

BLOWTORCH

by Kevin Breslin

BLOWTORCH is a story about a young man, Dave, who instead of going to college decides to remain in his Brooklyn neighborhood to work in order to provide for his family after his father's battle with lung cancer. Bills are piling up, he has two younger siblings, and his mother's job at a local restaurant is not making ends meet.

Dave gets a job at a local warehouse through his childhood friend, Mike. Dave's mom, Ann, is not thrilled about him forgoing his dream to become a chef but accepts their reality as long as it's only temporary. Dave's job helps generate some much need income for his struggling family but when it's still not enough, he gets another offer from his friend Mike that he can't refuse.

Dave starts dealing drugs on the side and the money begins to flow. His mother's pressures temporarily alleviated, Dave starts to provide for his family and steps into his role as the new man of the house. As he continues to deal drugs, he learns that Mike is an addict but steers clear of the drugs himself. However, one oversight by Dave allows Mike to snatch some of his drugs unbeknownst to him, and Dave is quickly in hot water with the big boss, Canarsie, who demands to be paid back for his drugs or suffer the consequences.

When Dave can't come up with the money to pay back Canarsie, a henchman is sent to take care of the problem and Dave is killed. When Ann learns of her son's death it is almost too much for her to bear. She goes to the police looking for answers but the door gets shut in her face because her son was a drug dealer. She befriends Detective Hogan, a family man, and appeals to his sense of honor and dignity. He reassures Ann that he is on the case and she should wait to be contacted.

Ann, a survivor in the true sense of the word, can only stand still for so long before she takes matters into her own hands and begins investigating Dave's friend, Mike, and his new boss, Canarsie. As one clue leads to another, Ann begins to build her case and contacts Detective Hogan to share her information. Hogan is not pleased that Ann is trolling the streets and mingling with unsavory characters especially because it's disrupting his own investigation.

But nothing can stop Ann and she goes to great lengths and puts herself in grave danger to get to the truth about her son's murder. She discovers Mike knows a lot more than he's revealing and seduces him into telling her almost everything he knows. She then tracks down evidence leading directly to Canarsie. As word gets back to Canarsie, he realizes the heat is on and makes arrangements to deal with the problem.

Ann makes one last attempt to convince Hogan she has enough evidence to arrest Canarsie. The police agree to stake out Canarsie but before they can arrest him, he attempts to flee -- but Ann is there to foil his plot.