

A DAY IN GOD'S COUNTRY

A TALE OF WAVES AND WILD TIMES
ON THE VIRGINIA BEACH STRIP

While the first chapter of *A Day in God's Country: A Shore Story* serves as a prologue of the action that's to come, most of the book ambles along as a light-hearted coming-of-age story about three 14-year-old boys in Virginia Beach. They are all dealing with varying levels of dysfunction in their families as they struggle with parental interference, or lack thereof.

All their concerns fade into the background as school lets out and all they want to do is cruise the "Virginia Beach Strip" and hang out together. That's when the carefree story turns dark and complicated. One of the boys hears the voice of God warning him that many Virginia Beach vacationers will soon lose their lives. He tries to warn the public, but nobody believes him. At the same time, one of the other boys believes his promiscuous sister's life is in danger. He enlists the third boy to help save her, and they take off on an adventure of their own.

Each of the boys and one of the fathers are skilled surfers, and they spend much of the book catching waves or reminiscing about previous rides. Kotarides drops in plenty of surf jargon as characters slash the face of glassy waves and pump the life out of them, taking the reader for a ride on the North Beach break that thrills and educates along the way.

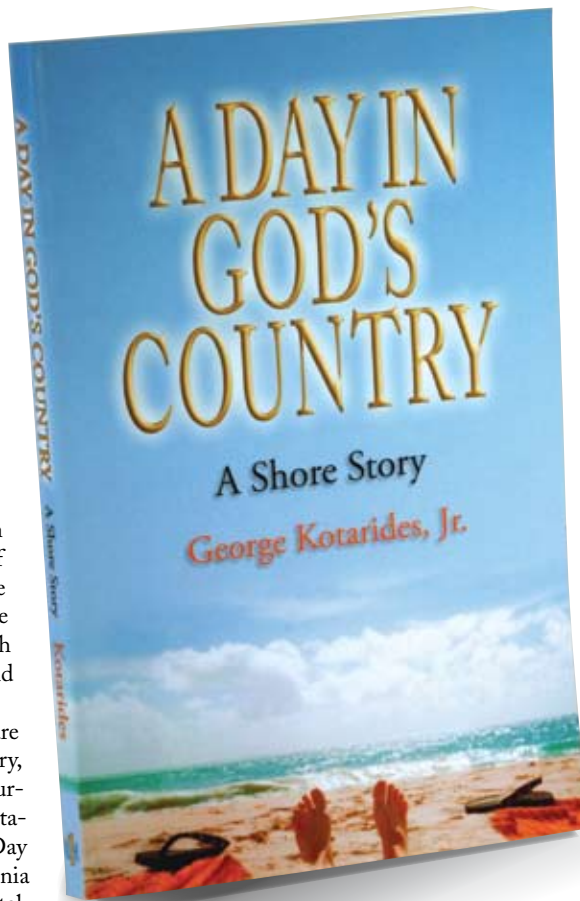
Woven into the story are bits of Virginia Beach history, from the early settlers to current prominent figures. Kotarides rehashes the Labor Day weekend riots that tore Virginia Beach apart and the revital-

ization effort to make it the family friendly vacation spot it is today. A few notable figures and recognizable landmarks are mentioned in the story, such as surfing legend Pete Smith, and even Kotarides' own Dough Boy's Pizza makes a cameo appearance.

A Day in God's Country is a quick read that should interest surf enthusiasts, locals, tourists, and anyone else looking for a little bit of beach fun. **HRM**

"A Day in God's Country: A Shore Story" by George Kotarides, Jr., \$15.95, by Warehouse One.

—Bill Glose



Commitment.



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