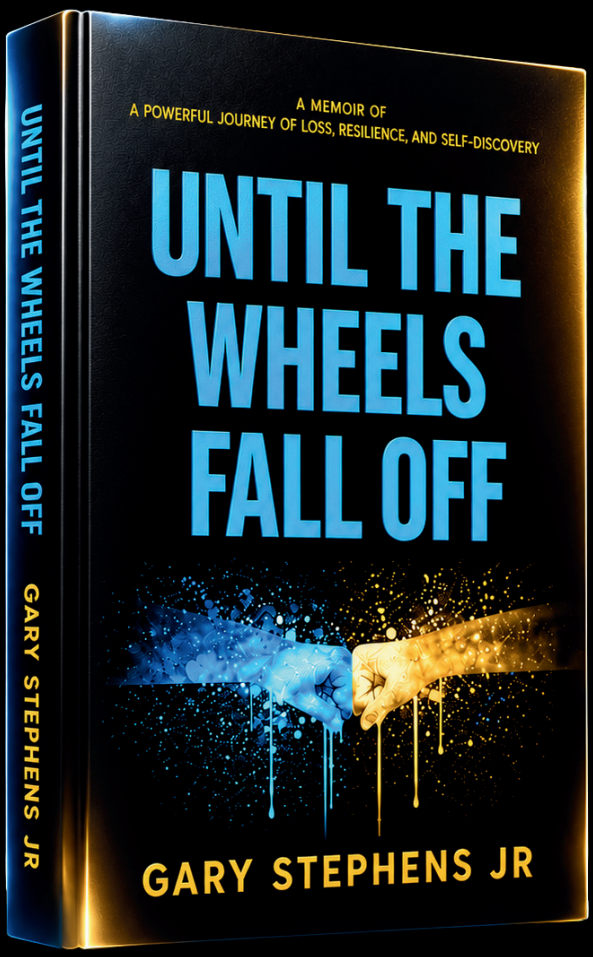


THE MAKING OF UNTIL THE WHEELS FALL OFF

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

I never set out to write a book. In fact, when people first suggested it, I was completely against the idea.

Those familiar with my story knew that over a three-year period, I had delivered four eulogies for some of the most important people in my life. I went from living in a house full of life to becoming the only life left in that same house.

After hearing what I had experienced, family, friends, and even people I had never met repeatedly encouraged me to share my story. But after hearing the same suggestion from so many people, I began to wonder whether it was a sign that perhaps my story was meant to be told.

Yet, despite those losses, I remained grateful for the life I had lived and continued to smile and live my best life. People often asked, **“How could you go through so much and still enjoy life?”**

I realized that writing a book could be my way of answering that question—not simply by sharing what I had experienced, but how I managed to move forward.
The origin of this story may be loss, but it's the stories within the story of loss that make it relatable to readers.



Gary Stephens Jr.
Author, Until the Wheels Fall Off

www.garystephensjr.com



Until the Wheels Fall Off will make you cry, get angry, laugh, and feel something real.

BOOK SUMMARY

When I decided to write a book, I thought a memoir would be fitting.

During the grieving process, I found myself revisiting moments throughout my life, and reliving those experiences became a form of therapy. I began reflecting on the successes and setbacks, relationships, family dynamics, challenges, and decisions that had defined different chapters of my life.

As those memories began to connect, so did the lessons. I discovered how many of my earlier life experiences had unknowingly prepared me for the hardships I would eventually face. That process of reflection and self-discovery helped shape the direction of the memoir.

The title comes from my wife's final words to me—and our relationship mantra that became a promise to stay committed "Until the Wheels Fall Off." This memoir is the story of what happened when we did.

The memoir offers an intimate look at grief from a man's perspective, shaped by the responsibilities of caregiving and the devastation of loss. But the story reaches beyond those experiences, exploring the relationships, decisions, personal challenges, and life lessons that shaped who I became and how I learned to move forward.

Ultimately, Until the Wheels Fall Off is about commitment, endurance, and resilience—what it means to keep going when life challenges everything you've built. Beyond the experiences that shaped the story, the memoir offers perspectives on navigating life's challenges, finding strength through adversity, and continuing to move forward.

WHO THIS MEMOIR SERVES

• Couples who want to see what "for better or worse" truly looks like.
• Caregivers balancing compassion and exhaustion.
• Those seeking insight about women's health.
• Families divided when support is needed most.
• Widows and widowers learning how to live again.
• Anyone navigating life's challenges and questioning their resilience.
• Readers seeking a good story.

THE IMPACT ON READERS

Until the Wheels Fall Off reminds readers that, as human beings, we all experience pain in different forms—the pain of disappointment from family and friends, the pain of job loss or unexpected career changes, the pain of a breakup or divorce, and the pain of losing someone we love. In the game of life, pain is inevitable. What matters is how we respond to it—how we carry it, how we manage it, and ultimately, how we move forward.

While rooted in personal loss, this memoir is about much more than loss, making it relatable to readers whose struggles may stem from entirely different life experiences. Woven throughout the story are themes of love, commitment, faith, perseverance, gratitude, and ultimately, self-discovery.

Each chapter offers more than a story—it offers perspective, inviting readers to reflect on their own lives, relationships, commitments, and the ways they navigate life's most difficult moments.

Following its early release to a limited audience, more than 400 readers have experienced Until the Wheels Fall Off. One of the greatest rewards of sharing my story has been hearing from readers who see parts of their own lives and experiences within mine.

Based on that early feedback, readers consistently connected with themes including:

- **A true love story—one that puts "'til death do us part" to the test, and shows what it looks like to live it all the way through**
- **Resilience in the face of grief**
- **Personal accountability and self-reflection**
- **The realities of caregiving and family responsibility**
- **The importance of financial awareness and estate planning**
- **Insight for widows and widowers on what it means to learn how to live again**
- **Offering a perspective on male vulnerability, while shedding light on women's health challenges such as endometriosis and infertility**



Readers across the country have purchased Until the Wheels Fall Off. See how they've rated and reviewed the book on Goodreads.

Professional Reviewers Respect it. Readers feel it.

Professional Reviews

Blue Ink Review

“Until the Wheels Fall Off is the heartbreaking story of one man’s struggle to support his wife through her cancer battle… Anyone who has had to contend with grief will find comfort and encouragement in the author’s insight.”

Clarion Review

“A moving widower’s memoir, Until the Wheels Fall Off is about love, loss, and ongoing commitment.”

Kirkus Reviews

“A chronicle of overcoming challenges, and moving on, rendered in unsparing and moving pros.”

Early Readers Reviews

Denise H.

"Captivating and brilliant storytelling!! This memoir will have you locked in as soon as you begin reading the first chapter. This book had me in tears and there are so many things you can get out of this book. A MUST READ!"

Gary L.

“This book hit me in a way I wasn't ready for. Gary's story felt like listening to a man open his chest and show what real love, loss, and manhood look likes when life stops playing fair. By the time I finished, I wasn't reading his journey, I was reflecting on my own, and grateful for a story that reminded me what strength, loyalty, and commitment truly mean."

Sandra C.

Gary's memoir touched my soul. Through these pages, I've learned what true commitment, devotion, and being selfless looks like. You keep pushing through and showing up even when it's not easy. I've learned being a man is not linear, Gary shows men can be vulnerable and strong, unsure and still capable of healing and growing at the same time. After reading this memoir, I am forever changed for the better and I know whoever reads this will be also.

Natalie R.

Until the Wheels Fall Off touched me in ways I didn't expect - leaving me inspired, reflective, and genuinely moved. From the very first page, i felt like Gary pulled me into his world and made it impossible to put the book down. this memoir isn't just powerful, its unforgettable, and will stay with me long after I turned the last page.

Amir S.

I told Gary that his story was compelling enough to share with the world. He delivered in this memoir on what I have seen up close and personal. He will be showing us all what dedication and commitment looks like.

BRINGING THE STORY TO A BROADER AUDIENCE

Until the Wheels Fall Off began as one man's story, but readers have shown that the experiences and lessons within it reach far beyond one life. From young adults to senior citizens, readers have found pieces of their own stories within its pages.

The next chapter of this journey is about bringing those stories to more people. That effort included a book launch and Fireside Chat at SUNY Old Westbury—a place with special meaning to the story. It is where Gary and his late wife, Maleka, first met, making it a fitting place to launch a memoir shaped by their life together. The event provided an opportunity to share the book, its lessons, and the experiences behind it with a larger audience.

Now, the goal is to continue expanding that reach—through schools and universities, organizations, communities, book clubs, media, conversations, and people who believe this is a story worth sharing.



Gary Stephens Jr and Stephen A Smith with the President of SUNY Old Westbury, Dr. Timothy Sams





See more event photos on our IG @2gsmedia

HELP US SHARE THIS STORY

Read it. Listen to it. Recommend it.



AVAILABLE IN ALL FORMATS

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