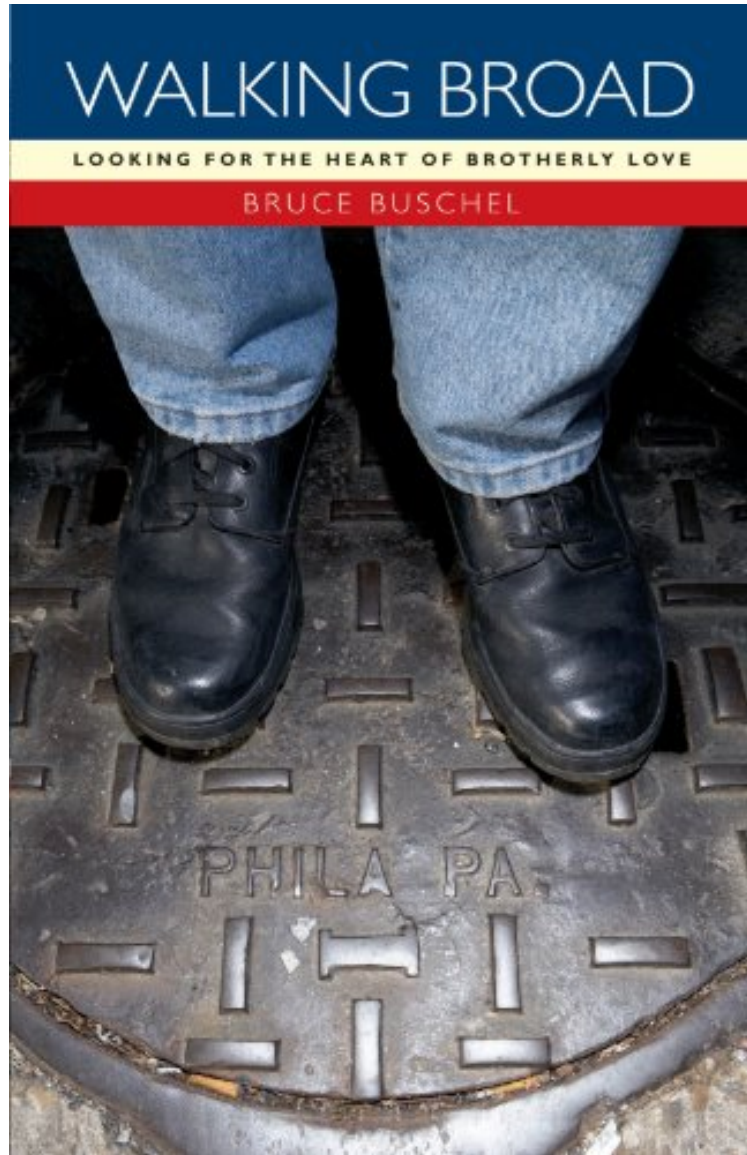


[Read now] Walking Broad: Looking for the Heart of Brotherly Love

Walking Broad: Looking for the Heart of Brotherly Love

Bruce Buschel

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Bruce Buschel : Walking Broad: Looking for the Heart of Brotherly Love before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walking Broad: Looking for the Heart of Brotherly Love:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Breezy Read About a Walk Down Memory Lane in PhiladelphiaBy R. R. Costas Jr.I was assigned to read this as a part of a book club before a trip to Philadelphia. On the plus side, it is a very easy and fast read. It's entertaining and well paced enough. I've been to Philadelphia a few times, but am not familiar enough with the sights and sounds of Broad Street to really connect with the story. Pleasant, interesting and, at

times, funny. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Walking and Reading Philadelphia By Terry My wife and I read Buschel's book while we were participating in a Road Scholar/Elderhostel tour of Philadelphia. Buschel provided us with stories of Philadelphia's--and his--history that our tour guide did not. (Road Scholar recommends this book as a likely companion to their tour, and appropriately so!) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Impressive portrait of Philadelphia, then and now. By Thomas Elia What's missing from most journalism today is a sense of place. The cities and counties we cover are indistinguishable. Mr. Buschel's "Walking Broad" is an antidote for that. He describes the Philadelphia he knew and the Philadelphia he meets as he walks its signature street with insight, humor and detail. Anyone who has spent a weekend there will know he's telling the truth.

Wedged between the hustle of New York and the grandeur of Washington, D.C., Philadelphia is America's smallest big city, America's biggest small city, and America's most American city. It is also a city in flux. Bruce Buschel is a native Philadelphian who revisits his hometown and, in doing so, revisits his personal history and the city's complex identity. Buschel was born on Broad Street, his father died on Broad Street; he flunked out of college, sold cameras, and purchased drugs on Broad Street; he wrote for a newspaper on Broad Street, touched JFK's left hand on Broad Street, and met his second wife when she worked on Broad Street. On his thirteen-mile walk down the boulevard, Buschel talks to everyone from the old Italian tailor down the corner from the Chinese Mennonite pastor to the Jewish funeral home director across the street from Bilal, the Muslim restaurateur. On Broad Street, he finds livestock just a few steps from Joe Frazier's gym. The newly dubbed "Gayborhood" is just a stone's throw from the home of the heartbreaking Eagles. A world-class ballet rehearses at the Rock School while outcast rockers practice at the Paul Green School. The gas station attendant on Broad Street may be a recent immigrant, but he has already adopted the brusque manners and terse responses of a fourth-generation Philadelphian. Naturally, William Penn oversees the whole insecure, glorious mess from his perch atop City Hall. After 9/11, Americans were drawn to Philly's authenticity and history. After decades of decay, something positive is happening, and dyspeptic Philadelphians are trying to adjust. A lot has changed since Buschel grew up there, but he hasn't managed to shake the attitudes instilled in childhood -- mere mention of the '64 Phillies (and one of the greatest collapses in baseball history) still stings. He has retained his irreverent sense of humor, his distrust of authority, his ambivalence about New York, his

From Publishers Weekly After living in New York for 25 years, writer Buschel returned to his native Philadelphia to explore the city from the perspective of a place of enchantment from his youth: Broad Street, a 13-mile stretch starting near the northern su-burbs and running through the squalor of North Philly to City Hall and along the theaters and hotels of Center City down to Little Italy. Block by block, mile by mile, Buschel explores how the street and by extension the city itself has changed since his youth, presenting fascinating glimpses of current Broad Street residents in action, such as the owner of a fast-food joint that serves hoagies and cheesesteaks. But Buschel also argues that nothing has really changed about the city's soul: to be a Philadelphian is to be perpetually mildly depressed and almost happy to be so, which affects everything from the city's politics (a steady diet of civic shame and invective) to sports (fans love to complain). This painfully honest and blunt memoir reveals how Buschel's love-hate relationship with the city is inextricably connected to his painful Broad Street youth: the death of his father when Buschel was three, his troubled relationship with his hard-working and hard-drinking mother and the abuse he suffered after being sent at age seven to a city boarding school for orphans. (Aug.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "This is great fun -- jaunty, highly engaging. Very Philly.... And we all have family members like this, shadowy memories lost in time forever. Okay, it made me wistful." -- Tim Whitaker, editor, "Philadelphia Weekly" About the Author Bruce Buschel worked at the Philadelphia Inquirer and Philadelphia magazine before writing for The New York Times Magazine, GQ, Rolling Stone, Premiere, and Sport magazine. He has won an ASCAP Award for his articles about music, has been anthologized in the Best American Sports Writing series, and cocreated the five-time Obie-winning musical *Eli's Comin'*, based on the songs of Laura Nyro. He has also produced and directed a series of jazz films, *Live at the Village Vanguard*, and *Grover Washington Jr. in Concert*. Buschel has one wife, two sons, a dog named Lulu, and a cat named E. D.