

Long Biography

Steven Crayne

Steven Crayne's first love affair was with movies. When he was six years old, his mother let him play hooky from school to watch *Lost Horizon*, an experience that helped begin a lifelong fascination with storytelling, film, and the emotional power of words.

Raised on Long Island, Crayne grew up dreaming of becoming a novelist or screenwriter. He pursued that dream at SUNY Oswego, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. Life eventually led him in other directions. Over the next several decades, he built a career in marketing, merchandising, operations, and the entertainment industry, and in 2014 founded Starting Gate Marketing, which grew into one of the country's highest-rated Wix web design agencies.

The dream of writing never entirely disappeared. At sixty-eight, after writing very little poetry for decades, Crayne experienced an emotional and creative awakening. What began as a handful of poems became an exploration of a lifetime: love and desire, memory and grief, humor and regret, the people we carry with us, and the parts of ourselves we sometimes keep behind locked doors.

The Room You Kept Locked is Crayne's first poetry collection. The book also reflects a larger question that has come to define his return to writing: Is it ever too late to become the person you once hoped you would be?

Crayne lives in North Georgia, where he continues to write, watch an unreasonable number of movies, and believe that romance and dreaming remain art forms worth practicing.

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