

Brooklyn Story



Author: Robert Batista

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A coming of age story set in the heart of 1960's Brooklyn.

Author Robert Batista takes the reader on a journey to the tumultuous 1960's in his book *Brooklyn Story*. Batista's tale focuses on the life of David Carlos Lee, a teenager who is struggling to make it in the Brooklyn Projects. Young David faces temptation and danger every day as he lives among drug dealers, pimps, and police (whom the members of the community do not fully trust).

Brooklyn Story is filled with tremendous internal and external conflict. Among the troubles faced by David are conflicts with his stern father, classmates, friends, enemies, love interests, and his own feelings. *Brooklyn Story* also presents the story of the reactions of people in the ghetto to the major events of the 1960's. Community reactions to the conflict in Vietnam, assassination of Martin Luther King, and the killing of Bobby Kennedy all provide kindling for the burning story that Batista tells.

One thing that readers will notice about *Brooklyn Story* are the similarities which exist between the ghetto culture of the 1960's and today. Although much time has past, many of the same ideas, hopes, dreams, and fears exist today within the people who live in the projects. At the end of the book is a very insightful author interview which explains Batista's motivations behind writing his book, as well as his feelings behind the differences and similarities between today's urban youth and the characters of his story.

Brooklyn Story is a well constructed book which is strong in feeling and delivery. Readers who have an interest in urban culture will find *Brooklyn Story* to be very enjoyable and worthwhile. Young African-American readers, as well as those of any race, who live in an urban environment will especially be able to relate to the struggles and feelings of the characters within the pages of *Brooklyn Story*.