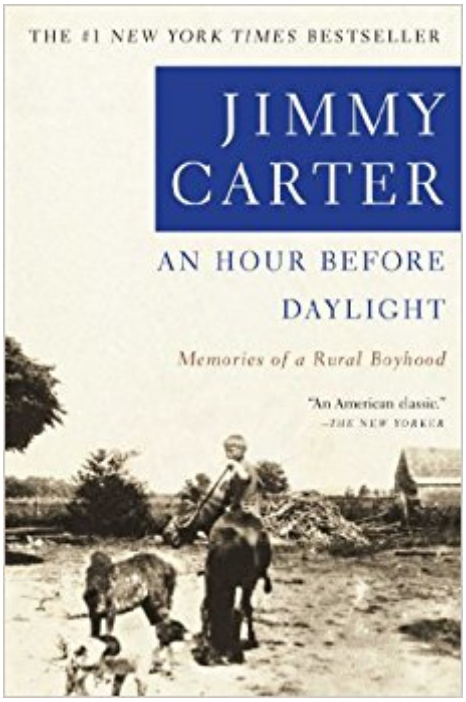
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An Hour Before Daylight: Memories Of A Rural Boyhood



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Synopsis

In An Hour Before Daylight, Jimmy Carter, bestselling author of Living Faith and Sources of Strength, recreates his Depression-era boyhood on a Georgia farm before the civil rights movement forever changed it and the country.Carter writes about the powerful rhythms of countryside and community in a sharecropping economy, offering an unforgettable portrait of his father, a brilliant farmer and a strict segregationist who treated black workers with respect and fairness; his strong-willed and well-read mother; and the five other people who shaped his early life, three of whom were black. Carter's clean and eloquent prose evokes a time when the cycles of life were predictable and simple and the rules were heartbreaking and complex. In his singular voice and with a novelist's gift for detail, Jimmy Carter creates a sensitive portrait of an era that shaped the nation and recounts a classic, American story of enduring importance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Born on October 1, 1924, Jimmy Carter grew up on a Georgia farm during the Great Depression. In An Hour Before Daylight, the former president tells the story of his rural boyhood, and paints a sensitive portrait of America before the civil rights movement. Carter describes--in glorious, if sometimes gory, detail--growing up on a farm where everything was done by either hand or mule: plowing fields, "mopping" cotton to kill pests, cutting sugar cane, shaking peanuts, or processing pork. He also describes the joys of walking barefoot ("this habit alone helped to create a sense of intimacy with the earth"), taking naps with his father on the porch after lunch, and hunting with

slingshots and boomerangs with his playmates--all of whom were black. Carter was in constant contact with his black neighbors; he worked alongside them, ate in their homes, and often spent the night in the home of Rachel and Jack Clark, "on a pallet on the floor stuffed with corn shucks," when his parents were away. However, this intimacy was possible only on the farm. When young Jimmy and his best friend, A.D. Davis, went to town to see a movie, they waited for the train together, paid their 15 cents, and then separated into "white" and "colored" compartments. Once in Americus, they walked to the theater together, but separated again, with Jimmy buying a seat on the main floor or first balcony at the front door, and A.D. going around to the back door to buy his seat up in the upper balcony. After the movie, they returned home on another segregated train. "I don't remember ever questioning the mandatory racial separation, which we accepted like breathing or waking up in Archery every morning." In this warm, almost sepia-toned narrative, Carter describes his relationships with his parents and with the five people--only two of whom were white--who most affected his early life. Best of all, however, Carter presents his sweetly nostalgic recollections of a lost America. --Sunny Delaney --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Carter has written more than a dozen books since he left the White House; this vivid recollection of his Georgia childhood will probably be one of his most popular efforts. There are facts here--about the economics of farming during the Depression, the structure of sharecropping, and Georgia politics, for example--but the focus of Carter's narrative is the people who nurtured him on the farm and in Plains. Despite segregation, these people included African American neighbors as well as his own family, and Carter supplies lively portraits of many of the adults and children, black and white, who impressed him when he was little. Using a conversational tone, Carter wanders through the past, commenting on the weather and crop prices, local geography, chores and illnesses, adjusting to school, and learning to hunt and fish. Carter remains more popular as an ex-president than he was during his term of office, and his experiences are just different enough from those of most readers that his memoir should have broad appeal. Mary CarrollCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I immediately found myself connected to the descriptions of the rural south, family, blacks and whites, teen years and hopes for college in this book. President Carter writes in a almost folksy style that flows easily across his many life experiences. I so identified with his recollections I could not put the book down. Especially interesting were his revelations about race. He so accurately described what most of us reared in the South, felt and saw. Also his mention that his mom was house mother

to the KA Order Chapter, at Auburn, was a fact not readily known.Read this book if you lived through any part of the 1930s to 1970s in the South. You'll be glad you did.

Enjoyed this interesting narrative of rural southern life in the early 1900s. If you have an interest in southern history this is an excellent book and personal account of that period of time. President Carter's anecdotes of his neighbors, friends and family made that time come alive. I was sorry to see the book end. I purchased this book used and was pleasantly surprised with the quality and as a bonus it was signed by President Carter.

This is the fourth book I have read written by former President Jimmy Carter, but it certainly won't be the last, as I have enjoyed all four. Some reviewers have criticized his writing style, but I find it very refreshing, almost as if I were in the same room, eagerly listening to him tell stories about his family and growing up in Georgia. I also like the fact that, unlike some autobiographies, he doesn't hold back in writing about both the good and the bad. This book is definitely not a "puff piece," about his family's history, as someone once said, it contains "warts and all."Unlike Mr. Carter, I grew up in the city, but in my early teenage years, I was lucky to spend most weekends, as well as few summers in the country, on six acres of land that my parents owned. Initially, we had no electricity, no telephone, and no indoor plumbing. Because of this, I was able to relate to much (though certainly not all) of the experiences that Mr. Carter described in the book. Nevertheless, I think this book would serve to be a great primer for anyone who has even a passing interest in "the way things used to be." I hope this review helps.

Spent part of my childhood on a farm. The can-do, hard working attitude never leaves. Can we somehow incorporate more chickens, ducks, cows, pheasants, peacocks, goats on land at the edge of the suburbs, can we have more farmettes, more land set aside to grow vegetables and flowers. Green scenery and hard work are good for us. This is simply a wonderful book that deals with reflections on his parents, on the value of school, on differences among families. It's not nostalgic; it is looking back to get the reader to look back as well, to ponder on what really matters in one's life, to ask how were our values formed.

A personal look at the boyhood years of President Carter that also depicts everyday life in the deep south in the 20th century. President Carter was as American as "apple pie" and serves as an excellent example of how a small town boy learned family values to sustain him for a lifetime. Not

knowing that President Carter was a prolific writer with numerous books authored by him, my first thought was that this may be a standalone book of his life leading to the Presidency, but there's many more books to read to get the full story of his life and careers.

This was a great autobio! It helps me understand the foundations of this great man. He has done more for this country in retirement than any other former US president that I know of. And he's not through! Check out the Carter Center online.The story was heartwarming and told how a middle class family got through the depression and went on to become very successful business-wise and politically. There were spots of sorrow and spots of humor throughout.

Carter's descriptions of his hometown, the people there, his daily life, and his interactions with the young black children he played with are all beautifully told.He describes without getting too bogged down in detail. The story moves forward in chunks of time that follow his youth. Nothing wildly catastrophic happens to make the story climax anywhere, but it doesn't need to. It ambles along in the same tone as the tone of the times and place where he grew up.A delightful book about growing up in the south during the Depression. A wonderful legacy to leave his grandchildren, etc.I would recommend it.

I am writing this review before I even finish the book! I had read good reviews on it and was hoping it would meet expectations. And it has! President Carter writes as if he is talking to you. I enjoy that first person stance. His descriptions and recall of little details are remarkable to me and give this book life. My family history began with my parents living in very small towns in Georgia just a bit further south than Plains. Both of them passed when I was entering adulthood, so reading this book is a nice way to read about the way my mama and daddy were raised.

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