



Good Poems for Hard Times

By Various

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Chosen by Garrison Keillor for his readings on public radio's *The Writer's Almanac*, the 185 poems in this follow-up to his acclaimed anthology *Good Poems* are perfect for our troubled times.

Here, readers will find solace in works that are bracing and courageous, organized into such resonant headings as "Such As It Is More or Less" and "Let It Spill." From William Shakespeare and Walt Whitman to R. S. Gwynn and Jennifer Michael Hecht, the voices gathered in this collection will be more than welcome to those who've been struck by bad news, who are burdened by stress, or who simply appreciate the power of good poetry.

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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:

Curtis Russell:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be revise about what going on or details even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era which is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for yourself 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 cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Edna Miller:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with training books but if you want truly feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The particular Good Poems for Hard Times is kind of guide which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Irvin Ehlers:

Reading a publication can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world really likes. Do you like reading book so. There are a lot of reasons why people like it. First reading a publication will give you a lot of new data. When you read a e-book you will get new information mainly because book is one of many ways to share the information or perhaps their idea. Second, studying a book will make you actually more imaginative. When you reading a book especially fictional book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the personas do it anything. Third, you may share your knowledge to other individuals. When you read this Good Poems for Hard Times, it is possible to tells your family, friends and soon about yours book. Your knowledge can inspire different ones, make them reading a publication.

Susan Garrard:

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