

THE NEW START READING SERIES



# NEW YEAR'S 1960

by Hank Guindon

**NEW YEAR'S  
1960**

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In 1960,  
I lived in Hamilton, Ontario.  
I was 24 years old.



I went to a New Year's Eve party.



As I was walking home. . .



I heard a woman scream.  
So I ran to help her.



Two men were slapping  
her in the face and kicking her.



I grabbed one guy  
and threw him  
against a brick wall.



The other guy ran away.  
I chased him.



I grabbed him by the hair  
and pushed his face  
into a brick wall.

After that, I knew  
he wasn't going anywhere.



I called for help.



Police Officer Hudson  
was walking his beat.



He called a police car.

The police car  
took the two guys to jail.



The woman was taken  
to the hospital.



A week later,  
the two guys went to court.

They swore they would get me  
when they came out.  
I gave them my address.

One guy was 42, one was 43.  
But any guy who does that  
to a woman  
is not much of a man.



After a few days,  
a newsman came  
to the cotton mill  
where I worked.  
He took a picture of me.



Two or three days later,  
I got a call  
to come to City Hall.

I stood in front  
of judges and police.

A judge made a speech.  
He said I was a good citizen.



He shook my hand  
and gave me a citation.

*The New Start Reading Series is published by East End Literacy Press. The stories are written by adult learners at the Toronto East End Literacy Project and produced by volunteer tutors, adult learners and staff. The series is designed as reading material for adult learners of basic literacy and English as a second language.*

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Hank Guindon lives in Toronto, Canada. He is learning to read and write at East End Literacy. This is a true story. "In this book, I play one of the thugs," says Hank. "But in fact, I won the citation 25 years ago."