saks Fifth Avenue left soon after the macy*s takeover of Kaufmann's. The last chapter consisted of employee experiences and personal memories of the store; most of this content had been covered in earlier chapters. Mention was made of the highly popular Tic Toc Restaurant and its specialties, but no pictures of the restaurant or any recipes. (Kaufmann's published two spiral bound cookbooks as well as several smaller recipe collections which are widely available.)¹ of 1 people found the following review helpful. Department Store CollectorBy AndrewAs a collector of books on Department Store History, I found this book to be interesting for what was included, but incomplete. The early middle years of Kaufmann's is well represented with archival photos and ads. Very little of the later May Company owned years is included. Also missing were interviews with former executives, employees and customers.

In 1871, Jacob and Isaac Kaufmann created a classic Pittsburgh institution. The business grew from a small store on the South Side to a mammoth clothing house downtown that outfitted the community. The removal of the original freestanding clock upset customers, so Kaufmanns added its iconic version in 1913. A redesign of the stores first floor attracted national attention in the 1930s. While most Pittsburghers remember and celebrate the downtown store, others recall the suburban branches miniatures of the expansive flagship store. Join Letitia Stuart Savage on a journey to a time of leisurely shopping for the latest fashions complete with a side of Mile High Ice Cream Pie from the Tic Toc Restaurant.

About the AuthorLetitia Stuart Savage is a freelance writer who has contributed to local and national publications including Country Journal, Kitchen Garden, Dog Fancy and The Chronicle of the Horse. She earned a BS in biology and established environmental education programs in several Allegheny County parks before becoming an environmental consultant. In the past, she has contributed history articles to Pennsylvania Heritage.