



ON SALE NOW!

Garlic Bread for Eugene

by Michael Heath



BRIEF OVERVIEW

It's the last day of school and Henry is looking forward to receiving the Perfect Attendance Award. But, he's faced with a decision to attain the award or fill his father's shoes and help out his younger brother Eugene. Garlic Bread for Eugene is a warm and loving tale of family, neighborhood, and "doing the right thing." Heath takes the character of Henry, a sixth grader, and creates a powerful message in the complex simplicity of learning about his father, and himself, through a morning-long odyssey to secure the ingredients to make dad's special garlic bread for a school picnic.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Heath was born and raised in a small community on the Jersey shore. His debut novel Garlic Bread for Eugene mirrors the sentimentality of a bygone era when neighbors helped neighbors, kids rode bikes to school, and simple traditions like that of a school picnic could resonate for a lifetime. Michael lives in Monmouth County, NJ with his youngest son, and works as an account manager in New York City.

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Q & A with Michael Heath, Author of *Garlic Bread for Eugene*

What inspired you to write *Garlic Bread for Eugene*?

I grew up on the Jersey Shore and wanted to write a book using that setting, within which is a useful message of neighborhood and community.

Does Henry's character reflect someone in your life?

Not directly, although I grew up at a time when older brothers and sisters had a sense of responsibility to be as noble as Henry.

What comes to mind when you think of food and family?

Simple good times. You do not need a lot to enjoy each other's company. I think we are losing something as a society, where meals eaten together are not valued. We think we need to be going somewhere or have some special entertainment every time we get together. I have a carton full of photographs that proves that to be false.

What is your experience in writing?

I have done freelance writing for newspapers, but this is my first novel.

What was your childhood neighborhood like?

The one square mile town was one big neighborhood and everyone knew each other. The school was great, and I had three teachers who were there so long they had taught my mother. The fire company had a fair every year and the first aid unit held ice skating races that included free hot chocolate and donuts. There was always something going on and it was just plain, simple fun.

What message are you hoping to portray in *Garlic Bread for Eugene*?

That as tragic as death and divorce are, life goes on and it can be rich and beautiful. There is help out there and often you get it by simply asking.