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In the Shadow of the Big Apple By: Tom Piantanida

In the Shadow of the Big Apple is a story about Kenny, a mischievous boy growing up in an Italian neighborhood in 1950s New Jersey. Summers in the sweltering tenements, where sewer-gas laden breezes carried with them a reminder of the proximity to Caputo's Fish Market, Giuliano's Deli, and the car barns, drive Kenny to seek escape at summer camp, complete with swarming bats in the dorm, a snapping turtle in the zero visibility swimming pool, reports of quicksand to keep hikers on the trail, and burned out counselors. While in New Jersey, Kenny spends afternoons at Palisades Amusement Park, sneaks into New York City with his cousins, and vacations with his family at the Jersey shore.

Readers will be amazed at the amount of trouble young Kenny can manage to get into as he learns important life lessons. Older readers will be able to relate many of the stories to times of their own youth. Author Tom Piantanida breathes this era to life as only one who lived in New Jersey at that time could.

About the Author

Tom Piantanida is semi-retired, working as a consultant to medical instrument companies in northern California. He has completed one novel and more than thirty short stories. During his career in biomedical research, Dr. Piantanida wrote numerous technical articles and book chapters; only after early retirement did he concentrate on writing fiction. Since then, Dr. Piantanida received Honorable Mention in 2005 from the Writer's Digest for his short stories and has recently been published in *The First Line*, *Today's Feature*, *Skive Magazine*, *Silver Thoughts*, *Demon Minds*, and *The Front Porch*. During his six year tenure as Editor of the Racing Drivers' Club Newsletter, he published a monthly column, in addition to submitting stories under the Spoonerismic pseudonym, A. Mack Barker. When he is not tinkering with custom and special-interest cars, he is building model trains, or pursuing motorsports.

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