

The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers By Maxwell King - Mary Elizabeth Williams.

I think it would be difficult to deny that he was a kind and generous man who made a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of children and parents alike over the many years that his show was broadcast. It is a comprehensive examination of his life - both professionally and personally - from his childhood straight through to his grievous death at the age of seventy-five due to his battle with stomach cancer. Like weeping in the middle of a crowded theater type of love which kinda caught me off guard because although I watched Mister Rogers' Neighborhood growing up.

And a 2nd house in nantucket. " —Washington Post Here is the definitive biography of Fred Rogers children's television pioneer and American cultural icon an educator and entertainer who brought new empathy to television and helped children face complex issues such as divorce discipline mistakes anger and competition. As the creator and star of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood he was a champion of compassion equality and kindness fiercely devoted to children and taking their questions about the world seriously. One of many touching stories told is the story of his appearance on Oprah Winfrey's talk show in 1985 when Rogers issued strict instructions: No children were to be present during the taping. Author Maxwell King writes "As soon as the children started to ask him questions directly he seemed to get lost in their world slowing his responses to their pace and even hunching in his chair as if to insinuate himself down to their level. The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers I grew up watching Mister Rogers Neighborhood and suffice it to say most Americans who turned five by 2001 probably did as well. Mister Rogers is by all accounts an American icon so when I saw on my goodreads feed a few months back that a new biography on Fred Rogers would be published this year I knew that it was a book I just had to read. His parents and maternal grandparents had grown wealthy through hard work and achieved their personal American dream becoming among the wealthiest members of the Latrobe Pennsylvania community in which they lived. His parents kept him home for stretches of a time and it was there that he honed his skills as a puppeteer and musician that would feature on his signature children's program many decades later. Through connections from his grandfather Rogers gained an internship at fledgling station NBC in New York where he began his professional career; however as a young college graduate he was not given space to be creative and eventually moved to a local station in Pittsburgh where for the next decade he would develop behind the scenes a cutting edge program for children with help from local early education specialists and ministers. Rogers discussed themes as divorce death of a loved one or pet childhood disability and interracial relationships at a time when these topics were not discussed on television in any capacity. Diffusing difficult situations with his puppets in the land of make believe and light hearted songs Rogers reached the heart of his viewers making growing up just a little easier for them in the half hour he had with the children each day. It was told through the eyes of a child and was a refreshing breath of fresh air in this world we now live in that is connected by media and a twenty four hour news cycle. Earning the Presidential Medal of Freedom during his lifetime Fred Rogers' ministry has truly endured journalist Not much needs to be said to introduce a reader of this review to the legendary figure of Fred Rogers. Over and over again while reading the story of Fred Rogers' life I couldn't help but think that we desperately need more men and women in our lives with his kind of values - his sense of humility and his desire to make all feel welcome and important no matter what among many others. I found myself getting a bit teary-eyed! I did not expect this to happen! I think there is such a lack of true humanity and compassion in much of our country and world right now. I feel very troubled for what lies ahead of us what our children and the next generation have to deal with if more and more people become less and less attuned to the needs of others. When I was a boy I used to think that strong meant having big muscles great physical power; but the longer I live the more I realize that real strength has much more to do with what is not seen. - Fred Rogers The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers Hello Neighbour! Many of children and adults alike have come to know the wonders of Fred Rogers during a long career in children's education television. It was only when he travelled to

Florida that Rogers was able to complete a degree in music that he felt himself completely satisfied especially since it was there that he met his wife. While Rogers did enjoy some aspects of his time in Canada there were also a number of issues with his young boys that helps push Rogers to return to Pittsburgh though he had no job prospects. The show sought to captivate children from 2-5 years of age with simple to digest themes but never shied away from reality choosing not to shield children from topics that would affect them as long as they were presented appropriately. While Rogers took up seminary studies and was an ordained Presbyterian minister he chose never to instill his Christian views or many of his social sentiments in shows hosting Christmas specials but adding that there are many ways that people celebrate. Maxwell King effectively tells the story of Fred Rogers and how he changed the lives of so many children by passionately listening to them and not being afraid to ask others for help. King spares no detail in recounting the life events that made Fred Rogers a success but also chose key events in his life to better understand the arc Rogers made in public broadcasting and the rights of the child to learn without distraction of advertisement violence or flashy gimmicks. As King reiterates throughout Rogers required a slower pace and smooth delivery to show children that their pace was the right pace to learn but also chose to include follies into his program underlining the fact that perfection is not part of the learning experience. Maxwell King has done much research pulling out countless interviews archived clips of shows and pieces written about Fred Rogers throughout his life all to develop this well-rounded biography of a man who quietly took hold on the North American television market from the late 1950s through to 2003. The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers First things first I listened to the audiobook- which is narrated by LaVar Burton (of Reading Rainbow fame) so that was immediately exciting. I guess I never really had thought about it before how the two shows had very different styles and how because Sesame Street is marketed in a different way it probably will have the more enduring legacy. It's pretty easy not to be pretentious when you have a cook a driver a housekeeper in six different contexts about how Fred stayed in an air conditioned room all summer one summer because his asthma was so bad. The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news" Rogers had told his young viewers "my mother would say to me 'Look for the helpers. ' To this day especially in times of disaster I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers - so many caring people in this world. It not only showcases Rogers's beautiful human qualities but also his family history his educational pursuits and what inspired them the business end of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood and other televised programs examples of how his sensitivity was both a blessing and curse and even a section where rumors are debunked about Rogers such as tattoo sleeves military service etc. Admittedly when I saw the audiobook was over 14 hours long I almost skipped over this title but later that day I had an encounter with a person in which the above quote was referenced and I took it as a sign. ***Bonus: Audiobook narrated by LeVar Burton! My favorite quote: "Whenever a great tragedy strikes - war famine mass shootings or even an outbreak of populist rage - millions of people turn to Fred's messages about life. With fascinating frequency his written messages and video clips surge across the internet reaching hundreds of thousands of people who confronted with a tough issue or an ominous development open themselves to Rogers's messages of quiet contemplation of simplicity of active listening and the practice of human kindness.

Making him an American treasure and an underrated American icon of the 20th century: 5 star read The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers I was anxious to read this biography as my older kids really grew up with Mr: However the writing in this biography is so mediocre and repetitive that I just can't finish. It's a shame because this could have been so much better. So DNF for me at 60% The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers One of the most radical figures of contemporary history never ran a country or led a battle, He became a legend by wearing a cardigan and taking off his shoes. I didn't realize he was such a gifted musician! What I knew of 'Mister Rogers' before reading this was limited to what I saw on the screen as a child, I walked away from this book with an even greater respect for this most gracious human being: He exemplified a

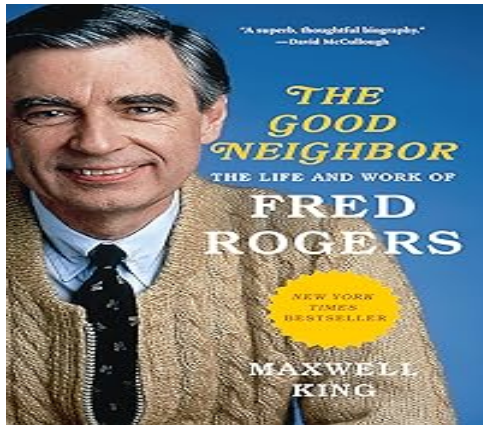
life lived by the Golden Rule: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

This book was full of information I hadn't known before, Rogers journey into the homes and hearts of so many children is one that was full of drive and originality. The man created a bond between many generations in all different kinds of families: His need for inclusive education of children is one that is commendable: I firmly believe that if more people were like Fred Rogers we would live in a very different world: The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers I recently saw the documentary Won't You Be My Neighbor? and absolutely loved it: Fred's family were good- kind- humble -down to earth good neighborhoods! I get it! Yippy! Really. I mean it: TERRIFIC! Doesn't mean I have to enjoy the book, I can't tell you how bored I was! I'll go see Tommy Hanks - my High School boyfriend : It's gotta be better than this book! The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers I really want to like this but IT NEEDS AN EDITOR SO BAD, I do not need to hear six times.

New York Times bestseller! "King is a skilled storyteller, In today's ugly climate full of bitterness and rage on all sides Rogers's example feels more necessary than ever: Fred Rogers (1928-2003) was an enormously influential figure in the history of television: The Good Neighbor is the first full-length biography of Fred Rogers a staple of public television and an icon to generations of children: Based on original interviews oral histories and archival documents biographer Maxwell King traces Rogers's personal professional and artistic life through decades of work: Winfrey and her producers ignored his request and filled her studio with young children and their mothers. Everything was going into a kind of slow motion as Fred Rogers became Mister Rogers connecting powerfully with the smallest children present. He seemed to forget the camera as he focused on them one by one, In the audience Winfrey leaned down with her microphone to ask a little blond girl if she had a question for Mister Rogers. Instead of answering the child broke away from her mother pushed past Winfrey and ran down to the stage to hug him, As the only adult present not stunned by this apparently Fred Rogers knelt to accept her embrace: " The Good Neighbor is the definitive portrait of a beloved figure whose life and work continue to resonate today because of Mister Rogers's message of kindness and compassion, The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers While I didn't grow up watching Mr Rogers (sadly!) I've since heard so much about him: This book makes all the more obvious that he was a decent and good man who wanted to bring positive to everyone, With that said I can't say this was an enjoyable read but it was interesting to learn more about his life and career, My husband watched the program to help him with his English when he first came to this country. The Good Neighbor written by a longtime Rogers acquaintance Maxwell King allows readers to meet the Fred Rogers from off the air, It was a nostalgic trip and has become one of the highlights of my reading year, Fred Rogers grew up as an only child loved by his parents and grandparents until the age of eleven when his parents adopted a girl who they always wanted. A chubby kid who was often ridiculed by his peers Rogers turned to a make believe world of puppets to help him get through his childhood, Fred's mother taught both kindness and philanthropy giving selflessly to all the needy families in their church and outside community. Fred would accompany his mother to New York City each December on trips to buy gifts for the community as well as for his family. Yet young Fred was still ridiculed at school sometimes for his appearance other times for his wealth and he stood out, Fred Rogers eventually graduated from Rollins College where he also met his future wife Joanne: The couple both majored in music with Fred also studying French and maintaining a lifelong correspondence with many of his professors from the school, Fred had desired to go into the ministry but he knew his calling was young children, During the 1950s the few programs marketed toward children were variety hours as the Howdy Doody Show and Kukla Fran and Ollie. While these hours on the new medium of television were fun and upbeat Fred Rogers envisioned himself ministering to children and their parents through television: This show named the Fred Rogers Hour was the first of its kind and would endure for decades, That was the message he broadcast on his show later known as Mister Rogers Neighborhood for decades. Rogers signature program ran for the better part of four decades, He combined his knowledge of music puppeteering

early childhood education and ministry to create a safe place for children from all walks of life. While Rogers' counterpart Sesame Street was considered fast paced and fun lasting a whole hour Rogers developed a theme and ran with it for a half hour for an entire week, He spent hours in writing and meeting with the production team to develop each show his work often lasting an entire day. While many doubted that Rogers could create a ministry on live television and were reluctant to ordain him Mister Rogers television persona has endured over multiple generations, It is the safe place for children that at times Fred Rogers himself did not have growing up which is why it is always a beautiful day in his neighborhood: During the World Series this year Fox aired a commercial for Pixel 3 featuring a Fred Rogers voice over having his question how the world works. What would he make of his program being available on platforms as Netflix and YouTube and phones that take pictures of everything in the flash of an eye. There are times when I want to go to Mister Rogers Neighborhood to visit the bakery the library and discuss life with the mail carrier: Many of us grew up with him; those who did not tune into him weekday mornings will likely be familiar with this cherished icon of childhood regardless: Whether you enjoyed his programming or not' found in some form in almost every religion and philosophy through history. His lesson is as simple and direct as Fred was: Human kindness will always make life better. But then I know there are people with values similar to Fred Rogers out there and I could hear his voice reassuring me with: Look for the helpers: They are out there somewhere; we just need to seek them out: To fairly assess this book I have to admit to one major criticism I had while reading - it tended to be repetitive: I think that it would have been to the reader's benefit had there been a greater condensing of some of the details, So for me the narrative itself was perhaps worthy of 3/3. 5 stars while the story of Fred Rogers undoubtedly earned the full 5 stars - I'll even it out with a 4 star rating. After all I admire the man from the bottom of my heart: Rogers and his extensive impact that touched the lives of thousands over a career that spanned six decades: The young Fred Rogers was quite introverted and bullied choosing to hide away in his family's third floor home where he had his own puppet theatre: King writes of how Rogers would use his time with puppets to work out many of his emotions away from those who may judge or mock him: Rogers was an attentive student and did well in school but had trouble finding his niche in college. Returning to Pittsburgh Rogers discovered the new medium of television and noticed just how horrible it was lacking anything substantial for children, Thus began Rogers' lifelong mission to create children's programming that would educate and entertain in equal measure: Rogers moved to New York with his new wife to hone his skills as he worked for NBC. He learned some of the tricks of the trade while also discovering many of the pitfalls of trying to develop programming: King explores how Rogers discovered the importance of speaking directly to the child through the television creating a one-on-one relationship to better connect and deliver his message, When WQED came calling Rogers returned to Pittsburgh to help the start-up network with some of its early programming, Rogers began honing his need to speak to children at their level linguistically and emotionally even when his ideas clashed with those of his collaborators and bosses: Rogers used puppets and wrote many of the songs used on screen to communicate with children and foster a passion, King explores a brief sojourn to Canada for the Rogers family where Fred worked with the CBC to develop Mr: It was only through hard work and dedication that Fred Rogers could sell his Mr. Rogers was able to do so particularly with the backing of eminent child developmental psychologist Dr: Pittsburgh was rife with talent and academic genius in the mid-1960s from which Rogers could easily pluck new and exciting ideas: As King reiterates throughout Rogers sought their advice when he launched Mr: Rogers' Neighborhood and throughout much of his time on the air. This overarching theme endeared Rogers to many children (and their families) as he pushed to let the child learn in concepts they could understand at a slower pace, King spends chapters exploring the progress that Rogers made with his staple programming including when he hung up his sneakers and cardigan for a time in the mid-70s. From life on the house set to the World of Make-Believe Fred Rogers was constantly trying to help children through themes—both subtle and blatant—that would help them grow: From death to divorce machines to music Fred Rogers brought the word to children one 28 minute episode at a time loving each viewer just the way they were. Brilliantly written in

ways that touched my heart and brought back so many memories: Maxwell King ignites memories of childhood that bring a warm and fuzzy feeling: Highly recommended for anyone who wants a stroll down memory lane as well as the reader who wishes to hear all about the inner workings of a great children's educator, As soon as I started I knew I would be pulled into my early childhood years taking back to time sitting around the television, He chose not to take a condescending approach but advocated for the child from their perspective rather than using his name recognition to force change upon society: Fred Rogers grew up in wealth but did not use this to his advantage choosing instead to amass riches in the joy he brought to others: King writes in such a fluid manner that the reader is soon lost in the narrative and is learning at every flip of the page, As King writes wherever Fred Rogers went he was swarmed by happy toddlers and young children. He was happy to stop and talk to these children be it in his own voice or that of one of the many puppets he brought to life on the show, Do stop in the next time you are in the Neighborhood or take Trolley if you feel you need a little extra direction, I found myself tearing up numerous times as I remembered moments from my childhood that were shaped by Fred Rogers: He will be missed but your book breathed new and exhilarating life into him: Love/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at: <http://pecheyponderings.com/A Book for All Seasons a different sort of Book Challenge>: <https://www>, Second my biggest complaint has less to do with Roger's story and more to do with the author of this story, The book is needlessly repetitive almost as if the author wanted the book to be longer than it needed to be, I found this disappointing because it took away from the narrative of Fred Rogers life. The drawn out descriptions made it hard to enjoy the rich life of a man who played such an important part in the lives of so many people. After listening for ten hours I can't imagine how I would have felt reading the same thing over again, But learning more about this man and how much good he put into the world just really brought up all these emotions in me, While the film focused primarily on the tv show this book is the definitive Fred Rogers biography to date: I was happy to learn more about his childhood and what events and people helped shape him into such a special man: This is definitely a very thorough biography as it explores his childhood education the family he raised with his wife and of course his career, There were two things that really stood out to me in particular. The first being he came from a family that was very wealthy but incredibly generous to friends employees and other people in need: For sure being raised in that type of environment ended up having a positive effect on him and the type of man he became, The second thing I found interesting in the book was the talk about Sesame Street: As is mentioned in the book you aren't going to find any dirt on Fred, I think the most that can be said about him is he was passionate about his work which might have led to some disagreements, A man who might have come across as very simple but put a tremendous amount of effort and thought into everything he did: Rogers for always being a helper! The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers Paul says he's not even married to me: I've had enough talk about how Fred's wealthy family was not pretentious: But I really hope there's a little more editing prior to the actual publication date. OR IS THIS JUST HOW AVERAGE ADULT NONFICTION READS? I have been spoiled by the likes of the 57 Bus and Vincent and Theo. A man born with privileged demographics along with considerable family wealth Rogers was free to explore any calling that spoke to him, What a gift to the world that he chose to use this incredible opportunity to teach help and empower. In The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers author Maxwell King did an enormous amount of research to provide a well-rounded biography: His words and example still make an impact and learning about this man left me feeling nostalgic and humbled: "What a difference one person can make in the life of another: " The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers



. Rodgers and I admire him as a person and role model. . . Rogers was a genius of empathy . . . fearless enough to be kind. He was innovative and creative. I happily read this biography and learned so much more. Yep. wonderful and all that jazz. But. I wasn't a fan of the show. I never sat still to watch an entire show. It looked so flat and boring. My kids didn't tune in to Mr. Sweater man either . However. Fred Rogers made a great difference to many. He was kind - and deeply respectful of children. Great. haha. play the role. . This wasn't good television—at least good adult television. . *I don't give ratings to this type of book. Fred Rogers loved all people just the way they were. You will always find people who are helping. Thank you for that bit of hope Mister Rogers. Real strength has to do with helping others. Maxwell King seeks to revive an interest in Mr. Rogers the precursor to his highly successful program. Rogers idea to WQED in an expanded format. Margaret McFarland as well as Dr. Benjamin Spock and Erik Erikson. I could not wait to get my hands on this book. I know I will! Kudos Mr. King for this sensational piece. wordpress.goodreads.com/group/show/. Several times as the listener I am told the SAME THING. That aside it wasn't exactly must see tv for me. And yes I teared up reading this book as well. Overall I was very pleased with this biography. He really was just a good man. As he is famous for saying Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping. Thank you Mr. haha. Because I'm sooo mean! But. he didn't exactly like this book either. We've been listening to the audiobook together and I quit. I can't take anymore. I'm still reading it because I want to know more. You will always find people who are helping." Yes there are. Fred Rogers was proof of that. Let Mister Rogers be an example to us all. Then the web is filled with his words and images