

# In the Big Apple



*Honk-bonk-bonk! Beep!*

You feel like an insect crawling down the center of an enormous canyon. You're too busy gazing up at the soaring skyscrapers to watch where you're going. Look out! Better wait for the green light before you cross the street.

“Hey there! What’s going on?”

Is that man yelling at you? No, he’s calling a greeting to a lady who sells jewelry at a sidewalk stand. She shouts back, and the two carry on a friendly conversation. Everyone talks so loudly here, it seems!

There are loud smells, too, from sidewalk stands selling hot dogs, pretzels, roasted nuts, ice cream and more. Mix that all together with exhaust from buses and yellow taxis, plus the occasional stinky whiff rising up from the drains. Your ears and nose hardly know how to take it all in.

You’ve arrived in The Big Apple – New York City. It’s like nowhere else on earth.

You cross the street and continue down the sidewalk. Sirens echo off buildings and people rush past, speaking in a jumble of

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foreign languages. Are they tourists, like yourself? Some are, but many are residents. Over 170 languages are spoken here. Two out of every three New Yorkers either came here from another country, or their parents did.

Everyone seems to know where they're going and wants to get there in a hurry. You pick up the pace. There's a rhythm to this city that gets inside you, makes you want to speed up too.

Then you turn a corner and find yourself beside a leafy park, where dog owners chat quietly while their dogs play together. In this bold, brash city you don't expect to see peaceful parks or neighborhoods which feel like small towns. Yet they exist all over the five boroughs of New York.

You may be surprised to find people who are quietly trusting God with their lives and trying to make a difference in the lives of others. You will meet some of them in this book.

So why not take a few bites out of The Big Apple, and taste the real New York City!

