

"Looking Forward Through the Rear View Mirror" is a coming of age tale of a naive teenager, whose life dramatically changes after becoming a golf caddie. The constant dialogue reflects a perspective on social issues and political philosophies in 1965 influenced by headline events, songs, television programs and movies.

Looking Forward Through the Rear View Mirror

by Stephen P. Bye


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A SUMMER JOB THAT CHANGES A LIFE

LOOKING
FORWARD
THROUGH THE
REAR VIEW
MIRROR

A silhouette of a person standing next to a suitcase, set against a dramatic sunset sky with clouds. The person is facing left, and the suitcase is in front of them. The overall mood is contemplative and nostalgic.

STEPHEN P. BYE

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This is a work of historical fiction, based on actual persons and events. The author has taken creative liberty with many details to enhance the reader's experience. The characters are purely fictional.

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Preface

This work of fiction began over eight years ago, when my objective was to entertain readers by introducing eclectic personalities and integrating them into humorous scenes, which evolved into a collage about people and life in the mid-1960's. Although the characters are fictional, the story is based upon an assemblage of interactions with a few thousand people encountered over my 67 years. Some readers may believe that the characters are simply caricatures, but I can assure you...they are not.

I chose 1965 as the year for this tale. For some readers, this will create flashbacks in history, refreshing your memory of a unique period for politics, major events, music, television shows, sports, and movies. For others, it may arouse your curiosity and motivate you to investigate topics that you may have never known. The titles of several songs are connected to specific scenes or conversations, and I hope that you will investigate the lyrics, as several are linked with the dialogue or background in specific ways. Buried in the humor, I created metaphors for you to discover and correlate to more current times. In a few cases, I have taken the liberty to embellish a scene in an attempt to convey humor, to create a parody, or to establish a distinctive point of view.

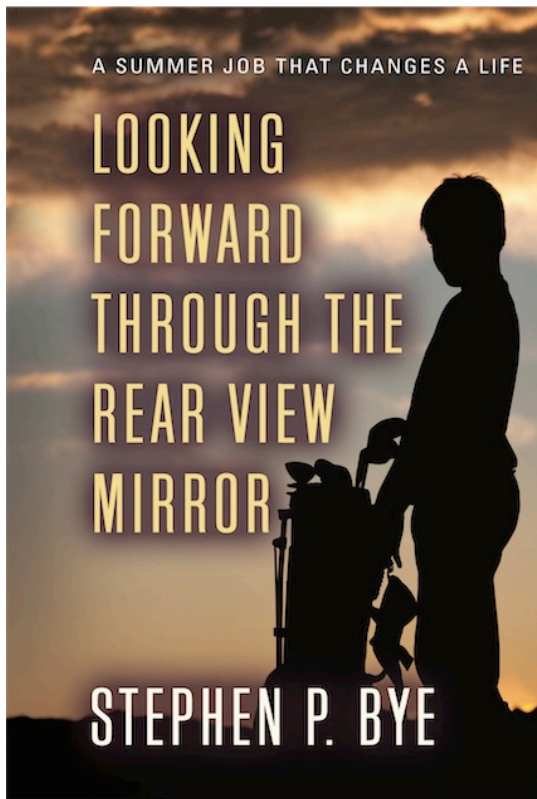
The names of many characters were chosen by using sophomoric humor, by modifying the names of famous people, or by simply turning letters around in a key word. Hopefully you will simply chuckle (or groan), but will detect a connection with the character's background or stereotypical occupation or personality.

I selected a typical Midwestern city of approximately fifty thousand people as the setting for the story to reflect a myopic or parochial perspective on social issues, religion, and political philosophies that was generally exhibited in a community that may have been more sheltered than what you may have encountered... or possibly more progressive. Nonetheless, it is my recollection of a slice of a culture

in 1965, and does not represent any personal beliefs, biases, or political agendas.

The main character, Scott Spykstra, is a naïve young teenager, who struggles to understand a broader world outside of his sheltered family surrounding. After becoming a golf caddie at a private country club, he encounters scores of people who are very diverse. As he begins his coming of age journey over the summer of 1965, Scott tries to interpret what he hears and feels. He desperately wants to look forward in his personal development, but is conflicted with the core values and the simple life imbedded in his upbringing over his past fourteen years.

As the vignettes unfold, I trust that they will create a few special connections for you, as well as to generate a few laughs along the way.



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