

*A collection of
short stories.*

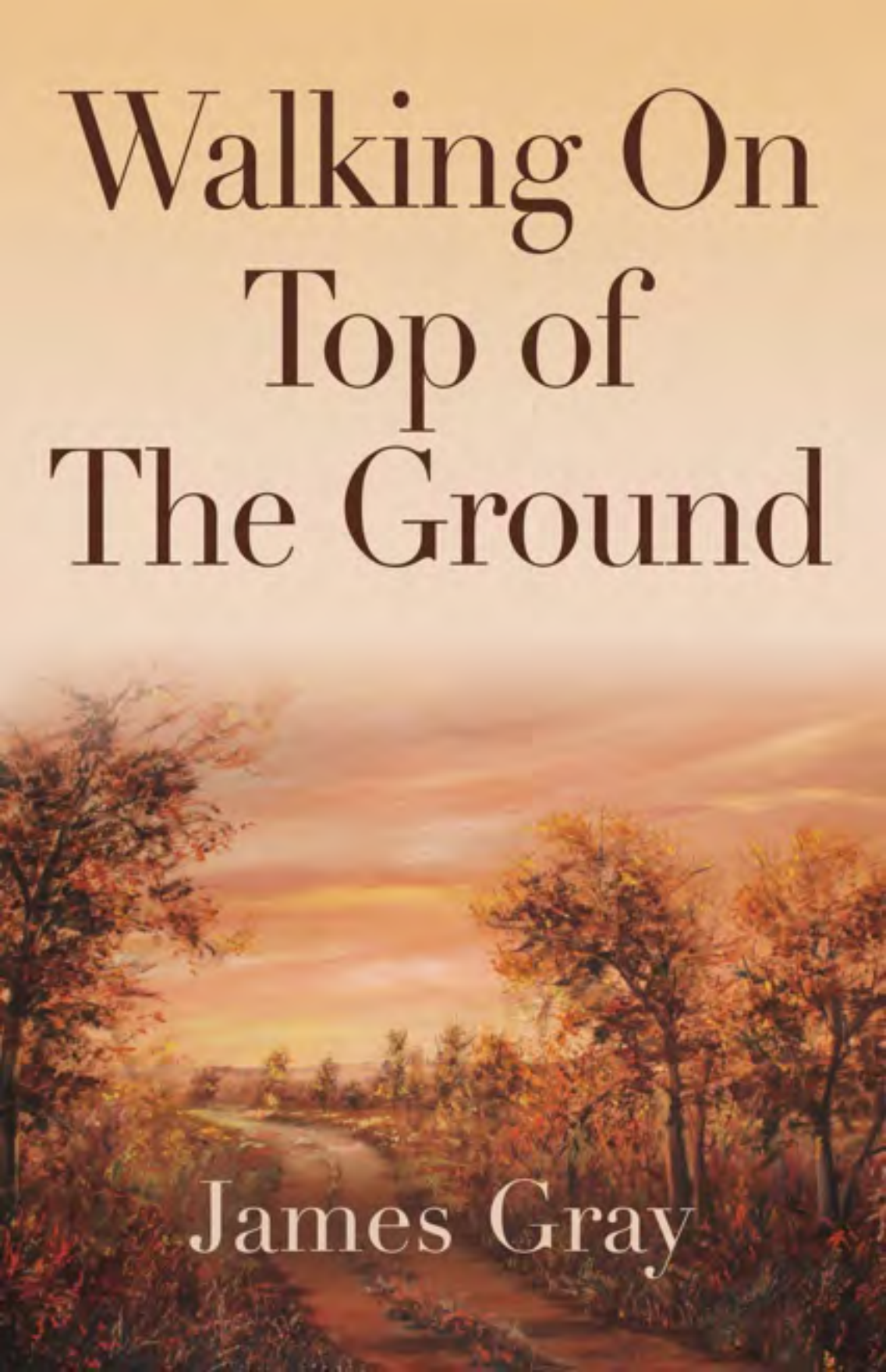
Walking on Top of the Ground

by James Gray

Order the complete book from the publisher [Booklocker.com](https://www.booklocker.com)

<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/12976.html?s=pdf>

**or from your favorite neighborhood
or online bookstore.**



Walking On
Top of
The Ground

James Gray

Copyright © 2023 James Gray

Print ISBN: 978-1-958877-49-4

Ebook ISBN: 979-8-88531-321-6

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the author.

Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia.

Printed on acid-free paper.

BookLocker.com, Inc.

2023

First Edition

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication Data

Gray, James

Walking on Top of the Ground by James Gray

Library of Congress Control Number: 2022917298

Table of Contents

Me.....	1
Shenanigans	3
Some things I Saw When My Eyes Were Closed.....	5
Pulling Weeds in the Garden	6
You Sound Like An Old Mule Braying.....	8
My Home Town.....	11
Jimmy’s Snippets.....	13
Not Everything Goes Our way.....	14
Some Stories I Have heard Fact, Fiction, Myth or superstition?	15
I Honestly thought the Pig was Dead.....	20
I think I like the word “RUN”.....	23
Blocking the Cap	25
Animals and other things Are WILD.....	27
Trails, Tales and Tears from the Ozark Hills.....	28
The Mad Stone as told to me by my Mother In Law	29
The Graveyard	33
A Lasting Christmas Gift.....	36
So, that is the way it was!!!.....	43
Hog Butcherin Day	45
Hopping a Train.....	48
The Swimming Hole.....	51
Thinking of a Resolution	53
Looking at Clouds.....	54
Hillbilly Boys and a 1936 Chevy.....	55
A Christmas Rant.....	60

James Gray

A Drive down Memory Lane..... according to my wife Shirley.....	61
The Fence Post.....	65
A Lack of Evidence	67
Time.....	70
More Thoughts of an Old Man	71
Things I forgot to remember to forget:	73
My name is James.....	75
Thoughts of an Old Man.....	76
Thinking Seriously of Some Stuff	78
Listening to Laughter?	80
Listening to the Night Sounds.....	81
Missing Someone.....	82
My Memories of Jacob Luther Wheeler	83
Using our Imagination!.....	85
Memories of a red headed girl growing up in the Missouri Ozarks Have you ever:.....	87
I Remember.....	89
Quarantine.....	90
The Road that wasn't a Road	92
Small Stores	93
Knowing your Body.....	94
A Saturday in a Small Country Town.....	96
Three Boys and a Ford Tractor	97
The Ride to the Stockyards	101
The Watermelon Incident	104
Trapping Rabbits.....	107
Lonely	111

Walking on Top of the Ground

Sharing a Blessing	113
Two Country Kids and a Church Bus	117
How Shall We Then Live?.....	119
My Country School.....	120
I like the Old Things	122
The Family	123
Jesse Warren	125
The Bomb	143
Golden Locks and the Old Wind-up Clock.....	146
The Sinking Raft.....	148
Making Sorghum Molasses.....	152
Hiding	157
Whether the Weather	159
Happy to Know	162
The Curious Five	163
The Old Bachelor.....	166
A Christmas I Remember.....	169
Wearing My Army Cap	172
I Stopped at that Old House	174
Hoping I Make Someone Smile	175
Looking Back.....	178
Gardening	179
Flat Tops and Flipper Hubcaps	180
The Pianist	181
A Girl, a Boy and a Mountain.....	192
The Way I See It	221
The Clouds.....	222

James Gray

What do you think?	223
Eating Healthy (Know your foods)	225
The Wake-Up Call	227
Reality As It Should Not Be	230
Hillbilly Hygiene	231
Wash Your Feet	234
I Closed My Eyes.....	240
Where I Grew Up.....	241
Just Thinking.....	243
Thankful.....	246
Peace Comes Slowly.....	247
Jimmy's Snippets Part 1.....	250
Jimmy's Snippets Part 2.....	252
Grandma's Garden	253
Resolutions of an Eighty-one-year-old	254
Oh, How They Do Talk	256
The things that came to mind when I wasn't thinking	259
Looking with Our Heart.....	261
The Baseball Game	262
Country School	263
The Garlic Fire.....	268
Goin' Fishin'	271
Tales from the Country Store.....	274
Good Eating	278
Driving the 1941 Plymouth.....	280
Drinkin Water from a Dipper.....	285
Looking Ahead	288

Walking on Top of the Ground

Clothes Washin Day	289
Burning the Outhouse as Told to Me by My Sister.....	293
One of My Most Memorable Christmas would be Christmas of 1959 .	295
Chat Creek	297
Brothers Two	299
Awww it's Christmas Time	304
Among the Trees.....	306
A Trail of Fear	307
A High School Experience!	310
A Man Named B	312
About the Author	315

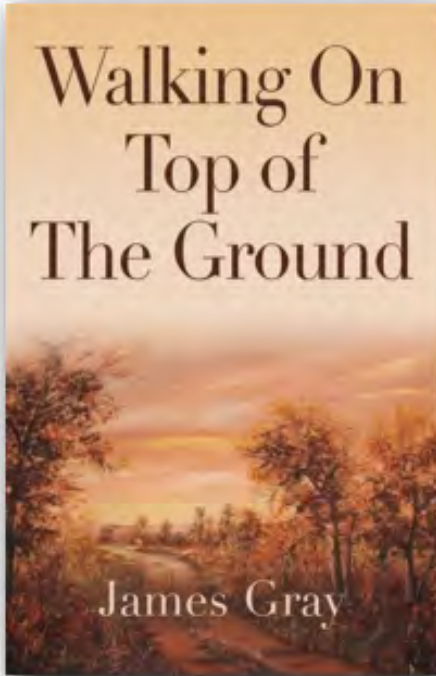
Me.....

Growing up in the Missouri Ozarks presented some difficulties. Social opportunities were lacking for many. There were unspoken social differences. There were fifteen children in my family...nine boys and six girls. This provided challenges and struggles. As a family we protected each other. We could fight among ourselves, but if anyone bothered one of us they would experience the wrath of the whole family. All of my life people have been good to me! I was never bullied, yet I had a terrible inferiority complex. As I look back I can't put my finger on why I felt so inferior. I can look back at many of the great teachers I had in elementary school. And also, in the small one room country school I attended I not only got an education in academics but also in social skills. Yet I did not finish high school, not because I couldn't handle the academics but the financial limitations were not to my liking. So, many like myself, joined the Army at seventeen. The first few months in the Army were somewhat scary. I did well in the Army. Not because I was exceptional, but because of mentors whom I listened to, their instructions that helped me greatly. Many who went into the military never returned to the town they grew up in. They either made a career of the military or found opportunities that did not exist in the small towns. Once out of the Army I did not continue to turn away from education. I graduated college.

As I look back on my growing up years a smile comes to my face. I have always made an effort to see the good and funny things in life. There were many fun times, and funny situations during my childhood. I have tried to put a lot of these into written form. Most are in story form, some are snippets, or poems. My goal is to touch the emotions of my readers whether it is laughter, or tears. Although at times during your reading,

James Gray

you may question where is all this going? I hope your enthusiasm and curiosity moves you forward.



*A collection of
short stories.*

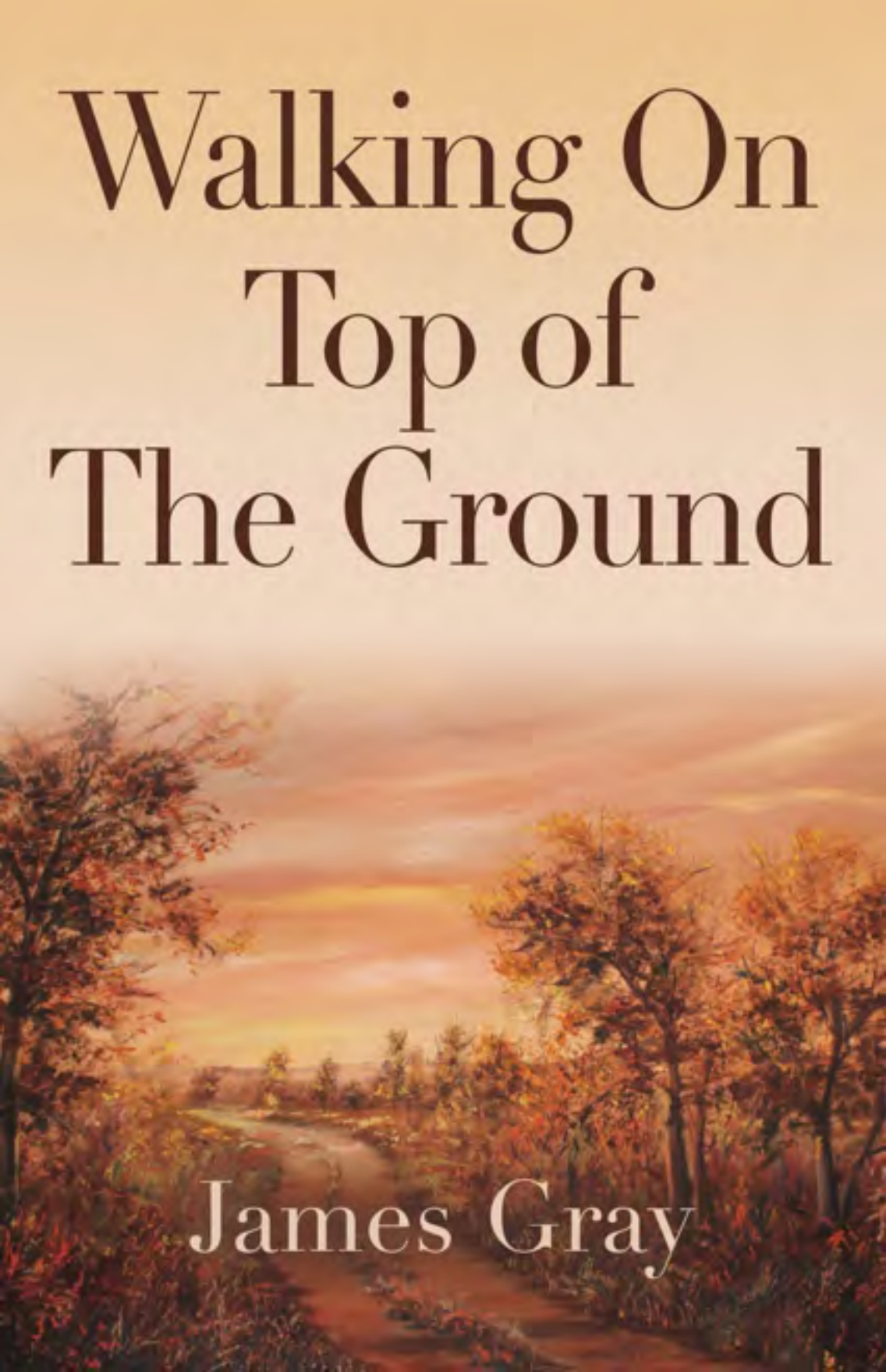
Walking on Top of the Ground

by James Gray

Order the complete book from the publisher [Booklocker.com](https://www.booklocker.com)

<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/12976.html?s=pdf>

**or from your favorite neighborhood
or online bookstore.**

The background of the cover is a soft, painterly landscape. A dirt path winds through a forest of trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange, yellow, and red. The sky is a hazy, golden-brown color, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Walking On Top of The Ground

James Gray

Copyright © 2023 James Gray

Print ISBN: 978-1-958877-49-4

Ebook ISBN: 979-8-88531-321-6

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the author.

Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia.

Printed on acid-free paper.

BookLocker.com, Inc.

2023

First Edition

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication Data

Gray, James

Walking on Top of the Ground by James Gray

Library of Congress Control Number: 2022917298

Table of Contents

Me.....	1
Shenanigans	3
Some things I Saw When My Eyes Were Closed.....	5
Pulling Weeds in the Garden	6
You Sound Like An Old Mule Braying.....	8
My Home Town.....	11
Jimmy’s Snippets.....	13
Not Everything Goes Our way.....	14
Some Stories I Have heard Fact, Fiction, Myth or superstition?	15
I Honestly thought the Pig was Dead.....	20
I think I like the word “RUN”.....	23
Blocking the Cap	25
Animals and other things Are WILD.....	27
Trails, Tales and Tears from the Ozark Hills.....	28
The Mad Stone as told to me by my Mother In Law	29
The Graveyard	33
A Lasting Christmas Gift.....	36
So, that is the way it was!!!.....	43
Hog Butcherin Day	45
Hopping a Train.....	48
The Swimming Hole.....	51
Thinking of a Resolution	53
Looking at Clouds.....	54
Hillbilly Boys and a 1936 Chevy.....	55
A Christmas Rant.....	60

James Gray

A Drive down Memory Lane..... according to my wife Shirley.....	61
The Fence Post.....	65
A Lack of Evidence	67
Time.....	70
More Thoughts of an Old Man	71
Things I forgot to remember to forget:	73
My name is James.....	75
Thoughts of an Old Man.....	76
Thinking Seriously of Some Stuff	78
Listening to Laughter?	80
Listening to the Night Sounds.....	81
Missing Someone.....	82
My Memories of Jacob Luther Wheeler	83
Using our Imagination!.....	85
Memories of a red headed girl growing up in the Missouri Ozarks Have you ever:.....	87
I Remember.....	89
Quarantine.....	90
The Road that wasn't a Road	92
Small Stores	93
Knowing your Body.....	94
A Saturday in a Small Country Town.....	96
Three Boys and a Ford Tractor	97
The Ride to the Stockyards	101
The Watermelon Incident	104
Trapping Rabbits.....	107
Lonely	111

Walking on Top of the Ground

Sharing a Blessing	113
Two Country Kids and a Church Bus	117
How Shall We Then Live?.....	119
My Country School.....	120
I like the Old Things	122
The Family	123
Jesse Warren	125
The Bomb	143
Golden Locks and the Old Wind-up Clock.....	146
The Sinking Raft.....	148
Making Sorghum Molasses.....	152
Hiding	157
Whether the Weather	159
Happy to Know	162
The Curious Five	163
The Old Bachelor.....	166
A Christmas I Remember.....	169
Wearing My Army Cap	172
I Stopped at that Old House	174
Hoping I Make Someone Smile	175
Looking Back.....	178
Gardening	179
Flat Tops and Flipper Hubcaps	180
The Pianist	181
A Girl, a Boy and a Mountain.....	192
The Way I See It	221
The Clouds.....	222

James Gray

What do you think?	223
Eating Healthy (Know your foods)	225
The Wake-Up Call	227
Reality As It Should Not Be	230
Hillbilly Hygiene	231
Wash Your Feet	234
I Closed My Eyes.....	240
Where I Grew Up.....	241
Just Thinking.....	243
Thankful.....	246
Peace Comes Slowly.....	247
Jimmy's Snippets Part 1.....	250
Jimmy's Snippets Part 2.....	252
Grandma's Garden	253
Resolutions of an Eighty-one-year-old	254
Oh, How They Do Talk	256
The things that came to mind when I wasn't thinking	259
Looking with Our Heart.....	261
The Baseball Game	262
Country School	263
The Garlic Fire.....	268
Goin' Fishin'	271
Tales from the Country Store.....	274
Good Eating	278
Driving the 1941 Plymouth.....	280
Drinkin Water from a Dipper.....	285
Looking Ahead	288

Walking on Top of the Ground

Clothes Washin Day	289
Burning the Outhouse as Told to Me by My Sister.....	293
One of My Most Memorable Christmas would be Christmas of 1959 .	295
Chat Creek	297
Brothers Two	299
Awww it's Christmas Time	304
Among the Trees.....	306
A Trail of Fear	307
A High School Experience!	310
A Man Named B	312
About the Author	315

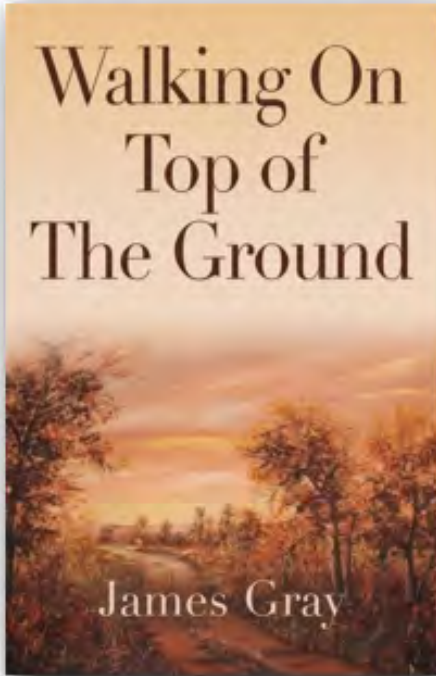
Me.....

Growing up in the Missouri Ozarks presented some difficulties. Social opportunities were lacking for many. There were unspoken social differences. There were fifteen children in my family...nine boys and six girls. This provided challenges and struggles. As a family we protected each other. We could fight among ourselves, but if anyone bothered one of us they would experience the wrath of the whole family. All of my life people have been good to me! I was never bullied, yet I had a terrible inferiority complex. As I look back I can't put my finger on why I felt so inferior. I can look back at many of the great teachers I had in elementary school. And also, in the small one room country school I attended I not only got an education in academics but also in social skills. Yet I did not finish high school, not because I couldn't handle the academics but the financial limitations were not to my liking. So, many like myself, joined the Army at seventeen. The first few months in the Army were somewhat scary. I did well in the Army. Not because I was exceptional, but because of mentors whom I listened to, their instructions that helped me greatly. Many who went into the military never returned to the town they grew up in. They either made a career of the military or found opportunities that did not exist in the small towns. Once out of the Army I did not continue to turn away from education. I graduated college.

As I look back on my growing up years a smile comes to my face. I have always made an effort to see the good and funny things in life. There were many fun times, and funny situations during my childhood. I have tried to put a lot of these into written form. Most are in story form, some are snippets, or poems. My goal is to touch the emotions of my readers whether it is laughter, or tears. Although at times during your reading,

James Gray

you may question where is all this going? I hope your enthusiasm and curiosity moves you forward.



*A collection of
short stories.*

Walking on Top of the Ground

by James Gray

Order the complete book from the publisher [Booklocker.com](https://www.booklocker.com)

<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/12976.html?s=pdf>

**or from your favorite neighborhood
or online bookstore.**