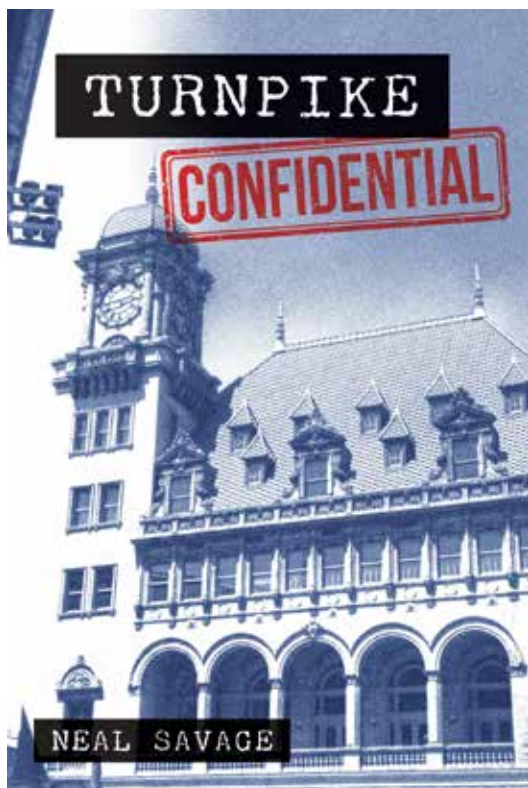


TURNPIKE

CONFIDENTIAL

NEAL SAVAGE



Richmond, Virginia, fall 1956: World War II veteran Eddie Bostic earns his living as a locksmith. It's an honest trade and one he takes pride in, something he can't say about his days as a cop or private eye. After quitting the force and getting blacklisted as an investigator, Eddie is now as far away from all that as possible. The only problem, he's being evicted from his shop and can't afford to lease a new place.

When summoned to the downtown offices of the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike Authority, he learns it's not about eviction or a locksmith job. The word is out that Eddie does side jobs as an unlicensed investigator. When the Authority offers him enough cash for a new shop in exchange for some of his side work, Eddie is ambivalent. They're no friend, and this is no favor. Eddie's choice will take him down a dark road toward deceit, betrayal, and murder.

Against a post-war Southern backdrop, this journey includes an encounter with a young Martin Luther King, Jr., the keynote speaker at a local conference. Several other scenes are set inside the liminal spaces of Richmond's Black district, Jackson Ward, before the wrecking ball came calling. Turnpike Confidential is an explosive story of race, history, and injustice in a city that will be changed forever.



About the Author

Neal Savage has called Richmond, Virginia his home since 1974. He received a BA in English from James Madison University ('87) where he studied creative writing under Mark Facknitz. He is a member of James River Writers, and Mystery Writers of America. He lives in Richmond with his wife and just enough cats.

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Genre: Fiction/Mystery		Distributed by Lightning Source / Ingram	
Printed Book Size: 6" x 9"		Printed Page Count: 250	
Format	Paperback		
ISBN	978-1-962416-56-6		
Price	\$19.95		

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