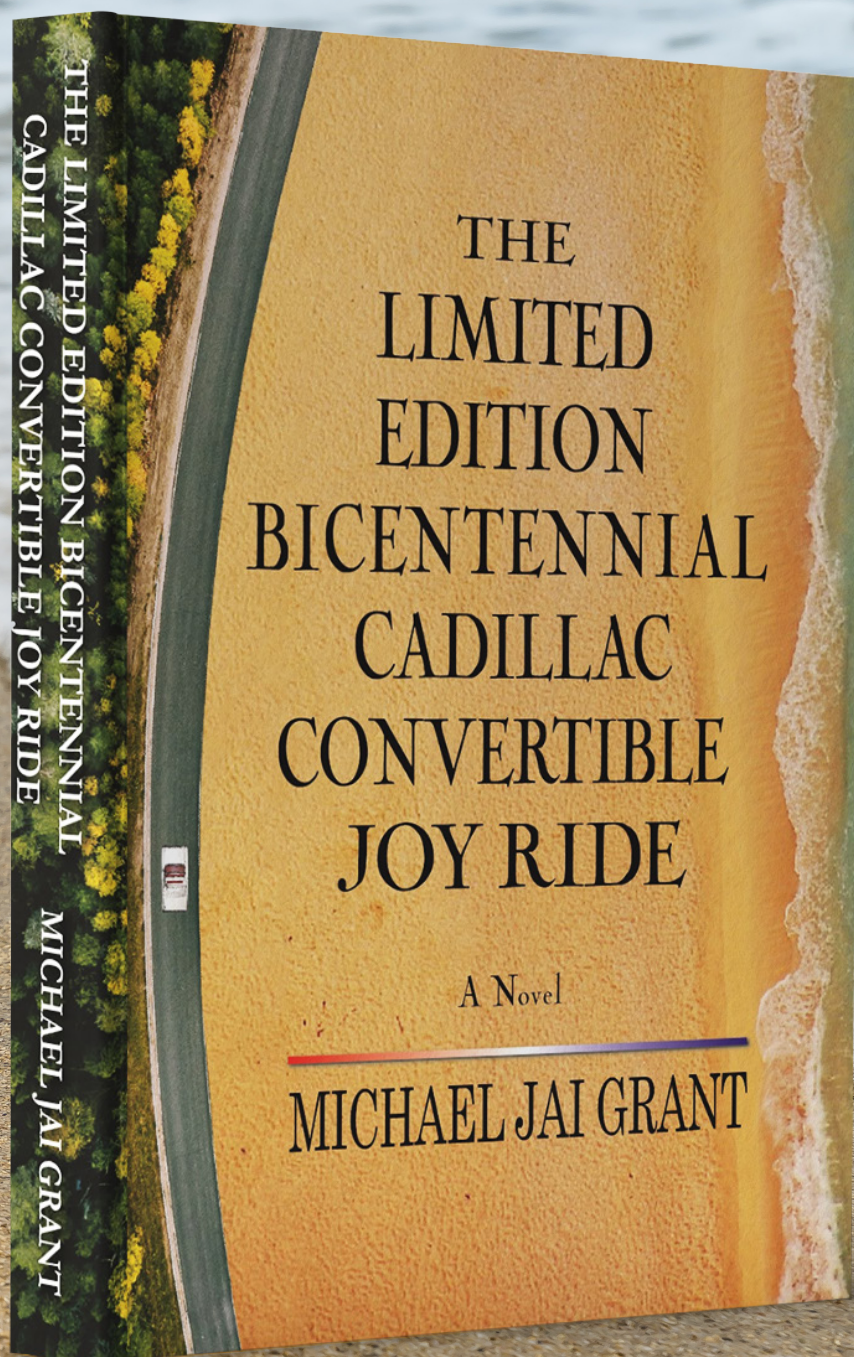


Michael Jai Grant

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# MEDIA KIT





# AUTHOR BIO

## 50 Words



Michael Jai Grant is an American fiction writer. Raised in Denver, he subtly interweaves semi-autobiographical elements into his narratives.

Michael attended Syracuse and Boston Universities, where he distinguished himself as an Eastman Kodak Scholar.

He resides in North Stamford, Connecticut, with his husband. *Cadillac Joy Ride* is his first novel.

## 100 Words

Michael Jai Grant is an American fiction writer, filmmaker, and photographer. Raised in Denver, Colorado, he hails from a lineage of attorneys, teachers, and scientists who profoundly influenced his perception of justice and reason. He subtly interweaves semi-autobiographical elements into narratives of heightened significance.

Michael pursued his education at Syracuse and Boston Universities, where he distinguished himself as an Eastman Kodak Scholar.

An avid traveler and a devoted friend to all dogs, he currently resides in North Stamford, Connecticut, with his husband, the artist Jon Galt.

Uniquely written from the perspective of the car, *Joy Ride* is his debut novel.

## 140 Characters

Michael Jai Grant is an American fiction writer, photographer and avid traveler. He lives in CT. *Cadillac Joy Ride* is his first novel.

## 200 Words

Michael Jai Grant embodies a multifaceted creative spirit and is known for his prowess as an American fiction writer, filmmaker, and photographer. Growing up in Denver, Colorado, his upbringing within a lineage steeped in law, education, and science profoundly shaped his understanding of justice and logic, elements that subtly thread through his literary works.

He studied at Syracuse and Boston Universities, and worked with a film production company in Sydney, Australia. He graduated magna cum laude with the distinction of being an Eastman Kodak Scholar.

Michael describes himself as an “accidental serial entrepreneur” and he co-created a film festival, an organic coffee shop, and numerous other businesses—all while keeping his pen to the page.

He is an avid traveler, a friend to all dogs, and an enthusiastic long-time volunteer for the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, UT. He currently lives in North Stamford, Connecticut with his husband, the artist Jon Galt.

Among his notable accomplishments, *The Limited Edition Bicentennial Cadillac Convertible Joy Ride* stands as his inaugural novel, a unique narrative crafted from the singular perspective of a car. Grant’s debut work reflects his distinctive storytelling style and promises a literary journey marked by innovation, humor and depth.



# BOOK SYNOPSIS

## Short

A sixteen-year-old with a dark family secret absconds with an elderly woman trapped in managed care. The empathic getaway car tells the story as they travel through an emotional landscape to rectify their wrongs. Meanwhile, their families are in pursuit.

## Medium

Eve is a frustrated sixteen-year-old who uncovers a dark family secret. Muriel is trapped in managed care by the son who stole her fortune. Taking advantage of a fortuitous moment, this unlikely pair embark on a murky mission in Muriel's rare Cadillac to rectify their wrongs. Together they confront Muriel's wavering cognition, Eve's emotional wounds, and sometimes each other. They're on the road to salvation—unless their families catch them first!

Told from the unique perspective of the car, Michael Jai Grant writes a provocative, humorous and spirited journey that challenges our notions of dementia and elder care, sexuality, the difference between religion and spirituality, and the complex world of Teenagedom. Friendship, family and liberation quite literally drive the action of Grant's charismatic new novel.

## Long

Eve is a frustrated sixteen-year-old who discovers her overbearing, religious mother is hiding a dark family secret. Muriel is trapped in senior care by the likeable, but nefarious son who stole her fortune. Taking advantage of a fortuitous moment, this unlikely pair abscond in Muriel's rare Cadillac to rectify their wrongs.

They head north from Florida and quickly discover that Muriel's wavering cognition and Eve's emotional wounds may be more than either can handle. They have a few allies, and sometimes their wits, but ultimately they must rely on their forming friendship. There's no turning back as the unknown awaits—and their families are in hot pursuit!

In a unique twist, the car itself serves as the omniscient and empathic narrator. With "the only constant witness," Grant uses an outsider's perspective to explore people's inclination to do the wrong things for the right reasons. He writes a provocative, humorous and spirited journey that challenges our notions of dementia and elder care, sexuality, the difference between religion and spirituality, and the complex world of Teenagedom. Themes of friendship, family, and liberation pull the reader through this vibrant page-turner as Muriel, Eve, and the titular Cadillac literally drive us all towards a redefined version of Home.

## *"The Adventure of Two Lifetimes"*



# SAMPLE QUESTIONS

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## *How did you come up with the idea?*

My grandparents moved into managed care and it destroyed them. I wrote about it, but it was simply too depressing for anyone to read. A few years prior, I owned a coffee shop—a vibrant, happy place buzzing with teenagers and college kids. I came to realize what was missing for my grandparents was that energizing call-to-life. Suddenly, like chocolate and peanut butter, I put the two together and wrote the spine of the story. All of the How? Why? And Then What? questions answered themselves as the fire spread from that spark of an idea. The novel basically fueled itself following that inspired convergence.

## *Is this based on a real experience?*

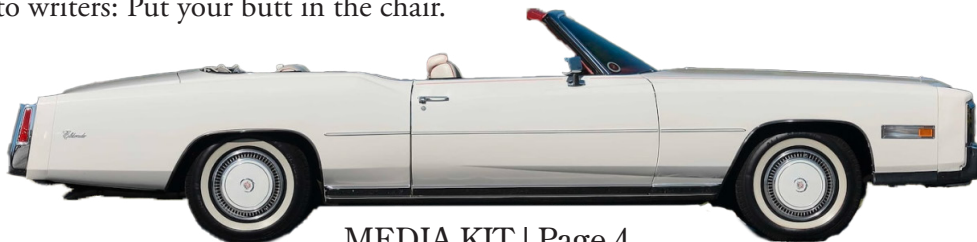
I've never stolen a car, but I have been on numerous road trips! I was sixteen once, and I remember it vividly. I was also deeply connected to my grandparents and their situation. There are people in my family who may perceive themselves in this story, but ultimately it is a fiction with invented characters and amalgams of people I know, or imagine to know. The dispatches from India, however, are exceedingly close to the realities of my many visits there. It is a magical place that opened me in incomprehensible ways that are impossible to describe. Through the character of Grace, I tried.

## *Why is the car the narrator?*

The earlier versions were told in first-person, alternating between Muriel and Eve. It worked to a point, but it also created gaps in structure and logic, and was, at times, overtly confusing. My husband asked if there was a way to simplify it with a singular narrator, and I jokingly said the only one who knows everything is the car. He said, “so what if it’s the car telling the story?” I immediately rejected the idea, fearing correlations to *My Mother the Car* and *Herbie*, but then I set my ego aside and considered it. It couldn’t be a talking, haunted or magical car. I’ve owned 19 cars in my short life, and every time I sold or traded one I felt like I was saying goodbye to a friend who seemed to know me. I channeled that feeling, solidified the device, and then proceeded to completely rewrite the entire novel from this new perspective. And it *was* a magical suggestion because it gave me even more opportunities to explore the characters and their story!

## *Who are some of your literary/artistic influences?*

I’m ridiculously non-discerning and tend to find value in even the worst films, art and books. That said, I assigned myself the adult task of reading unpopular/alternative works by all of the authors we were assigned in school. This imbued new appreciation for Hemingway, Hawthorne, and Morrison, but also led me to Richard Powers, Barbara Kingsolver, Haruki Murakami, and David Foster Wallace. I’m also a fan of Carrie Fisher, Fran Lebowitz, and I have no fear of saying I’ve enjoyed many novels by Stephen King, not to mention his indelible advice to writers: Put your butt in the chair.





# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 11, 2023

Journey Institute Press  
(303) 906.9988  
publisher@journeyinstitute.org

## **Captivating Adventure Novel Empowers Women Across Generations The Limited Edition Bicentennial Cadillac Convertible Joy Ride: a new novel by Michael Jai Grant**

Denver, CO: December 11, 2023—Wordbinders Publishing, an imprint of Journey Institute Press, has published *The Limited Edition Bicentennial Cadillac Convertible Joy Ride*, the debut fiction novel by author Michael Jai Grant. The story takes place over the course of a week when a 16-year-old learns a dark family secret and then absconds with an elderly resident who is desperate to escape her managed care facility. The unlikely pair hit the road in search of the truth in a rare and pristine 1976 convertible Cadillac. In a unique twist, the car itself serves as the omniscient narrator for the story.

“When we received Michael’s manuscript, we knew instantly that we had to publish it,” commented Michael Jenet from Journey Institute Press. “His brilliant writing and vibrant characters are as incredible as his story is unique. When we met Eve and Muriel through the unique vantage point of the ‘narrator’, the writing took us with them in vivid detail. We can’t wait for the world to meet them, too!”

Grant won numerous awards for his essays as a young writer, and was named an Eastman Kodak Scholar for his storytelling abilities in film school. His new novel was born of a deep understanding of youth culture with its energy, angst, and limited capacity for foresight, contrasted with the sharp knowledge of an older mind, stuffed with experience and patience, on the edge of its inevitable waning.

Grant took advantage of the COVID-19 pause and created a weekly Zoom with about a dozen writers with works-in-progress to get to the finish line. “Our format was very strict, but it generated vital constructive criticism, plus knowing the work would be shared maintained our discipline. It was a bright light in a dark time.”

Grant was born and raised in Colorado. While always writing, he also worked as a photographer and entrepreneur in Saratoga Springs for twenty years. He now resides in Stamford, Connecticut with his husband, the artist Jon Galt.

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About Journey Institute Press:

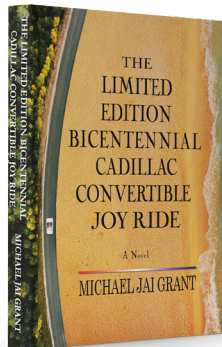
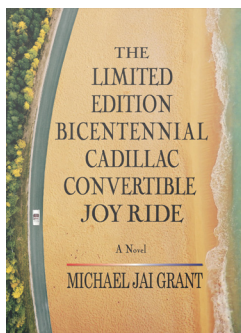
Journey Institute Press is a non-profit publishing house created by authors to serve burgeoning authors whose stories otherwise might not be told. Publishing across multiple genres, imprints of Journey Institute Press cover NonFiction, Fiction, Education, Childrens, Business, and Self-Help categories. Journey Institute Press is headquartered in Colorado and can be visited online at [journeyinstitutepress.org](http://journeyinstitutepress.org).

LINKS: [www.MichaelJaiGrant.com](http://www.MichaelJaiGrant.com)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9IWMC1JXRI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9IWMC1JXRI)  
[www.journeyinstitute.org/press/](http://www.journeyinstitute.org/press/)

# DOWNLOADS

High resolution images of the author, book covers, and the first chapter of the book can all be found at the Media Kit page:

[www.MichaelJaiGrant.com/media-kit](http://www.MichaelJaiGrant.com/media-kit)

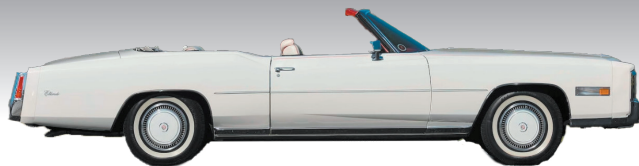




# QUOTABLE FROM THE BOOK

**Her mother was a liar.**

— page 13



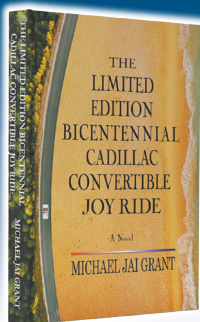
**“What’s it like to get old?”**

— page 234



**“Can I get in trouble for this?”**

— page 56



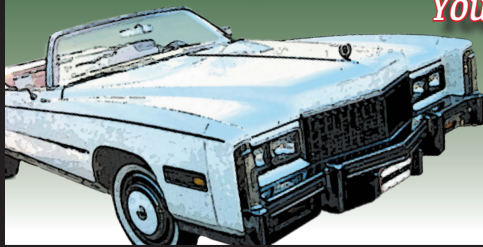
**For the hundredth time, he considered his options.**

— page 347



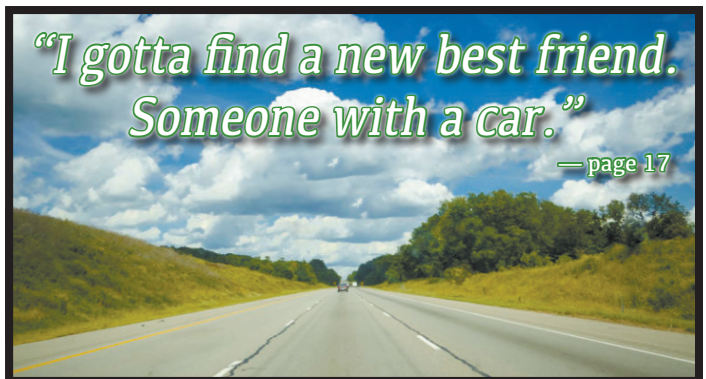
**You weren’t sure until this morning, but now you know it in your heart. You can feel it.**

— page 162



**“I gotta find a new best friend. Someone with a car.”**

— page 17



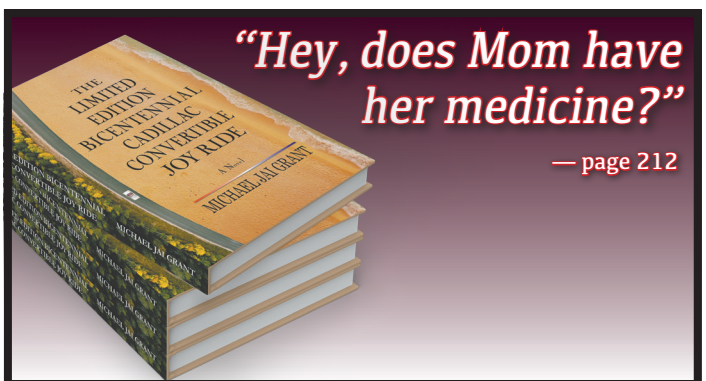
**“You want to know about orgasms.”**

— page 289

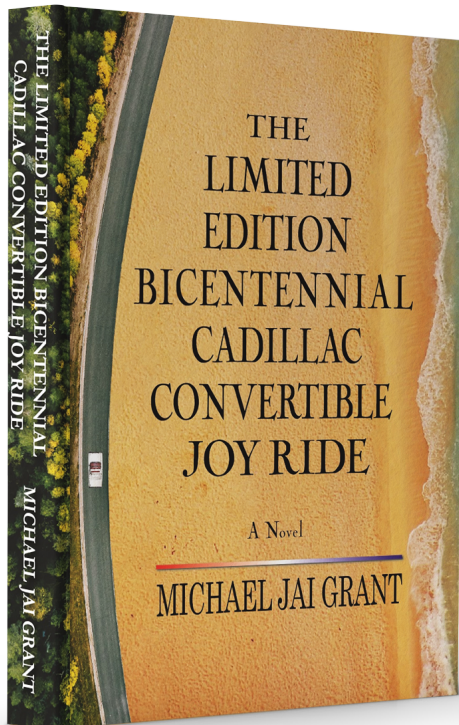


**“Hey, does Mom have her medicine?”**

— page 212



# ONE SHEET



## The Limited Edition Bicentennial Cadillac Convertible Joy Ride

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Genres:	Literary Fiction Action & Adventure Family Life
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# GET IN TOUCH



Thank you for your interest in

## **The Limited Edition Bicentennial Cadillac Convertible Joy Ride** by Michael Jai Grant

For further information  
or speaking engagements,  
please contact the author via the website:  
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