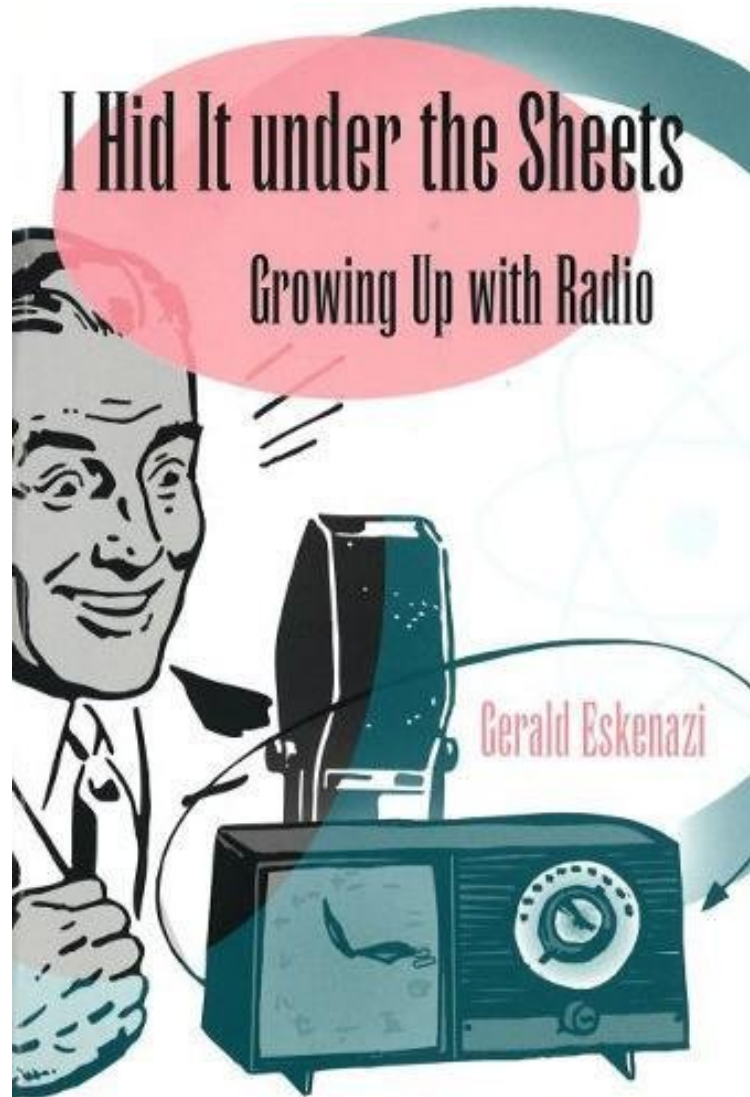


(Read now) I Hid It under the Sheets: Growing Up with Radio (Sports and American Culture)

I Hid It under the Sheets: Growing Up with Radio (Sports and American Culture)

Gerald Eskenazi

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Gerald Eskenazi : I Hid It under the Sheets: Growing Up with Radio (Sports and American Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Hid It under the Sheets: Growing Up with Radio (Sports and American Culture):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. TRIP INTO MY CHILDHOODBy Norm LoefflerInteresting retrospective with some insider info. Good way to wake up nostalgia in Old Guys like me.0 of 0 people found the

following review helpful. Four StarsBy John DunneGood2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Nice radio AND newspaper nostalgiaBy Stan ModjeskyJerry Eskenazi, sports writer for the New York Times, among other papers, relates what it was like growing up in New York in the pre-war years. His mother was divorced, and worked full-time, making young Jerry somewhat of an outcast, although he grew up under the watchful eye of his immigrant grandmother. Radio became his solace in the hours at home alone after school. Like all kids in Brooklyn, he discovered and enjoyed baseball, especially when he realized that Ted Williams was also the child of divorced parents. With considerable glee, Eskenazi writes of his introduction to the [then] rough-and-tumble world of newspapering, first at the New York Mirror, then at the Times. Along the way to writing this book, he compares radio memories with Tom Brokaw and Colin Powell. Although the book is nominally radio nostalgia, it paints an excellent picture of the way both radio and newspapers shaped the American experience in the pre-TV era. An interesting companion book to this would be Stud's Terkel's autobiography, Talking to Myself. Terkel, fully a generation older than Eskenazi, grew up in Chicago in similar circumstances (an immigrant family), and by the time Eskenazi discovered radio, was a bit player on many of the latter's favorite shows.

Imagine that there was a time in America when a child sat next to a radio and simply listened. But didn't just listen, was enthralled and knew that this time was his alone, that he was part of the vortex of drama unfolding inside the radio's innards. . . . I never saw a punch thrown, or a glass shatter, or a blood-smeared shirt as I listened to the radio. Nor did I know Barbara Stanwyck's hairstyle as she overacted in Sorry, Wrong Number on the Lux Radio Theatre. And I had no idea how corpulent Happy Felton was as he dropped ten silver dollars that jangled into a Sheffield's Milk bottle on Guess Who. (Yes, ten bucks was what you won on that show.) Instead, I imagined it all. I Hid It under the Sheets captures a bygone era the late 1930s, 1940s, and early 1950s through the reminiscences of award-winning New York Times reporter Gerald Eskenazi. This first-person recollection shows radio's broad impact on his generation and explains how and why it became such a major factor in shaping America and Americans. For Eskenazi and his peers, radio had virtually no competition from other forms of media, aside from newspapers. Because of this, radio was able to create a common American culture, something that is not found in today's multifaceted world. Eskenazi shows how the popular programs of the times from The Lone Ranger to The Fat Man to The Answer Man helped create a culture of values (telling the truth, being courteous, being courageous, and being a moral person).

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