

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I've attempted to protect the privacy of many of the people about whom I speak by changing their names, some of their characteristics, and aspects of the events recounted here. I've compressed events, created dialogue, and sketched a composite neighborhood character, Stink (the actual nickname of a childhood acquaintance), as a necessary form of narrative shorthand. Also, where possible, I've preserved the anonymity of academics and administrators who may not wish to be named.