Baltimore is the setting for one of the most penetrating examinations of bigotry and residential segregation ever published in the United States. Antero Pietila shows how continued discrimination practices toward African Americans and Jews have shaped the cities in which we now live. Eugenics, racial thinking, and white supremacist attitudes influenced even the federal government’s actions toward housing in the 20th century, dooming American cities to ghettoization. This all-American tale is told through the prism of Baltimore, from its early suburbanization in the 1880s to the consequences of "white flight" after World War II, and into the first decade of the twenty-first century. The events are real, and so are the heroes and villains. Mr. Pietila's engrossing story is an eye-opening journey into city blocks and neighborhoods, shady practices, and ruthless promoters.

Antero Pietila was born in Helsinki, the eldest son of a Lutheran pastor. He emigrated from his native land when he was 21. He graduated from the School of Social Sciences at Tampere University in Finland and earned his Master of Arts at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Pietila worked at The Sun for 35 years as a local reporter, correspondent in South Africa and the Soviet Union, and as a member of the editorial board.


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