

An autobiography revisiting childhood to integrate the memories of innocence and simplicity with the transitional phase of late teens and early twenties.

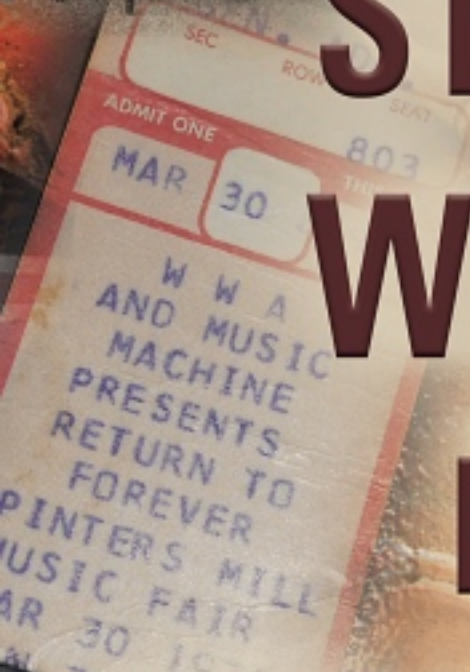
Still Well In Wellwood

By Larry Levy

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STILL WELL IN WELLWOOD



LARRY LEVY

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Contents

Graduation.....	3
It's in the Bag	5
The Valiant	6
Rude Awakening.....	7
Sales	8
A Family of Funny	10
The Sting of a Lie.....	12
Harleys	14
J.C.C.....	16
U.C.L.A.....	18
A Serious Guy	19
I Looked Around... ..	21
It All Happens at the Library.....	22
Extra, Extra!	24
Gino's	26
Peabody, Continued.....	28
My First Stick.....	30
A Trip to Vince's.....	32
Mini Flick.....	33
Sidetracked.....	35
With My Tail Between My Legs	37
Record and Tape Collector	39
The 45.....	41
The Tape Wars.....	44
The House Painter	46

Larry Levy

Frustration 101	48
Studio Art.....	49
The Cost of Freedom	51
First Beer	53
The White Bird	54
Unusual Cargo	55
Salmon Cakes	58
From a Trip to a Fall	62
A New Sound.....	65
The Band Without a Name.....	67
The Parties, Five	68
A Fair Weathered Friend	72
My Inspiration.....	74
One Way, San Diego	76
Jeans West.....	78
Milford Mill Swim Club	80
3501 Calvert Street	82
It's a Maryland Thing.....	83
The Civic Center.....	85
Attman's of Lombard Street.....	87
Put it Back.....	89
A Song to Remember	90
Epilogue.....	93
The Shed	94
About the Author	99
Other Books by the Author	100

Graduation

Painter's Mill.
June 6th, 1974.

One by one, each student stood as their name was called.
And there I was in the spotlight; standing, waiting,
Passed over by my next three classmates.

My gleeful parents were huddled somewhere in the shadows
Not quite sure whether I would make it to the finish line.
“Oh God, what did he do now, and would you look at that hair!”

Was the master of ceremonies alphabetically challenged?
Or, was it a front office mishap after I submitted my form late?
All I thought about was whether I should sit back down,
Pretend no one saw me, and blend back into the darkness.

But then came my three seconds on the same stage
Where Goose Creek Symphony and Cheech and Chong
Entertained my friends and I the previous year.
So, all was forgotten.

And there we were, all four-hundred and then some,
Buzzing around in the parking lot after the ceremony.
“Goodbye, good luck, don't worry, I'll see you before you go.”
Tears for some, relief for others, surreal for everyone.

II.

Some of my classmates went off to college
As far away as they could possibly go;
Farther than the basketball star
That out-threw me with a softball years before.

Larry Levy

An adventurous few took a year off and traveled cross-country --
Guys I had hung around with most of my life.
Others contemplated their future,
Held mundane jobs or worked for their dads.

For those of us that stayed behind, old habits persisted
But kicks lost their bluster.
Now there would be less wise-guys, characters, heads, jocks,
And girls to carry on with.

My gift to my parents was the purple cap and gown, the diploma,
And finishing something that I started back in second grade
When I first attended Wellwood Elementary.

But perhaps my greatest gift to them
Came in the form of hope and possibility:
The prospect of moving out of the house.

They did not get their wish but neither did I.
And just like a bad trip, I heard my father's words
Reverberating in my 17-year-old brain,
"High School is the best time of your life --
The only responsibility is to yourself!"

I had one foot in and one foot out.

About the Author

Larry Levy is the author of two books of poetry, a book of humorous short stories, and an autobiography. His poetry has appeared in magazines, online, and in a poetry anthology. He has written the words and music for The Histrioniks, The Thromboes, and Muskrat Simms. As a multi-instrumentalist he has composed, engineered, and produced four albums under the pseudonym Instramentaclees and most recently a classical work for piano, guitar, and cello. His music has been played on MTV, Sirius XM, and on independent and college radio stations. He is a graduate of Towson University with a degree in Philosophy, and teaches drums to the rhythmically inquisitive. He lives in Baltimore with his wife and cat.

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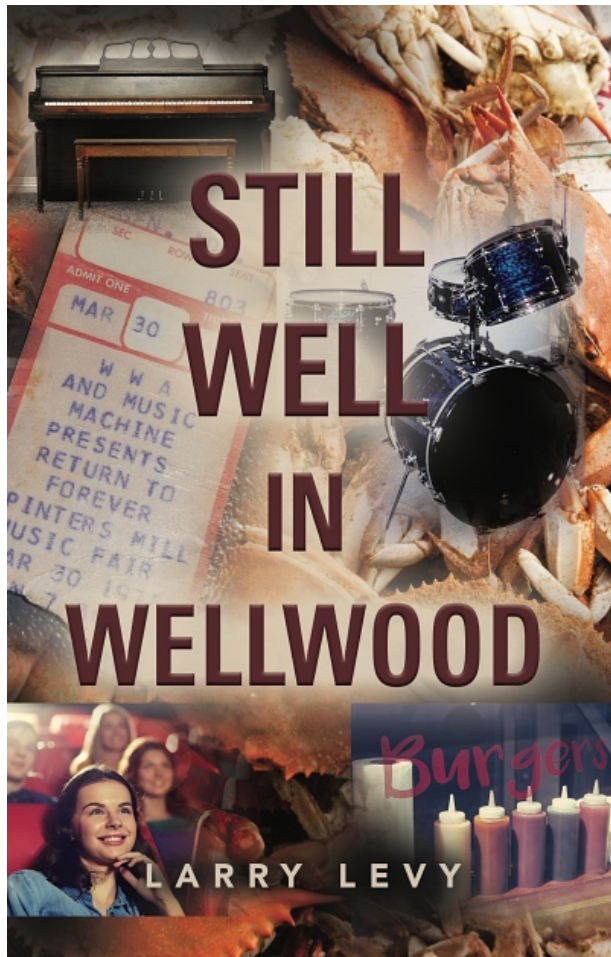
Other Books by the Author

ConvolutEd Whispers

The Catharsis of Form

Wait Awhile

When All Was Well in Wellwood



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