

## EARLY PRAISE FOR *Can't Break Me*

“From the West Philadelphia territory that I know so well, I understand exactly what it took for Kevin “KAYR” Robinson to make it out—and still be there. It’s called focus: not allowing environmental or psychological hurdles to distract you from what you know must be done. Success isn’t rocket science, but it requires an extraordinary level of willpower to achieve your goals no matter what. I know how it’s done—because I’ve been there and done it.”

— **Omar Tyree**, New York Times bestselling and NAACP Image Award–winning author

“Twenty-five years ago, when I was just getting started as a DJ selling mixtapes, I visited my mother’s high-school English class in Philadelphia—where KAYR was a student. What he’s achieved since then is wonderful. He told me years later that I inspired the young people in that classroom. I believe that KAYR’s story can inspire many more—helping them make sense of the challenges they face and find ways to build meaningful, productive lives for themselves and their loved ones.”

— **DJ Drama**, Grammy Award–winning producer and entrepreneur

“*Can't Break Me* is a powerful study in leadership shaped by adversity. Kevin Robinson’s story shows that resilience alone is not enough—what matters is the discipline to make principled decisions over time, even when the odds are stacked against you. His journey demonstrates how character, focus, and steadfast optimism compound into lasting success. This memoir offers a clear perspective for building a life rooted in purpose, integrity, and sustained excellence.”

— **Tracy Wolstencroft**, Former Partner, Goldman Sachs; Former CEO, Heidrick & Struggles, and National Geographic Society

“Kevin’s story reminds us that we can’t control circumstances... but we can control commitment. Simply, his story unlocks the secret of purposeful forward energy as the key to moving from adversity to achievement.”

— **Tim Ingrassia**, Co-Chair, Global M&A, Goldman Sachs

“Kevin “KAYR” Robinson doesn’t just tell a comeback story—he rewrites the playbook on generational success. *Can't Break Me* distills the discipline, humility, and vision that transform hardship into legacy. It’s an essential read for anyone serious about building not just wealth, but enduring impact.”

— **David Johnson**, CEO and Founder of Vervent

“On every page, this book delivers lessons for life and business, told through a story that reads like a novel—with beautifully drawn people and a poetically crafted narrative that sweeps you along. Do yourself a favor: read it. It’s a book that won’t just rivet your attention—it will make you a better person.”

— **Scott Siff**, Founder & Managing Partner, Quadrant Strategies

“Having known Kevin since his journey began overcoming the most challenging of circumstances, *Can't Break Me* is not just an approach that has catapulted Kevin to achieve generational wealth, but also a North Star for anyone who wishes to overcome their own adversity.”

— **David Kirsch**, Former Managing Director and Senior Analyst, Mudrick Capital Management

“An honest, powerful, and uplifting story that proves we are not defined by the circumstances we are born into. *Can't Break Me* is a reminder that perseverance, humility, and courage can carry us through the darkest times and into a brighter future.”

— **Hudson Evei**, Senior Vice President, TCW Private Credit

“*Can't Break Me* is a testament to resilience and disciplined action. Kevin “KAYR” Robinson turns hardship into hope and a practical path forward—giving readers the strength to move. A powerful, clear-eyed guide to choosing progress over circumstance.”

— **Barbara A. Tarmy**, Partner, Williams Jones Wealth Management

“*Can't Break Me* is a powerful memoir of resilience, leadership, and transformation. Kevin “KAYR” Robinson shares how he turned adversity into purpose—building systems for success, championing equity, and proving that excuses never outweigh execution.”

— **Dotan Johnson**, Vice President, On-Air Operations, NBCUniversal

“KAYR’s story is one of faith, determination, and resilience. *Can't Break Me* is a poignant example of life’s greatest tests becoming the most powerful testimony.”

— **Melissa Hudson Howard**, Senior Manager, Deloitte Consulting

“When KAYR returns to campus to meet with students, he is generous with his time and serves as a great example of how alumni can inspire the next generation. His personal journey, which he reveals so powerfully in this book, will resonate with readers as they forge their own paths forward.”

— **Safa R. Zaki**, President, Bowdoin College

“‘What a gift this book is.’ KAYR’s memoir reveals—with deep honesty, empathy, and love—how he transcended deep poverty, an unstable home life, and the deprivations of segregation to embrace possibility and achieve extraordinary success. Through KAYR himself and the unforgettable Robinson/Washington family, we encounter real lives, real struggles, real pain, and the transformative power of faith, education, and community. From a young age, despite every challenge, KAYR chose to answer ‘How are you?’ with one word: ‘Excellent.’ And that’s exactly how he has lived.”

— **Jennifer Scanlon**, Senior Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs and John S. Osterweis Professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, Bowdoin College

“*Can't Break Me* vividly captures Kevin “KAYR” Robinson’s resilience as he rises from childhood poverty to build a multimillion-dollar enterprise. As his former professor at Bowdoin

College, I have long seen in KAYR the power of self-belief paired with the wisdom to trust family, friends, and mentors who nurture his dreams. Guided by faith and a commitment to seeing the best in others, he transcends hardship and ascends to excellence.”

— **Roy Partridge**, Senior Adviser to the President for Multicultural Affairs, Emeritus, Bowdoin College

“*Can’t Break Me* reminds us of the great potential that lies within each of us. As Kevin’s high school English teacher, my hope was always that my students would discover their strengths, find support, and learn to question the world around them. Kevin’s journey—and his willingness to share it—serves as both a model and an inspiration.”

— **Dr. Dina Portnoy**, Former Director, GSE/TFA Urban Teacher Masters’ and Certification Program, University of Pennsylvania; former English teacher

“KAYR tells his life story with exceptional candor and heart. Even as a teen, his intelligence was never in doubt—but his discipline, drive, courage, and unwavering loyalty to family are what set him apart and propelled his success. Read the remarkable details of his journey and come away inspired and hopeful.”

— **Debra Kahn**, Former Executive Director, Philadelphia Futures; Former Philadelphia Secretary of Education

“The author transforms personal pain and hardship into lessons and inner strength. Looking back, he draws vision, resilience, and ambition from every struggle he encountered. As Robinson observed after his first visit to Bowdoin, ‘Now that I could see all of this, I could not unsee it.’ That moment becomes a powerful lens for readers. *Can’t Break Me* shows how commitment, love, and unwavering tenacity can unlock a life of purpose—and reminds readers that those same rewards may be within their reach.”

— **Noah Tennant**, Assistant Superintendent, The School District of Philadelphia

“*Can’t Break Me* is a powerful testament to how character is forged through hardship and sustained by the communities that nurture us. Kevin “KAYR” Robinson traces his journey from the instability of Philadelphia’s poorest neighborhoods to the worlds of elite education and professional success, showing that grit alone is insufficient. What carries him is the discipline he cultivates, the moral clarity he protects, and the mentors, siblings, teachers, and neighbors who open doors when others close. His story reminds us that flourishing is never solitary—it emerges through essential networks of care and hope.”

— **Melvin Rogers**, Edna and Richard Salomon Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Associate Director of the Center for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Brown University

“*Can’t Break Me* is a splendid journey through the cacophonous traumas of inner-city life and the disorienting worlds of privilege. It testifies to the enduring power of person and community, echoing the strength of our ancestors. Kayr’s story becomes a mantra of survival and excellence—layered, vulnerable, and unrepentantly bold—offering a clarion call to rise, endure, and transcend.”

— **Dr. Michael Owens**, Chief Medical Officer Health Care Los Angeles (HCLA)

“If explorers inspire you, read *Can’t Break Me!* KAYR fearlessly adventures through fascinating and jarringly different worlds. With humor and courage, KAYR illuminates his communities. Even better, his story of struggle and triumph helped me look a bit differently at my own life.”

— **J.B. Schramm**, Managing Partner and Founder, Grove Collective Foundation

“I’ve known Kevin since he was sixteen, and *Can’t Break Me* perfectly captures the spirit and determination that have always defined him. His story is raw, uplifting, and deeply human—a powerful testament to what’s possible when perseverance meets purpose. This book is more than an inspiring read—it’s living proof that resilience and faith can turn the hardest beginnings into extraordinary success.”

— **Bethany Pace**, M.Ed., Co-Founder, Sincerely Divorced

“A brutally honest masterclass in resilience and disciplined leadership. KAYR shows how to turn setbacks into systems for success—in business and in life.”

— **BamnJosh**, Social Media Influencer, Bamn Enterprise, LLC

“I have known KAYR for almost 25 years, and this memoir captures so well his grit, focus and ability to grab onto every opportunity. We’ve all probably missed a few chances to lend a hand when we could have – this story reminds us that talent grows up in every zip code and needs to be supported.”

— **Scott Meiklejohn**, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Emeritus, Bowdoin College

“Kevin “KAYR” Robinson’s *Can’t Break Me* belongs in every school in the United States. He masterfully shares his personal story while offering powerful life lessons that fuel his success: perspective, self-awareness, informed choices, discipline, intellectual curiosity, networking, faith, and resilience. *Can’t Break Me* is for anyone searching for hope — or looking for a real pathway to achieving the American Dream.”

— **David Morales**, healthcare executive and author of *American Familia*

“Authentic, self-aware, and full of heart. *Can’t Break Me* captures the power of determination, loyalty, and vulnerability in a way that will inspire readers—especially young men—to lead with courage and purpose.”

— **Glen Knapp**, Leadership Consultant and Former Executive Producing Director, Philadelphia Young Playwrights

“An absolutely incredible read. I picked this book up and couldn’t put it down. Kevin’s story is not only one of triumph over some of the most dire circumstances, it is a story of the faith of a young man that he and his family deserved lives truly worth living. Written with vivid detail, KAYR transports us into his world while sharing how his mindset, vision and perseverance propelled him to become an inspiration to all of us.”

--**Jason Green**, Co-Founder & President, Yourway Learning

“*Can’t Break Me* is a riveting and deeply moving story. KAYR’s honesty, resilience, and determination shine through every page. His journey is powerful, tender, and inspiring—filled with moments that stay with you long after reading. This book is a guide to love, growth, and true generosity.”

— **Michael Arthur**, Licensed Counselor & Psychotherapist

“The thrilling story of fulfillment of a dream. KAYR’s open mind, open heart, and fierce love of family inspires every reader. From mean streets to Wall Street and back with love and determination to transformation. The joy of reading and the messages here are for everyone—from pre-teen to nonagenarian!”

— **Dr. Thelma Reese**, Retired Professor of English and Education; Founder, Philadelphia Young Playwrights

*David Morales – Northern Essex community college, salem state university (his wife), connect with the head of AICUM - <https://aicum.org/> - offers to open his connections to me if I need anything. He offers to connect me with these people.*

“KAYR epitomizes all the qualities of an unbreakable spirit. His journey from inner-city Philly to Bowdoin, to Wall Street, and back home is a testament to his intellect, discipline, and determination. *Can’t Break Me* should be required reading for every young person facing seemingly impossible odds.”

— **Barbara Melnick**, Founder, Aucocisco School

“KAYR and I met at Bowdoin, and his vivid storytelling brought back memories of my own journey. This book is more than a memoir—it’s a blueprint for young people who haven’t yet seen what’s possible. His grit, generosity, and commitment to lifting others make the American dream feel attainable. I’m recommending it to my students and their families.”

— Jarrett Young, Head of School, City Academy

“*Can’t Break Me* is a remarkable testament to resilience, purpose, and possibility. With unflinching honesty and profound grace, Kevin ‘KAYR’ Robinson traces his journey from instability and hardship to scholarship and leadership. His story reveals how discipline, faith, and opportunity can transform even the most uncertain beginnings. This memoir is both deeply moving and powerfully instructive—a reminder that our origins do not determine our capacity to rise.”

— Paule V. Joseph, PhD, MBA, MS, FNP-BC, FAAN

“KAYR’s story is the kind of turnaround Wall Street rarely sees—a life destined for prison or a grave transformed into wealth, freedom, and legacy. Raised in a city designed to break him, he

rose from homeless and hopeless to the top 1%. Raw, relentless, and inspiring, this book proves that no matter how brutal the odds, you can still win if you refuse to quit.”

— C. Patrick Scholes, Managing Director, Truist Securities

“*Can’t Break Me* is a must-read. Kevin “KAYR” Robinson’s journey from young professional to multimillion-dollar real estate entrepreneur is both powerful and inspiring. His story proves that success, compassion, and purpose can grow together.”— **Karen Greene**, Retired Senior Vice President & Chief Audit Executive, Cencora (formerly AmerisourceBergen)

### **Tuck Alumni**

— **Hudson Evei**, Senior Vice President, TCW Private Credit

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