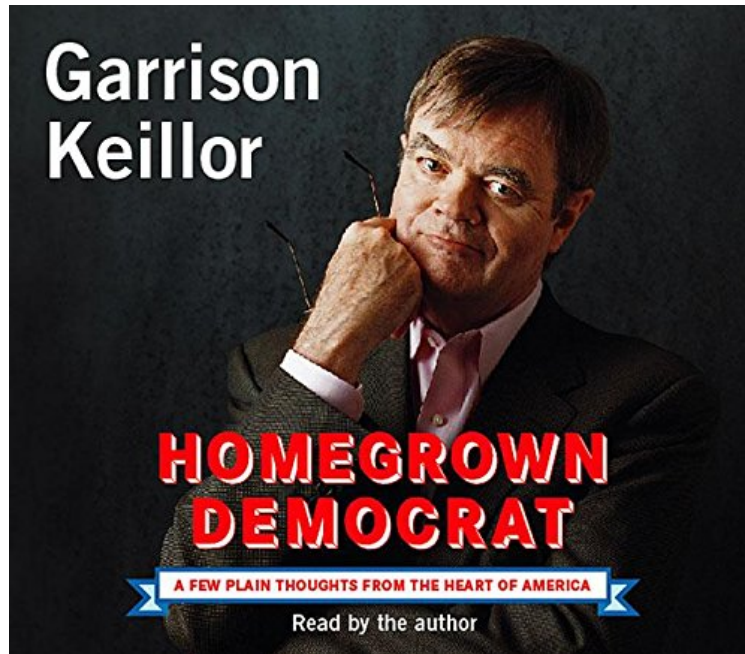


(Free pdf) Homegrown Democrat: A Few Plain Thoughts from the Heart of America

## Homegrown Democrat: A Few Plain Thoughts from the Heart of America

Garrison Keillor

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#1534120 in Books HighBridge Company 2004-08-09 2004-08-09 Formats: Audiobook, CD, Unabridged Original language: English PDF # 4 5.30 x 29.97 x 6.401, .45 Running time: 16200 seconds Binding: Audio CD | File size: 21.Mb

**Garrison Keillor : Homegrown Democrat: A Few Plain Thoughts from the Heart of America** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Homegrown Democrat: A Few Plain Thoughts from the Heart of America:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. On oldie but a goodie in these times of political trunantsBy Miss BarbaraThis is an oldie but goodie from Garrison Keillor that in this time of political discord is well worth re-reading. Keillor talks from the heart and shoots from the hip in his celebration of liberalism. He draws the "politics of kindness" in this time of gutter talk from the two main candidates. If you're like me and looking for something political to read that won't make your head explode, you can count on Keillor to give you a smile while making you seriously think about our current crop of political trunants.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Points from a PatriotBy jay reynoldsGarrison Keillor. Always been a fan and this book doesn't disappoint. It discusses the contributions of the party and ask the questions that need to be addressed ( still ).0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Light readingBy dogladyLove Garrison. Fun book.

In this thoughtful, deeply personal work, one of the nation's best-loved voices takes the plunge into politics and comes up with a book that has had all of America talking. Here, with great heart, supple wit, and a dash of anger, Garrison Keillor describes the simple democratic values-the Golden Rule, the obligation to defend the weak against the powerful, and others-that define his hard-working Midwestern neighbors and that today's Republicans seem determined to subvert. A reminiscence, a political tract, and a humorous meditation, Homegrown Democrat is an

entertaining, refreshing addition to today's rancorous political debate.

From Publishers Weekly His Minnesota boyhood and the putative values of his state allow novelist and NPR favorite Keillor to conjure up a heartwarming case for liberalism, if not necessarily the Democratic Party platform. "[T]he social compact is still intact here," he writes of life in St. Paul, summing up attacks on that compact in a Menckenesque rant: "hairy-backed swamp developers and corporate shills, faith-based economists...." Liberalism, Keillor declares, "is the politics of kindness," and he traces his own ideology to his kindly aunts and his access to good public education, including a land-grant university. Though he criticizes Democrats for losing touch with their principles, as when they support the drug war, he catalogues "What Do-Goooder Democrats Have Done for You," from civil rights to clean air, though he acknowledges, "The great hole in the compact is health care." "The good democrat," he declares, distrusts privilege and power, believes in equality, supports unions, and is individualist "identity politics is Pundit Speak," he notes, which might get him in trouble with some interest groups. "Democrats are thought to be weak on foreign policy... but what we fear is arrogance," he writes, in a chapter notably short on prescription. Near the end, he offers another potent monologue, if not a rant, about September 11 and Bush's "Achtung Department" (aka Homeland Security). It doesn't all hang together, heck, Keillor's so loopy-goopy, he begins most chapters with a limerick but call this Prairie Home Companion meets Air America. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist In his contribution to the latest U.S. presidential election campaign, the writer-host of NPR's long-running Prairie Home Companion takes his stand on the ground of Minnesota to declare why he's on the side he's on. Being a Democrat "was simply the way I was brought up, starting with" the Golden Rule, the Minnesota maxim "You are not so different from other people so don't give yourself airs," and the Christian reminder "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Egalitarianism and fellow-feeling, manifested by good-neighborliness and a social safety net sustained by government, are the bedrock of being a Democrat for Keillor, and Democrats go wrong when they mouth slogans, forget about the powerless, and fail to focus on "real consequences in the lives of real people." Republicans these days--he allows that once they were better--are the obverse of Keillor-style Democrats, and his rants about them are an intemperate pleasure of the book. Its considerable other pleasures arise from the autobiography that constitutes its core; if he sounds like a parody of a Democrat when lambasting the GOP (and--unfairly, one can't help feeling--Texas and the South), Keillor is the voice of truth about where he grew up and went to school. (Full disclosure: this reviewer was taught in the same schools by many of the same teachers six years after Keillor.) Ray Olson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved . . . his eloquence, humanity, and common sense make listening a pleasure.