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# O, What a Luxury: Verses Lyrical, Vulgar, Pathetic Profound

Garrison Keillor

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## O, What a Luxury

Garrison Keillor

“I would rather write one true poem  
about Katz’s Delicatessen than  
a dozen false about despair.”



Verses Lyrical, Vulgar,  
Pathetic & Profound

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**Garrison Keillor : O, What a Luxury: Verses Lyrical, Vulgar, Pathetic Profound** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised O, What a Luxury: Verses Lyrical, Vulgar, Pathetic Profound:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. like a tray of inexpensive chocolates...By Jack DayeI don't think Keillor thought anyone would come away from this thin volume in awe of his poetic skills. His rhymes are often

strained, bending meter and taking liberties with rhythm, but if all you're after is a pleasant read with several great laughs, you'll love it as much as I did. The man loves New York and the Midwest in equal amounts and if you have any love whatever for mankind and the foibles we wallow in, you'll think it was money well spent. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not crazy about it. No time to explain why ...By JuliaNot crazy about it. No time to explain why. You buy it; poetry is very individual. Julia Grattan0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy james smithVery pleased

O, What a Luxury: Verses Lyrical, Vulgar, Pathetic Profound is the first poetry collection written by Garrison Keillor, the celebrated radio host of *A Prairie Home Companion*. Although he has edited several anthologies of his favorite poems, this collection of his very own poems astounds us with its breadth and variety, its wit and wisdom. He is a master of light verse, writing on love, marriage, modernity, nostalgia, perversity, publicity, politics, religion, birthdays, fatherhood, and other facets of daily life; his subjects range from highbrow to lowbrow: Michigan to Kansas, Sunset Boulevard to Times Square, Beethoven to Elvis, chocolate bacon cake to onion soup. His voice is utterly American, his scope entirely universal. These charming, playful verses find sublime song within the humdrum of being human.

From BooklistHalf the Masters of the House (of light verse) to whom Keillor dedicates this collectionIra Gershwin, Cole Porter, and Roger Millerare great song lyricists, and Ogden Nash wrote, albeit as a sideline, rhymes for Kurt Weill, among others. Keillor has sung plenty of those bards works on *A Prairie Home Companion*; his guests on the show, more. Unsurprisingly, then, music permeates his comic verse, contributing the melody the words sometimes lack (Ira or Cole he aint quite, as he might admit). Its full of out-and-out song parodies, such as Home on the Plains (instead of Range), Nikolina (same title as, wryer story than the Swedish American vaudeville standard of the same name), Dark (not Blue) Skies, and cleverest, perhaps, Episcopalian, to be sung to Aint Misbehavin. Besides tunefulness, formal variety abounds. Keillor writes excellent limericks, most not dirty, and while he wisely never essays Nashs trademark, wildly irregular couplets, he often loosens meter to the point of blowsiness. As in his best-selling fiction, the subject matter is the (very funny) stuff of the lumpen-bourgeois blues. --Ray Olson Praise for Garrison Keillor: "Keillor is very clearly a genius. His range and stamina alone are incredible . . . he has the genuine wisdom of a Cosby or Mark Twain." Slate "Americas foremost humorist and social pundit . . . Keillors running commentary about the human condition has the uncanny ability to home in on the pulse of America." PBS "Keillor has a way of reconciling seeming contradictions. A purveyor of all things folksy and down-home, he is a highly cultivated, worldly man." AARP