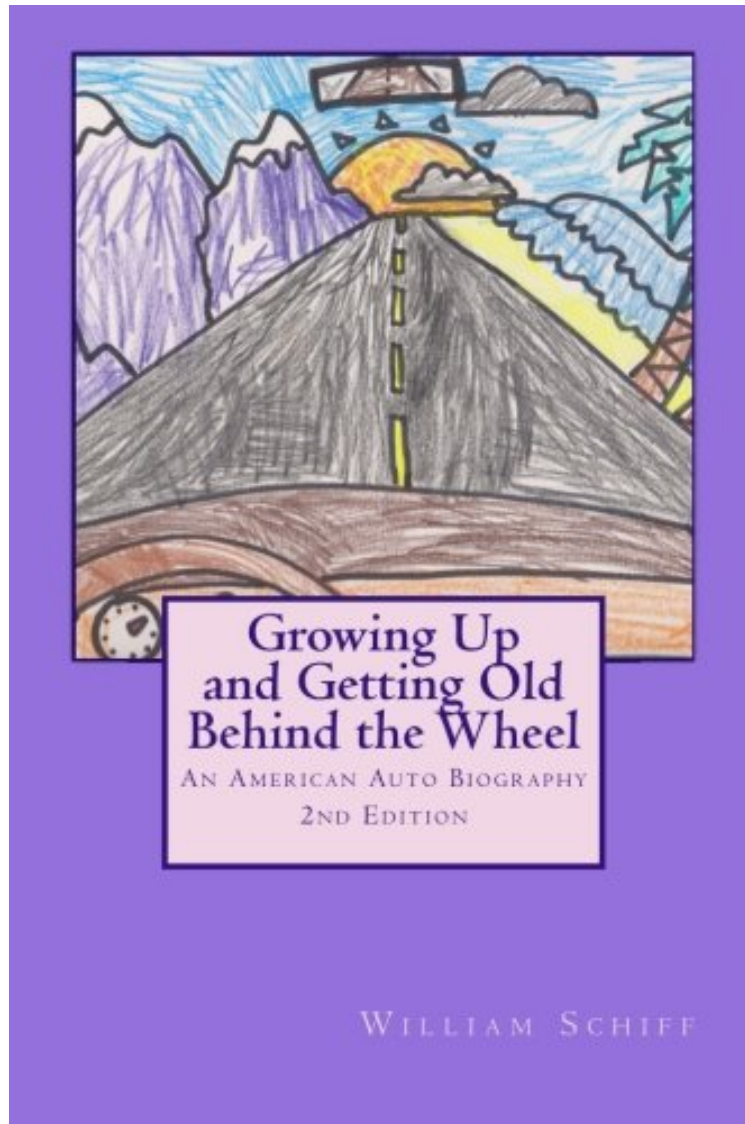


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Growing Up and Getting Old Behind the Wheel: An American Auto Biography

William Schiff

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William Schiff : Growing Up and Getting Old Behind the Wheel: An American Auto Biography before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Growing Up and Getting Old Behind the Wheel: An American Auto Biography:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Marvelous Ride Down Memory Lane By Lilian Gafni The best lines quoted in this book are one by the author, "For those who can recall, the thrill of it all..." and the other "Whither

goest thou, America, in thy shiny car in the night?" by Jack Kerouac. This book spans from 1939 to present day, and is a wonderful, auto biographical, memoir of cars and the road. The Front Matter contains a list of cars driven, conjuring yesteryear's cars that kissed the road, from the '39 Chrysler to the 2010 Ford. The smell of cars, "the slightly sweet, slightly pungent smell of the smooth firm cloth seats of the 1939 maroon Chrysler sedan . . .", as well as in the Cadillac, roadsters, '48 Studebaker, '56 Chevy Convertible, and to the '96 and '98 Audi, brings the scents of wood and leather from new cars. Those memories bring back the "New Car Smell Spray" which gave the smell of new cars while driving used cars. At a young age, he and his friends appropriated cars from driveways and went for joy rides then returned them until they were caught. The minor infraction put him and his joy-ride buddies in the pen for four years as he and his mates were transferred to a security camp for young first offenders in Florida's Panhandle. The first look at his future when he saw the motto on the arch "Go forth To Serve," froze him with fear. He compared it briefly to the gate at Auschwitz, "Arbeit Macht Frei" or "work sets you free" at the end of WWII. The sentences were later shortened to a little more than a year for the four of them, while two other of his friends spent an additional six months. It was a sobering realization of what life would bring to him. But the author went on to accomplish many academic successes in his life as a professor in academia and the literary field, all documented in the last pages of the book. Years later, still cruising the roads of America with his wife Susan, he couldn't help reminisce that as the years go by, he's the big fish at the end of the line in Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. He then imagines that "the big fish at the end of an imaginary line is not a marlin or a shark, but life itself. I'm holding on tightly, I know the line will eventually break. But just feeling its power there is a thrill." This book was passed on to me for review and in no way influenced that review. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 5 stars for spelling, grammar, punctuation and formatting (The IndiePENdents) By Mr. Richard Lw Bunning This evaluation is posted on behalf of Julia Petrakis, manager of the now defunct IndiePENdents. The IndiePENdents ran from December 2011 until February 2016. The organization was the brainchild of Jasha M. Levi, (1921- 2013), Author of 'The Last Exile' et al. Evaluations were made on already published, independently published, books. Three 'evaluators' passed books that met basic objective standards of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting. Those passing were awarded "The IndiePENdents Seal". This book was awarded seal number 100122162 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A delightful ride into the past and the present By Lauriston F Cone For anyone who grew up in the 50s and 60s, Bill Schiff's charming "auto-biography" is a nostalgic trip back to childhood and adolescence without ever being cloying or false. Mr. Schiff is more than ready to display his mishaps, misdemeanors, mistakes, and gaffes as he examines his past, while at the same time showing us the joy of his discovery of film, music, academia, love, food, friends, and family. The book is funny, warm, sensitive, insightful...and always delightful. I recommend this highly to all, but especially to those of us who can remember when I-95, television, and the internet didn't exist, but muscle cars, small southern towns, and intimate jazz clubs did.

Cover Art by Abby Lily Klemmer. Witty and softly sardonic, William Schiff's autobiographical romp describes the author's travels through America and beyond in cars he rode in, bought, modified, and stole. It is peppered with allusions to the films, literature, music, politics, and current events of America, from 1940 - 2010. It describes his incarceration, and ultimate redemption through America's Universities, rather than it's churches, and his life as criminal, student, university professor, behavioral scientist, husband, father, and retiree.

About the Author William Schiff was a behavioral scientist and college professor, who wrote broadly on Perception Cognition. In his Auto Biography, he describes his childhood and adolescence, his broken family, his romances with cars, driving, films, books, and people, and his travels through the American Landscape from 1940-2010.