

“RETURNING STANLEY” by Patrick D. Bonner Jr.

SYNOPSIS – Danny O’Reilly’s simple but happy life is playing out exactly as he always planned – he has his job as Assistant Foreman at Petrocelli Flooring and Tile, he has his best friend Angelo Raviolo, and together they have their beloved New York Islanders and their future Hall of Fame captain, the great Guy MacLeish.

And best of all, Danny has his beautiful fiancée Margaret Mary Romano.

We first meet Danny in a local Massapequa sports pub on the day that the New York Islanders defeat the Detroit Red Wings in Game 7 of the NHL Finals. Danny and Angelo celebrate wildly, and in a few days they are decked out in their Islander gear and face paint and headed to the Islander Victory Parade. They pick up Margaret from her job at De LaRosa’s bakery, and check into the Sheraton Hotel. Life simply can’t be better for Danny.

But then his world begins to crumble. Danny has a chance run-in with the famous Guy MacLeish in the hotel lobby and he is star-struck when he meets his hero. He follows MacLeish into the hotel elevator, but then MacLeish’s security detail throws Danny out the elevator doors. A determined Danny winds up in MacLeish’s hotel suite, where MacLeish is temporarily distracted with a woman not-his-fiancé, who he has snuck into the room. Danny then sees the magnificent Stanley Cup trophy sitting on a table, and he decides he has got to show Angelo. He takes it from the suite for just a moment, with every intention to be back in five minutes while MacLeish is fooling around with the woman...

Suddenly there are countless police, FBI agents and a SWAT team swarming the hotel, and Danny, Angelo and Margaret must make their break. They stuff the trophy into the trunk of Angelo’s Monte Carlo and beat a narrow retreat. They need to figure things out – can they just walk it back in and return it? Can they just leave it somewhere, or will it get damaged or stolen?

In the meantime, Danny, Angelo and Margaret head to the Massapequa home of Margaret’s Aunt Santa and Uncle Lefty Romano, the Godfather of New York’s Romano Crime Family. This is where the party for the first Holy Communion of Margaret’s cousin Little Carmine is being held. Despite their dilemma, the three must make their appearance, pay their respects, have a meal, and figure out a way to return the Cup without getting caught.

But then the news report of the Stanley Cup heist is all over the world, and Margaret confronts Danny in a fit of rage. She tearfully tells him that she never wanted anything to do with her family’s criminal enterprise, and fell in love with Danny because she thought he was different. She gives Danny an ultimatum – either return that Stanley Cup, or the wedding is off!

Unfortunately, the conversation is overheard by the Romano Family consigliere, the ruthless mobster Joseph “Excellent Joey” Galino, and things get worse. Danny and Angelo then embark on a hilarious misadventure to return the Stanley Cup to its rightful owners.

In the ensuing journey, Danny and Angelo wrestle with a one-legged Fedex man, get an elderly grandmother arrested, elude the FBI, dodge mobsters hired to assassinate them, and disrupt a hitman’s attempt to off their hero, Guy MacLeish.

In the end, Danny decides he must take charge of his life, and he has an idea to return the Stanley Cup to the Islanders.

But he’ll need everyone’s help – including Angelo, Margaret, and even Aunt Santa.