



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

5 out of 5 stars
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Official Review by Sean Patrick Tracy » 01 Sep 2024, 20:47

5 out of 5 stars

"The Limited Edition Bicentennial Cadillac Convertible Joy Ride: A Novel" by Michael Jai Grant takes readers on a compelling journey through the eyes of a car—a 1976 Limited Edition Cadillac Convertible. The car, personified by the author, serves as both a narrator and a witness to the lives of its various owners, offering a unique perspective on the complexities of human relationships, societal issues, and personal growth.

The story begins with the car's creation in Detroit, or possibly Linden, New Jersey, and its journey to The New York State Fair where it eventually finds itself in the hands of Muriel and Ira Worth. Muriel won the Cadillac in the Fair's 1976 Grand Raffle. In the present day, after 45 years of marriage, Muriel and Ira's life together is abruptly altered when Ira dies unexpectedly, leaving Muriel devastated and her mental health in decline. This event sets off a chain of actions involving their children, Sandra and Lemuel, who are set to inherit the family's property.

Lemuel, driven by greed, manipulates his mother into signing over control of her wealth by falsely claiming she suffers from Alzheimer's. He confines Muriel to a mental care home, where she becomes a shell of her former self under the influence of medication.

Enter Eve Harvick, a 16-year-old struggling with her own issues—an overbearing religious mother, a distant father she believed to be dead, and a life devoid of excitement. Fate brings Eve and Muriel together when Eve, working at the care home, is asked to park the Cadillac. Spontaneously, she decides to take Muriel on a joyride, an act that becomes a catalyst for both women's journeys of self-discovery. As they travel from Florida to New York, Muriel begins to reclaim her independence, shedding the mental fog imposed by her son. Will Lemuel realize this new influence of Eve on his mother? Will he soon get in between before his greedy ambition becomes blown off into the air?

The narrative delves into themes of family, betrayal, love, and the struggle for autonomy, all while highlighting the stark contrasts between characters like Lemuel, who is consumed by greed, and Eve, who seeks purpose and connection. The Cadillac, ever-present, symbolizes the freedom and possibility that each character yearns for, ultimately becoming a vessel for transformation and redemption.

What I truly admire about this book is how the author uses the Cadillac as a powerful storytelling device to explore complex social issues. The car, in its personified form, serves as a silent witness to the unfolding drama of human lives, bringing depth and dimension to the narrative. The Cadillac's journey, from its factory in Detroit to various locations across America, is not just a physical one—it is a metaphorical journey that mirrors the characters' personal quests for freedom, truth, and understanding.

The novel is also commendable for its exploration of LGBTQ+ themes and religious intolerance. Eve's discovery that her father is alive and gay adds another layer of emotional complexity. The conversation between Eve and her father, Rick, when she finally confronts him in Canada, is poignant and raw, showcasing the difficult and often painful reconciliation between personal choices and family expectations. This is paralleled by Eve's mother, Judith, whose extreme religious views represent another form of rigidity and intolerance. Through these characters, Grant underscores the importance of understanding and accepting people for who they are rather than forcing them to conform to societal or religious norms.

I would rate this book 5 out of 5 stars because I have nothing to dislike about it. I like the writing style of the book for its simplicity and the way the author unravels the message. Also, the texts are exceptionally well-edited, and I didn't find a grammar error in the course of my reading.

This book would appeal most to readers who enjoy character-driven stories that delve into societal issues and familial dynamics. It is particularly suitable for those interested in narratives that explore the intersection of personal freedom, moral choices, and the complexities of human relationships. Readers who appreciate a rich tapestry of themes—ranging from family bonds and personal growth to societal critiques of greed and prejudice—will find this book both engaging and thought-provoking.

Official Review by Emmanuel Olowolayemo » 03 Sep 2024, 10:10

5 out of 5 stars

"The Limited Edition Bicentennial Cadillac Convertible Joy Ride" by Michael Jai Grant is narrated by a personified 1976 Cadillac. The story follows the car's journey through various owners, including Muriel Worth, whose life changes after her husband's death and her son's manipulation. Muriel's joyride with 16-year-old Eve Harvick becomes a path to reclaiming her independence. The novel explores themes of family, betrayal, personal freedom, and societal issues, including LGBTQ+ and religious intolerance. It's praised for its engaging narrative and deep exploration of social issues, earning a 5-star rating.