



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:

Kenny Hardy:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice

simply by surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a publication your ability to survive improve then having chance to remain than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading a book, we give you this particular Good Poems for Hard Times book as basic and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Jose Brown:

As people who live in often the modest era should be revise about what going on or information even knowledge to make these keep up with the era and that is always change and progress. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know what type you should start with. This Good Poems for Hard Times is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Delbert Storey:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider when those information which is from the former life are challenging be find than now could be taking seriously which one works to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you obtain 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.

Cherie Fidler:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book especially book entitled Good Poems for Hard Times your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a publication then become one contact form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get previous to. The Good Poems for Hard Times giving you yet another experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful info for your better life in this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

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