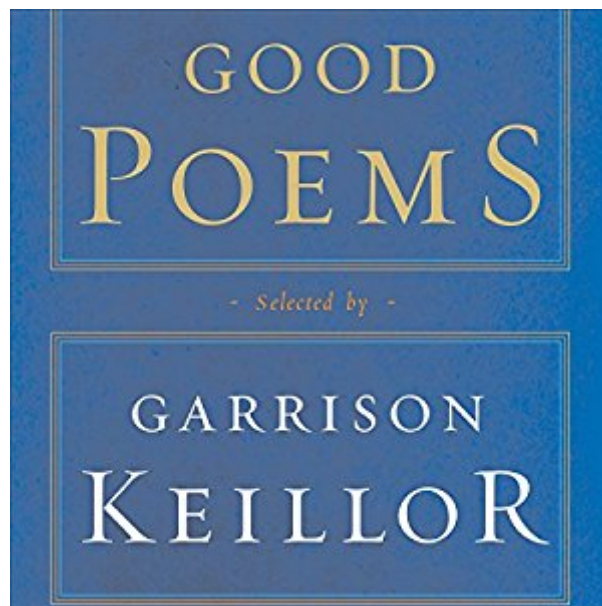




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# Good Poems: Selected And Introduced By Garrison Keillor



## Synopsis

America's beloved author, humorist, and storyteller offers a selection of meaningful and enjoyable poems. Every day people tune in to The Writer's Almanac on public radio and hear Garrison Keillor read them a poem. And here, for the first time, is an anthology of poems from the show, chosen by Keillor for their wit, their frankness, their passion, their "utter clarity in the face of everything else a person has to deal with at 7 a.m." Good Poems includes verse about lovers, children, failure, everyday life, death, and transcendence. It features the work of classic poets, such as Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Robert Frost, as well as the work of contemporary greats such as Howard Nemerov, Charles Bukowski, Donald Hall, Billy Collins, Robert Bly, and Sharon Olds. It's a book of poems for anybody who loves poetry whether they know it or not. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What a trove this book is. You might think "What does humorist Garrison Keillor know about poetry?" Quite a lot, it turns out. This is a wonderful anthology of poetry especially for anyone discovering poetry for the first time or rediscovering poetry after a bad high school English experience. Most of the poems in this volume are quite accessible. Keillor chose his poems from the past as well as the present but with the selections skewed more toward contemporary poets. I found many gems: all the poems by Raymond Carver and Charles Bukowski are outstanding, "Poem to be Read at 3 A.M." by Donald Justice, "He Wishes for the Clothes of Heaven" by Yeats, "Sonnet XLIII" by Millay, "The Music One Looks Back On" by Stephen Dobyns, and "Bison Crossing Near Mt.

Rushmore" by May Swenson are some of my very favorites in this thick volume. I read only a few poems at a time, so this book took me more than 5 months to read. As with any anthology, I found a few poems I didn't like: "Piano" by D.H. Lawrence, "Sweater Weather" by Sharon Bryan, "Year's End" by Richard Wilbur, and "Lazy" by David Lee were among the few poems I thought were bad. And I'm still struggling to like anything by Dickinson. Keillor includes several of her poems. There are a couple of minor miscues in the book. For some reason, Keillor left out biographies for Robert Kinsley and H. W. Longfellow. And one poem - "Sir Patrick Spens" - was much shorter in "Good Poems" than it is in another volume of poetry that I have. This makes me question the editing of other poems in the volume. I can highly recommend this book of poems. There is something in it for all readers of poetry. Be sure to read the bios as you go; they provide useful back story to what you are reading. One word of caution: the Kindle version of this book is terrible. Don't waste your money; be sure to read a paper copy.

This is a wonderful collection which I own in hardback. I love it so much I purchased the E-Book as well. UNFORTUNATELY I am extremely disappointed in the E-Book. It does not have a FULL TABLE OF CONTENTS. It only has section headings which make it impossible to browse poems or poets and read individual poems. This defect IMO makes the ebook useless and I have returned it for a refund. I should also point out that the companion book - Good Poems for Hard Times does not have this defect. Each poem is listed by name in it's Table of Contents, but does not include the poet name as part of that entry.

I use this in teaching and find it is a real delight. Many poems here are relatively obscure, but they are good, solid works of art, and reinforce the idea that poems lie not on the margin of human aesthetics, but in the center. There are not many "classics" here, but you can get those anywhere. Read these poems; they restore one's faith in creativity, poetry and humanity itself.

This book is great! This is the copy I keep in my car to read if I need to wait somewhere.

For years I have kept a hardcover copy in my car, and instead of listening to the radio on the way to work I would begin by opening the book at random and reading a poem before I left the driveway. Then I would think about the poem on the twenty-minute drive to work. Now I also have it on my iPad. Although there are many great poems that are not in this book, all the poems are very good.

Excellent selection of old and new poems that inform, enlighten and rebuild. A most sane and wise fellow, Garrison Keillor.

This is an eclectic compilation of poetry that appeals to the heart and to the intellect on subjects as varied as love and other life exigencies to the other extreme: death

Just read Garrison Keillor's introduction and you will have gotten your money's worth. But you will also want to jump into the book. Some of the poems you won't get or maybe you will. I never cared much for poetry but I wish I did as it was one of those things that worldly people seemed to get. But this book helped me appreciate the reality that poetry speaks to in a way that prose doesn't. Garrison's voice appears only in the intro and short write-ups of the poets in the back of the book. I found myself reading those and then looking for their poems in other places. I never "got" Emily Dickinson and still don't even though Keillor loves her. I never knew of Billy Collins or Mary Oliver but I do now and love them both.

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