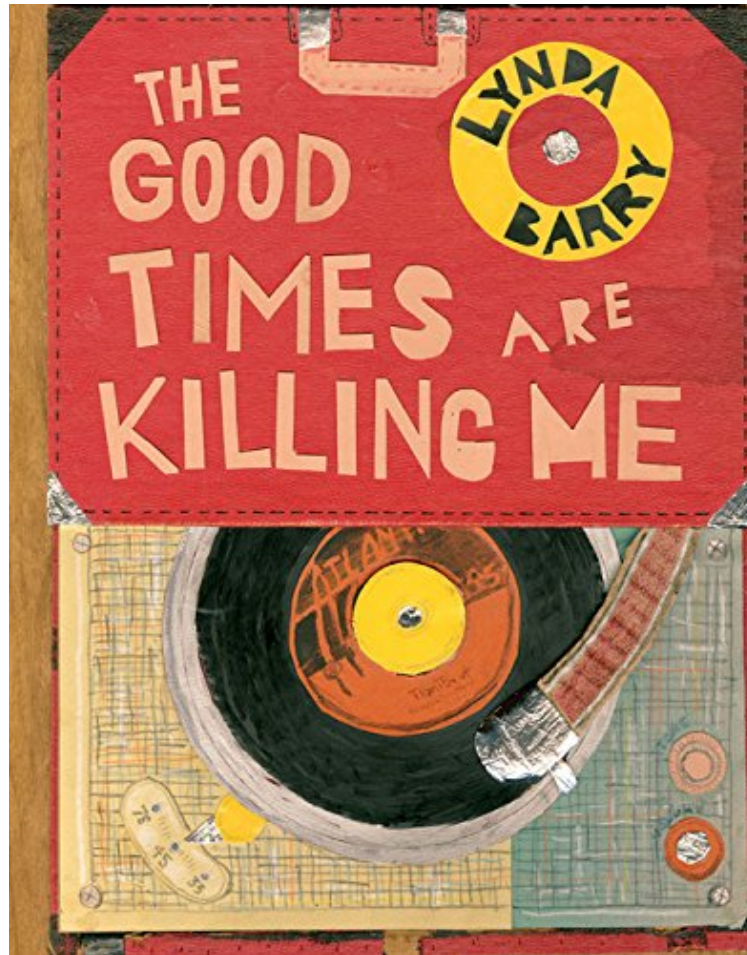


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The Good Times Are Killing Me

Lynda Barry

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Lynda Barry : The Good Times Are Killing Me before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Good Times Are Killing Me:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not only do I love Lynda Barry's ability to perfectly express what it felt ...By Nikol HaslerNot only do I love Lynda Barry's ability to perfectly express what it felt like to be a child, this book was personally very moving for me. The narrator's feelings about music, singing, and her observations of the world around her spoke directly to me.I believe this book should be a part of English curriculum in junior high schools.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lynda Barry is amazingBy J. SarreI love Lynda Barry and this book was as awesome as everything else I've ever read of hers. Loved it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a gem of childhoodBy RavenIt won't take you long to finish this book of vignettes that weave together into a complete story. Yet, it is a book of incredible wisdom and courage, seen through the eyes of a young girl who lives in a neighborhood that is settling in after "white flight." Through the narrator's perspective, Lynda Barry palpably

demonstrates the impact of racial integration and tension via the friendship between a young white girl and young black girl. Is such a friendship possible, when you have a "no Negroes allowed inside" rule at your house? Or when you visit the projects with your friend, and a boy calls her "Unca Tom" merely for being with a white girl? And what happens when girls grow up and graduate out of grade school? Lynda Barry has the voice of the young girl down perfectly, expressing the things that young girls think and worry about, including the angst and dreams of fitting in and belonging. Bittersweet and compelling, I highly recommend this simple coming-of-age tale.

Lynda Barry's classic heartbreaking and heartwarming coming of age novella back in print Young Edna Arkins lives in a neighborhood that is rapidly changing, thanks to white flight from urban Seattle in the late 1960s. As the world changes around her, Edna is exposed to the callous racism of adults—sometimes subtle and other times blatant, but always stinging. By weaving the importance of music in adolescence with the forbidden friendship between Edna, who is white, and Bonna Willis, who is Black, Lynda Barry captures the earnest, awkward, yet always honest adolescent voice as perfectly in prose as she does in comics.

.com Readers of alternative weeklies will be familiar with Lynda Barry's work from her long-running comic strip, Ernie Pook's Comeek. Similarly, *The Good Times Are Killing Me* focuses on the surprisingly complex emotional world of children. It is the story of a neighborhood going through the throes of integration and white flight as seen through the eyes of young Edna Arkins. Edna forms an unlikely friendship with Bonna Willis, a girl with a talent for "ass beating." Edna is white and Bonna is black, and from the start there are pressures from both sides against their friendship. As always, Barry is an impeccable observer of the way kids think and talk—several passages are certain to bring memories of intense schoolyard negotiations rushing back. Barry's artwork comes into play as well—each chapter is punctuated with slightly more painterly versions of her characteristically raw drawing style. By turns funny and moving, *The Good Times Are Killing Me* is an immensely satisfying read. --Ali Davis
From Publishers Weekly
Edna Arkins, the young white narrator of this first novel, describes her coming of age in a racially mixed neighborhood and her friendship with Bonna Willis, a black girl. Their camaraderie is against "the rules" imposed by others but survives anyway. The novel, written as a series of vignettes, evokes memories of adolescence that many will probably share: the loneliness, the dares, the music lessons, the threats. The reader also catches a glimpse of Edna's family with all their idiosyncrasies. Her cousin Steve, for example, always repeats a particular menacing phrase every time he is alone with her and, as Edna says, "probably always will . . . even when we are both as old and shriveled up as two ancient pieces of gum stuck under a chair." Barry conveys the anguish and confusion of youth discovering that society is riddled with prejudice, and her light touch is balanced by respect for her characters and their problems. The book also includes 18 richly colored illustrations by the author, a syndicated cartoonist. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. Barry conveys the anguish and confusion of youth discovering that society is riddled with prejudice, and her light touch is balanced by respect for her characters and their problems. Publishers Weekly