



The Good Times

Russell Baker

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In this sequel to GROWING UP, Russell Baker relates the striving of his early career and contrasts it to the country's sunny years under Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy. Baker rose steadily, from newsboy to college paper, from police reporter to rewrite man, from White House correspondent to Washington columnist. In outline these stages read like a successful resume, but it is Baker's recall of detail that make the story live.

Nothing was easy. Success never is. Behind every triumph lies a pitfall, behind every joy a hard lesson. Baker tells it all from the mean streets of Baltimore to a seat at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and from watching Ike fish to sharing LBJ's secrets.

"I am going to think of Russ Baker's new book simply as 'Russell Baker Continued,' and I never want to stop." --Harrison E. Salisbury

The Good Times Details

Date : Published July 9th 1994 by Random House Value Publishing (first published June 1989)

ISBN : 9780517126110

Author : Russell Baker

Format : Hardcover 0 pages

Genre : Autobiography, Memoir, Biography, Nonfiction, Writing, Journalism, Biography Memoir

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From Reader Review The Good Times for online ebook

Stephen says

This was a good follow up to Growing Up, a bit more jaded and of course more mature. I liked it better on the second reading than the first (which was years ago). Self-deprecating humor is a Baker specialty; this has a lot.

Michael Petrie says

Follow up to a book I really liked, Growing Up. The Good Times not as good, but I still enjoyed it.

Melinda McLaughlin says

Recommended by my journalist husband, this was an enjoyable trip into the past. Light reading though, so definitely appropriate for beaches, airplanes, etc.

Cws says

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Diana Nieto says

Russell Baker's "The Good Times" is a classic, intelligent ,comedic read.

Mike Violano says

Most enjoyable memoir of growing up as a journalist/humorist in America the 50s & 60s.

Diane Wachter says

Russell Baker, HB-B, @ 1989, 1/90. Picking up where Growing Up left off, Journalist Russell Baker tells the story of his adult life as a journalist in Baltimore. Very good.

Mshelton50 says

A fun and interesting read. While not quite as moving as "Growing Up," the book is fascinating on many levels, not least Baker's time as head of the Sun's London Bureau. I highly recommend it.

Kathy Ewing says

Not really my type of book.

Andrew Kramcsak says

Favorite memoirist. I wish he wrote more.

Camille says

Thoughtful, insightful, endearing and so simply and well-written. I reflected on the history of the USA in the 20th century via a newspaper reporter/columnist perspective. I look forward to reading Russell Baker's Growing Up (he received Pulitzer prize) again as well as There's a Country in My Cellar (includes much of his column for the NYT).

Cathi says

Russell Baker's autobiography, Growing Up, is one of my all-time favorite books. This is the sequel to that book--good, but not nearly as satisfying as Growing Up.

Saskia Marijke Niehorster-Cook says

I began reading this book twice. I hate reading something and not finishing it, so I tried and tried. It actually gets a bit less dry as the chapters move along. I was unaware at first that this was an autobiography, and indeed it does read like a curriculum vitae. It tells us the story of Russel Baker, who is at first driven to "do well" by his mother and then by his inner guardian. His "arch enemy" is his cousin Edwin, who was a very well known managing editor for the Times. Russell begins his journalistic career as a delivery boy and then a school news writer. He soon moves on to Crime reporter to rewrite man to correspondent to International correspondent to White House correspondent at the Sun; and then to having his very own column at the Times.

What makes this book work is the stories that he lives through including being invited to the Queen's coronation and arriving by foot and bringing a brown bag lunch along... It was interesting to read about the different levels within a newspaper and what are the things that make it tick.

My favorite quote: "Coming from a journalistic tradition that licensed hotshots to make the language churn and steam, I was excited to discover that quiet could often pack more punch into a story than turmoil could. Example: "When he rose in the House Mister Eden had nothing to say but made the mistake of saying it at great length, omitting hardly a single flatulent Office Cliché" (pg. 237)

Garima says

Nice read..... but after reading Growing up by the same author lot of redundant information is there... i would suggest that only one of the book should be read...

John says

I read Russell Baker's column in the NYTs and was connected. So, I read this and more...

I'm aging myself!
