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Surviving Boyhood Adventures with a Pack of Fickle Caretakers Can be Like Digging for Blackbeard’s Booty with a Spoon

Baltimore, Maryland, November 16th, 2012 — What's a growing boy to do when assorted caregivers bring forth turmoil that clashes with the joy of boyhood adventures and the lad’s developing sense of himself, and then his inner resourcefulness and adaptability are pushed to their limits?

In his just released memoir *Vagabond Boy*, Joel Everett Harding relates the boyhood he spent traveling across 1950s America with his restless parents before interstate highways were built, bumping into reality at every turn. The book abounds in adventure and nostalgia as though Tom Sawyer and Kevin Arnold of *The Wonder Years* were one boy leaving a trail of shenanigans from coast to coast. His encounters with strange landscapes, curious people, and dubious caretakers dangle lessons in life for his taking, and sometimes leaving. When his parents abandon him on a lonely highway at six years old, however, his trust in others suffers. As he struggles to make sense of it other events accumulate, sometimes humorous, heartwarming, even harrowing, and a growing sense of unease mounts with increasing turbulence that infects and threatens the family.

When calm eventually seems to be restored he learns his whole childhood was a deception and a startling new reality sweeps him toward the edge of an emotional chasm of discontent that threatens to swallow and imprison him forever. He realizes he must find a hidden door to his future through his anguish before he is finally thrust unprepared to face the world as an adult where the only road remaining open points towards a wasted life ahead.

Vagabond Boy is a true story of resilience and perseverance by a boy discovering himself and the world in the 1950s. Yet the work also offers a deeper inspirational message for today’s readers who struggle with their past in an ambiguous and fragmented culture—precisely where most of us live today.

About the Author: Joel Everett Harding has professional credentials in a variety of scientific fields, including bioengineering design, ecosystem ecology, animal and human behavior, and river geomorphological restoration. He has been a consulting scientist to private industry, federal, state and local governments and nonprofit organizations. This is his first published book.

This book can be purchased worldwide in soft cover and Kindle formats. For additional information please visit our website at www.vagabondboy.com or www.joeleverettharding.com.

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