

Good Poems for Hard Times

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When Garrison Keillor published *Good Poems*, he touched a chord in readers across America. The anthology of poems he selected for their "wit, their simplicity, their passion, and their utter clarity in the face of everything else a person has to deal with" inspired thousands to buy what was for many their first book of poetry.

Now, in *Good Poems for Hard Times*, Keillor has pondered over the archives of his beloved *Writer's Almanac* radio show to select a batch of consoling, rousing, and truthful poems guaranteed to raise flagging spirits or to inspire those in need of a dose of wisdom or honesty. But these poems are not about suffering. They're intended to reach us and stricken friends by holding out a picture of the grace of ordinary life. Above all, this eclectic anthology, including works from Raymond Carver, Emily Dickinson, Charles Simic, Billy Collins, Robert Frost, Kenneth Rexroth, and many more, fit Keillor's definition of "good": memorable, beautifully worded, and accessible. They're not highbrow. They're not stuffy. But when hard times send us skidding into the meridian, the poems collected here are what we need them to be: just plain good.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Having revived the radio variety program with *A Prairie Home Companion* Garrison Keillor turned to broadcasting poetry in the daily short feature *The Writer's Almanac*. In any given week, probably more people hear him read poems than attend poetry readings and slams. That's good because his taste is excellent. But then, his criteria are golden. For him, a poem is good if it's memorable, recitable, and accessible. The almost-unheard-of-for-poetry sales of *Good Poems* (2002) suggest that many endorse his taste and criteria, and the sequel to that success gives them no reason to change their minds. As before, the range of poets represented is broad contemporarily (the majority are alive or very recently deceased) and historically (sixteenth to twenty-first century), though not internationally, for, with one exception (Psalm 51), English is these poems' language of origin. As before, too, these are predominantly poems of domesticity and ordinary things, and when a poem touches the genuinely extraordinary, it is related to everyday life; for instance, Stephen Dobyns' "Thelonious Monk" relates a particular instance of a kind of experience virtually everyone has--the discovery of greatness. Even those tired of Lake Wobegon, or who think Keillor's a bigoted Democrat (especially after *Homemade Democrat*, 2004), should grant that he knows good poetry. *Ray Olson*
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Review

Praise for *Good Poems for Hard Times*

"If I could choose only one book to give every inhabitant of post-Katrina New Orleans, it would be Garrison Keillor's remarkable and wide-ranging collection of *Good Poems for Hard Times*. What a lovely, consoling book, perfect reading for these days when everyone is struggling with something . . . the 185 poems in this collection do help."

—*The Times-Picayune* (New Orleans)

"Irresistible."

—*The Arizona Republic*

"[Keillor's] taste is excellent. . . . [H]e knows good poetry."

—*Booklist*

"Those ready to whet their appetites would do well to start with *Good Poems for Hard Times*."

—*The Cleveland Plain Dealer*

About the Author

Garrison Keillor is the host of *A Prairie Home Companion* and *The Writer's Almanac* and the author, most recently, of *The New York Times* bestseller *Homegrown Democrat*, as well as many bestselling Lake Wobegon novels.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lois Yale:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information today can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a concern. What people must be consider whenever those information which is inside the former life are challenging be find than now is taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take Good Poems for Hard Times as the daily resource information.

Deborah Ellefson:

Good Poems for Hard Times can be one of your basic books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Good Poems for Hard Times but doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one of it. This great information may drawn you into brand new stage of crucial imagining.

Cynthia Miller:

Reading a book to get new life style in this year; every people loves to study a book. When you study a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you need to get information about your study, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you are able to a fiction books, such us novel, comics, and soon. The Good Poems for Hard Times provide you with new experience in studying a book.

Dina Hirsch:

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got college students? We believe that that problem was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. And you know that little person just like reading or as reading become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important and also book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update about something by book. Many kinds of books that can you choose to adopt be your object. One of them is actually Good Poems for Hard Times.

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