



## **The Vineyard We Knew—A Recollection of Summers on Martha's Vineyard**

*Kevin Parham*

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Do YOU remember summer vacations on Martha's Vineyard?

Were you fortunate enough to bask in the warmth of the sun by day and drift off to sleep in comfort at night? Did thoughts of casual walks along the beach, delectable meals, recreation and entertainment by the sea, make you long to be there again? Well, beneath the hype is another story to be told.

Decades ago, six young cousins spent summers with their grandmother in an old, rickety, two-bedroom cottage in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts. There, discipline ruled and privilege was a pipe dream. The Vineyard We Knew is a charming and entertaining story of life seen through the eyes of a young boy named Kevin.

Through these vignettes, you will:

- \* Experience the nuances of a humble lifestyle on Martha's Vineyard
- \* Enjoy the unpredictable and spirited personalities of Kevin and his family
- \* Discover how adversity strengthens character, regardless of social class or economic circumstances
- \* Remember the beautiful link between childhood experiences and adult revelations

Come and take a ferry ride back through time to Martha's Vineyard in the 1960s, where the trials and triumphs of these close-knit cousins—who find themselves stranded on an island off the coast of Cape Cod—are on full display.

This book will captivate you with its enchanting story about summer life on Martha's Vineyard—a story unlike any written before. Don't wait to experience it!

## **The Vineyard We Knew—A Recollection of Summers on Martha's Vineyard Details**

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Author : Kevin Parham

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# **From Reader Review *The Vineyard We Knew*—A Recollection of Summers on Martha's Vineyard for online ebook**

## **Shawn says**

This beautifully written memoir chronicles the story of Nana Carrie and her beloved brood of extended family kin, with whom she quarrels, bosses around, soulfully cooks, and purposefully disciplines every summer on "The Vineyard." Those of us with fond memories of our grandparents "old school" ways of tough love and "children are seen and not heard" edicts will cherish these times of old-fashioned fun in the sun. Mr. Parham's book offers a rich echo of many of our Black childhood experiences. For this stirring tale; a trip down memory lane, I am deeply grateful.

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## **Peggy says**

This was a trip back in time for me as it recalled my early summers on the Vineyard, but allowed me to cross the street from where I lived. My family was in the last house in the Campgrounds which at that time (and still frankly) was not just suspiciously white, but deliberately white. But we didn't really fit in the Campgrounds as the last house and were closer neighbors with everyone across the street, who were African-American. The ladies from across the street would come visiting in hats and gloves, with my grandmother not looking like a proper grandmother in her culottes and slip-on garden shoes. Our lives were the richer for being part of multiple worlds, summer folk and year rounders, Black and white. What struck me in the first part of the book was what was shared unknowingly, the way the ferry Islander rumbled, the back story of the "How bout a coin?" boys at the Steamship Authority. The author is a bit older but there was overlap. I loved the early years of the memories, and how fair away Reliable Market could seem. Perhaps as when we idealize our childhood I enjoyed the earlier parts of the book best, because of the way he captured the child's viewpoint. I didn't want the story to grow up with him, for his mother and grandmother to pass on.

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## **Alex says**

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads as a giveaway.

This book was good, I really enjoyed delving into the personal histories of people I've never met and glimpsing a life I've never imagined.

The specifics of events, times and localities were good, but I think they were really only pertinent to people who are from or have traveled to Martha's Vineyard.

A good read for those who love history or memoir style books, though I wouldn't recommend for the casual reader.

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## **Susanna Sturgis says**

I've been a year-round resident of Martha's Vineyard for almost 30 years. Most of what makes it into print about Martha's Vineyard is written by people who have a limited acquaintance with the place. These people have no clue that the African-American community on Martha's Vineyard dates back to the early decades of the 20th century, and probably earlier. So Kevin Parham's book is a treat. Parham first came to the Vineyard as a very small child. For many summers, from the late 1950s through the '60s and into the '70s, he, his siblings, and their cousins spent summers with their grandmother in a tiny house in Oak Bluffs, where the OB library now stands. His chronicle of their antics and narrow escapes rings so true. I reviewed this book at some length in my blog, so if you want to know more, do check it out at *From the Seasonally Occupied Territories* .

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