



If I Ever Get Back to Georgia, I'm Gonna Nail My Feet to the Ground

Lewis Grizzard

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"Lewis Grizzard is one of America's zaniest writers."

THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

Funny, sad, outrageous, irresistible, and unforgettably true, here is Lewis Grizzard's one-way, non-stop climb to the top of the newspaper heap. Of course, along the way, he drove a train and was a preacher, but the one and only life for this self-proclaimed Promising Young Man from Georgia was that of the ink-stained, stop-the-presses, honest-to-gosh newspaperman. This is his story.

From the Paperback edition.

If I Ever Get Back to Georgia, I'm Gonna Nail My Feet to the Ground Details

Date : Published August 27th 1997 by Ballantine Books (first published 1990)

ISBN : 9780345419279

Author : Lewis Grizzard

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Genre : Humor, Nonfiction, Biography, American, Southern, Comedy, Writing, Essays

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From Reader Review *If I Ever Get Back to Georgia, I'm Gonna Nail My Feet to the Ground* for online ebook

Glen Russell Slater says

At first, I enjoyed the book, but it descended into tremendous vulgarity and silliness. I liked the offbeat wit at first, then it became tiresome and stupid.

Agatha Donkar says

Unironically and seriously: one of the greatest books on writing I've ever read. A history of Grizzard's newspaper career, there's more off-hand writing advice in the first fifteen pages of this book than in whole books that are just about writing, and also it contains my favorite story about Hank Aaron breaking Babe Ruth's home run record *ever*. It features an elephant. I feel that's all I need to say.

Mary says

Well, here I am reading another non-fiction book....I have to admit the first chapter just about had me putting the book down, but I have only given up on 1 book in my life and luckily this didn't become the second. A wonderful way of writing and story telling. I would add it to my must read list.

Anne Hendricks says

Re-reading Grizzard... Come experience why he never left his Georgia again professionally. Wit, honest, engaging: true Lewis.

Ally says

His newspaper columns were his finest written work, but this was by far his funniest book.

Laura says

Very funny. I liked the part where he was always having to correct people when they didn't say his name right.

Kathryn says

Memoir of Lewis's early career with the UGA and Athens papers, then the AJC to Chicago and back. To this day I think this is his best work.

Paul Pessolano says

“If I Ever Get Back to Georgia, I’m Gonna Nail My Feet to the Ground”, by Lewis Grizzard published by Villard Books.

Category – Humor Publication Date – October 01, 1990

This is another Lewis Grizzard book that is full of humor but may well be classified as his autobiography (up to this time).

The book tells of his early life as a Army brat, his parents divorce, and living in the small Georgia town of Moreland. It tells of his entrance into the University of Georgia and how he was hired to work the football games and was hired by the Athens Daily News. He chronicles his graduation from college, and being hired by the Atlanta paper to cover sports. He always loved the newspaper business and found a home in Atlanta. He also tells of his love for the party life, his love of Southern food and drink. It is during this time that he married and divorced his first wife. He found great success and was offered a plum position to move to Chicago, a move he sorely regrets. Chicago saw his second marriage fail, a bout with racism, and cold, cold weather. He returns to Atlanta and finds his real calling was doing a humor column and the rest is history.

What Grizzard likes about newspapers:

They ain’t heavy, except on Sunday

The are brief about the weather, television weather lasts longer than some thunderstorms

The personal ads. They keep me up on what’s kinky

Newspapers make great starters for fireplaces

Ann says

too much sports reference for me preference

Khristina says

I am so excited to be reading this book! One day I asked Joe what influenced him to attend the University of Georgia and he shared that it was reading Lewis Grizzard books when he was growing up. So, for Christmas this year, he bought me his favorite Grizzard book (a biography vs a collection of columns like his other books) and I am eating it up.

Some interesting points so far, pg. 116 - Grizzard introduces fellow co-worker - Larry Young - my Dad's name! He also talks a fair amount about the Columbus Ledger Enquirer which is my hometown newspaper and where I completed my Senior high school internship project (I once was an aspiring journalist making Grizzard's story even more intriguing.)

Pg 140 - Grizzard tells a story about his good friend and coworker Brownie and how Brownie falls in love with his wife after seeing a picture of her daughter. That's exactly the story my parents share about how they met! My uncle began working at the same firm as my Dad and had a picture of my sister on his desk. My then not Dad saw the picture and asked my uncle who the girl was. When my Mom came to visit my uncle at work later, he introduced my Mom as the girl in the pictures Mom. My Dad later called my Mom and asked her on a date. And the rest is history!

Pg 143 - Grizzard had a Basset Hound named Plato. I have a Basset Hound named Willie Mae!

Finally, I didn't realize that this book was going to talk so much about my new home town, Athens! I've enjoyed getting to know more about the newspapers and town back when Grizzard was a UGA student.

Looking forward to continuing this read.

I can't believe I only read one book all Winter Break. I must be slowing down big time! Need to pick up the pace in 2011. 2010 is going to be a hard year to follow with such reads as Lonesome Dove and Gone With the Wind covered.

Carolyn (in SC) C234D says

I enjoyed this funny, funny book. I like newspaper stories, and this was the writer's account of how he started out working for papers as a kid, and progressed up to sports editor, then city news editor in Atlanta. He was eventually hired away to Chicago, but he didn't care for life there, and returned south to do columns. A very funny writer. (I'm pretty sure I've read another of his books, but haven't come across it yet in my reading records.)

Andrew Watson says

Don't have the same affinity for Georgia but I can appreciate homesickness.

Susan says

In the late '80s and early '90s when my dad was reading and enjoying Lewis Grizzard, I was too young to read the books myself. After reading "If I Ever Get Back..." I can say that I too am a fan.

The book is still funny despite the fact that the humor and references are a little dated. It provided an interesting look at how his career evolved, but it did drag a little in places, which is what kept me from giving it a full 5 star rating.

Shane Grier says

First timer

My introduction to Grizzard. Enjoyed it and believe it or not I got most of his southern references. I look forward to getting my hands on another tale.

Chelsea says

A deliciously funny book, much in the way of Bill Bryson or Calvin Trillin, and I've made my love for those to authors abundantly clear. Grizzard knows how to write, and he knows how to talk about writing, and the man is a born storyteller.

I'm afraid to say that I missed out on some of the jokes, because I:

1. hail from the North
2. am only interested in baseball, and that narrow focus is a kind of blasphemy as far as sports writer Grizzard is concerned
3. read my news online more often than not
4. wasn't alive for the vast majority of the happenings discussed in the book, meaning that I have no idea who the majority of the people mentioned are, and don't get a lot of the pop culture references.

That said, I loved the book. Did I mention the guy could tell a story? And he has the storyteller's talent of surround himself with talented, crazy people, all of whom are much-loved fodder for said stories. Every author should love their subject as much as Grizzard does.

Seriously, it's a hoot.
