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In his new book, **Seabury Place: A Bygone Kingdom in the Bronx** by Daniel Wolfe, author of **Cold Ground's Been My Bed: A Korean War Memoir** describes the love and frugality that brought families through the Great Depression.

Wolfe leads the reader back to a time when for kids the streets of New York City were an asphalt playground where they escaped their densely populated tenements. In vivid and hilarious episodes, the author paints a world of hard work but still full of promise for families of Jewish immigrants from the *shtetls* of Eastern Europe.

The neighborhood was populated by characters whose names sound like a casting call for *Guys and Dolls*: Gravel Gertie, Noiviss, Lunchee, Trench Feet, Willie the Weasel, the I Cash Clothes Man, and the infamous Jake the Pickle Man.

Pleasures were simple for this motley crew: a baked sweet potato from a street vendor's cart, a raucous game of stickball, a chocolate Mello-Roll from the candy store, a hand-me-down fielder's glove—the hard-won trophies of childhood and freedom.

Not even the ominous shadow of the *Hindenburg* passing overhead could dampen the rascals' spirits for long. There they are, holding court on the stoop or on the running board of an occasional car, climbing up a fire escape to swipe a broom for a stickball bat, running to fetch a neighbor to the candy store for a telephone call.

As one reviewer said "The heart and soul of Dan's childhood was not found in his colorful street life but within the two-bedroom flat that his parents made home for a family of five despite a hostile janitor, a cold radiator and a leaky icebox. The author's relationship with his hard-working Ma and Pa illuminates this memoir. In a time when too often parents are the butt of jokes and ridicule, Wolfe's refreshingly loving and comic sketches of his remarkable Ma and Pa make the heart glad.

Like a long talk with old friends that lasts late into the night, *Seabury Place* is an experience that readers won't want to end.

Wolfe was born in the Bronx, attended P.S. 61, Hermann Ridder Junior High School, and James Monroe High School. After graduation and brief work stints he was drafted into the Korean War and was awarded a Bronze Star with a V for Valor. Aided by the GI Bill, he graduated from CCNY and then taught biology for thirty-five years in a H.S. in the Bronx. His stories have been read on *All Things Considered*, National Public Radio. He has given numerous readings and talks in the metropolitan area, the 92 nd Street Y, Regulator Bookstore in Durham N.C and the Hudson Valley Writer's Center.

Seabury Place: A Bygone Kingdom in the Bronx and **Cold Ground's Been My Bed: A Korean War Memoir** are available for purchase and may be ordered by calling 1-800-AUTHORS or on-line from Barnes and Noble or Amazon.

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