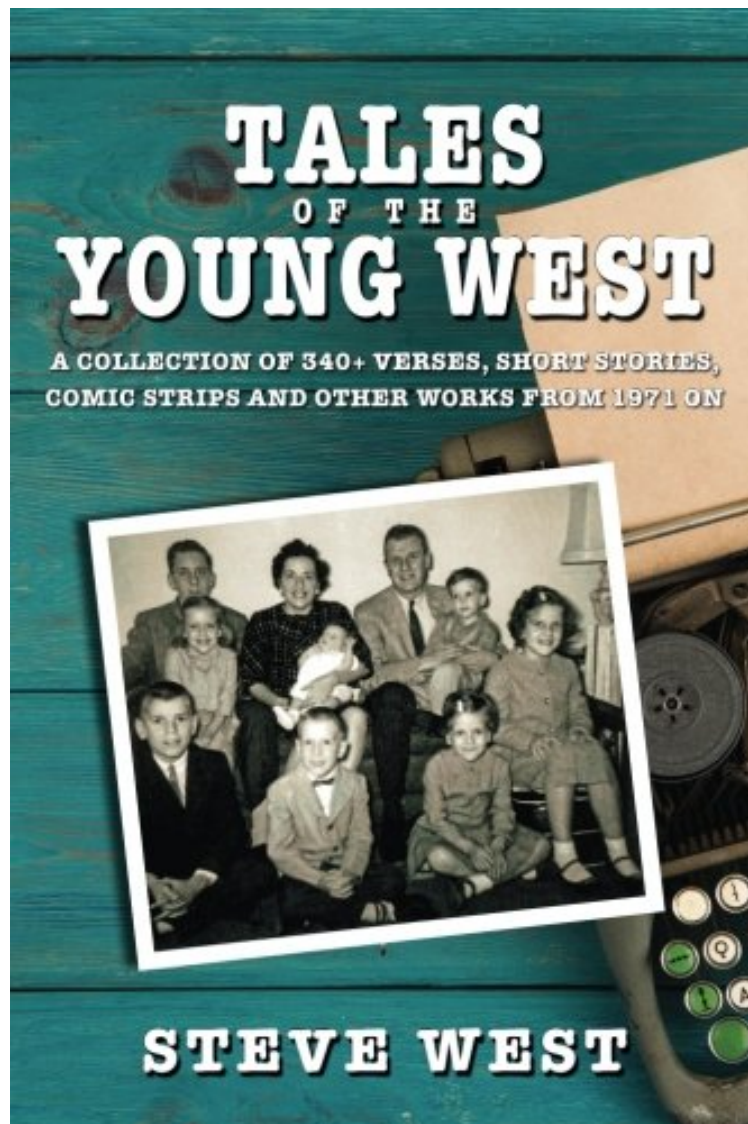


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Steve West

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Tales of the Young West: A Collection of 340+ Verses, Short Stories, Comic Strips and other Works from 1971 On:

Will This Book Sell? Steve West begins his entertaining journal by pondering this question aloud. His response is prototypical Ogden Nash: A little voice inside my head says nothing will develop. But, Ill think positive instead, and tell it, Shut dehellup! In this borrowed style of Nash, who inspired Wests writing from his early childhood, he combines a unique blend of unlikely rhymes, witty puns, and sarcasm to deliver his message. The works in this book are not listed in chronological order; instead, they are individually dated and span a period of forty-five years. This perspective illustrates which path West was traveling during his lifes journey at any specific time. For example, his early days laboring in a supermarket, stocking shelves in order to subsidize his college education, inspired dreams of stardom in the lyrics of Shakespeare Never Worked in ShopRite. Later pieces pertain to his spiritual awakening. Inside you will discover the invented comic strip character Steve Nave and his continuing saga of despair that embodies and parodies West, himself, during his early job hunt days in 1979. There are lyrics to the many songs he has penned over the years. Although an unpublished songwriter, one of his works, In the Garden State, concerning the treasures of New Jersey, received airtime on a local station in the Trenton area. Finally, there are short stories complementing the versesome lighthearted and others of a more serious nature. Two of the stories, Run, Westy, Run! and Thanksgiving Day, have garnered West second and third place finishes, respectively, in district-level, public-speaking contests. There is something for every reader to enjoy between the covers of this candid glimpse into the lifetime journey of Steve West.

About the Author The author was born Stephen Gerard West in Passaic, New Jersey, in May 1957. He was the fifth-born child in a family of nine children. As a child, Steve lived in North Arlington, New Jersey, where he attended Queen of Peace Grammar School and North Arlington High School. He received a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Montclair State University in 1979. He later received a masters degree in human services from Capella University. Steve began his career in sales working for both Bell Atlantic and Oracle Corporation. In later years, he wanted to contribute to those less fortunate and switched careers to utilize his human services education. He has worked as a youth advisor to underprivileged youth, as a case manager for disabled clients, and as a public information officer at a school for special-needs children. Steve began writing poetry and short stories in his teenage years, based on his personal experiences, and has continued to do so throughout his life. He also has written and recorded over 100 songs throughout his lifetime. He has compiled a collection of his works in this book.