



BOARDWALK STORIES

ROSLYN BERNSTEIN
with photographs by **DR. KENNETH S. TYDINGS**

“Roslyn Bernstein’s interplay of photography and prose evokes a New York childhood of the past with precision, warmth, and candor.”
— LORRIE MOORE

“These interlinked tales of love and betrayal, of big dreams run aground, hew to a single seaside stripe – a splintering boardwalk – yet in those narrow bounds encompass a world as complex and irreducible as now lost to us: the paranoid, innocent, zealous, ambivalent, atomic-bomb-shadowed world of McCarthy’s America.... So closely observed and so naturally told they feel less written than confided.”
— SUSAN CHOI

Fourteen linked tales spanning the decades 1950 to 1970 invite us into the private lives of the colorful denizens of communities like Coney Island, Long Beach, the Jersey shore, and the California beach towns.

Set in the shadow of the Cold War, the boardwalk characters, many of them misfits and wannabes, share their joys and sorrows in a world where kewpie dolls and prizes are often the only consolations for lost dreams. Included in the cast are Beverly the Queen of the Skee-ball arcade, Jollie Trixie the fat lady, Arnold the king of Playworld, Miss Lydia the famous ballerina, and Joey the orphan.

Each story is paired with a vintage black-and-white boardwalk photograph capturing the mood after World War II when a day out meant breathing in the bracing salt air and feeding coins into the machines at the penny arcade.



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