

(Ebook free) Flatbush Odyssey: A Journey Through the Heart of Brooklyn

# Flatbush Odyssey: A Journey Through the Heart of Brooklyn

*Allen Abel*

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**Allen Abel : Flatbush Odyssey: A Journey Through the Heart of Brooklyn** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flatbush Odyssey: A Journey Through the Heart of Brooklyn:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It's a Wonderful Life!!!!By Ruth BoothIt was a terrific way to go back to Flatbush. A must read for anyone who lived, loved and laughed in the the old neighborhood. Ben was a great guy and his son followed in his footsteps. Do read the book from cover to cover.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. great bookBy Christine DoranWonderful super fast shipment, and a fun book to read, especially if you grew up in Brooklyn.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Received as described.By Dylan PatrickI quite enjoy this product. I like to collect kitchen utensils but usually shell out for pots and pans and buy my knives at thrift stores. For the price, this product has been super useful. it is very fast delivery. love it . i will purchase it from you next time. give my parents ,

At the age of 43, writer Allen Abel decided to move home to Brooklyn, stay with his mother (in the same apartment in which he grew up), and explore and write about the borough of his birth. For several months he wandered along Flatbush Avenue, the thoroughfare that runs like a spine through Brooklyn. The result is a delightful family memoir and exploration of a unique place. He hobnobs with Mohawk high-steel workers, tries to learn voodoo secrets from Haitian immigrants, commiserates with policemen detailed to the subway, and chats with an ex-zookeeper in Prospect

Park. He revisits the scenes of his childhood, samples social life in distant Flatlands, and hunts for horseshoe crabs on the shoreline. Flatbush Odyssey is a revelation, and in it Allen Abel has produced a marvellous piece of storytelling.

From Publishers Weekly Abel, a middle-aged TV reporter in Toronto, returned to his boyhood home to traverse Flatbush Avenue, the main boulevard through "renowned, hilarious, homely, devastated, bucolic, seething Brooklyn." His episodic report?insightful, entertaining and troubling?is interspersed with mostly amusing scenes involving his redoubtable mother, retaining her rent-controlled apartment in the once-Jewish neighborhood of Flatbush now populated by Caribbean immigrants, and his fellow-touring sister, aka "Little Debbie." Though Abel, a reporter turned urban Dante, exhibits a bit too much white middle-class paranoia, he has great sympathy for a benighted borough of two million, lacking hotels and interstate train service, its downtown shopping bazaar that could be "Sarawak or Panama City." He deftly captures several scenes: a tour with wary transit cops; inspecting an abandoned, formerly opulent movie palace; visiting an adult class for "Correcting Your Accent." And he meets interesting folk: the sole black Lubavitcher Jew; the Guyanese woman whose bakery/restaurant symbolizes the resilience of the Flatbush neighborhood; an Afghan immigrant happily wed to a Dominican. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal In the heart of Brooklyn, occupying a ten-mile stretch running north to south, one will find Flatbush Avenue. Abel takes readers on a nostalgic journey as he reminisces and rediscovers the area where he was born and raised. Spending ten weeks collecting research material, he rides public transportation and tours schools, churches, and abandoned theaters, all the while experiencing the Flatbush of the Nineties. The result is an in-depth examination of the changes the area has undergone based on personal and historic research. Abel's point of view, as well as interviews with both new and longtime residents, provides an insightful commentary on urban growth, moderation, wide-ranging socioeconomic levels, and transitions in the urban center as a whole. The coverage is well balanced and the book well written; unfortunately, the subject matter is such that it may have a limited appeal and the humor quite subtle. Recommended especially for New York City and area libraries. Jo-Anne Mary Benson, Osgoode, Ontario, Canada Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. One of the best travelogues about anywhere, ever. Washington Post