



Memoir

Growing up in Richmond, Virginia in the 50's and 60's – as captured by Kevin Gray in his newly released autobiography that reads like a novel – holds a special place in my heart and imagination because I was right there with him. One of his central characters, Don Ward, now departed (rest his wild prankster's soul) became one of my best friends. And I know Ronnie Stillman, also a friend and fellow rebel-rouser. And I cannot forget that Kevin is a great pal and confidante for it was with Kevin in 1972 that I began a cross-country hitch-hiking trip that spanned these great United States and lasted for three long, hot summer months. Kevin's account rings true and is a subjective look at something from which we should never distance ourselves, for it comes from the heart.

– Johnny Alspaugh

Kevin Gray's wonderful memoir, *WAKING UP IN THE STUDEBAKER*, illuminates a generation: our intellectual, physical, moral, romantic, and spiritual development—such as they were—all while bringing our tumultuous era back to life. I really loved all the glimpses of popular culture and kids' games from our days gone by! Can we baby boomers really be so old? I also love the portrait of a basically good kid—Kevin Gray himself—battling and navigating his way through the hazards of school and family and church and politics and friendships. And, of course, girls. So put on your blue jeans and beads, spin a little Jimi Hendrix, pin your peace button on your fringed leather jacket, and get ready to go back in time.

–Bill Roorbach, author of *The Smallest Color*, *Big Bend*, *Temple Stream*, and *Writing Life Stories*