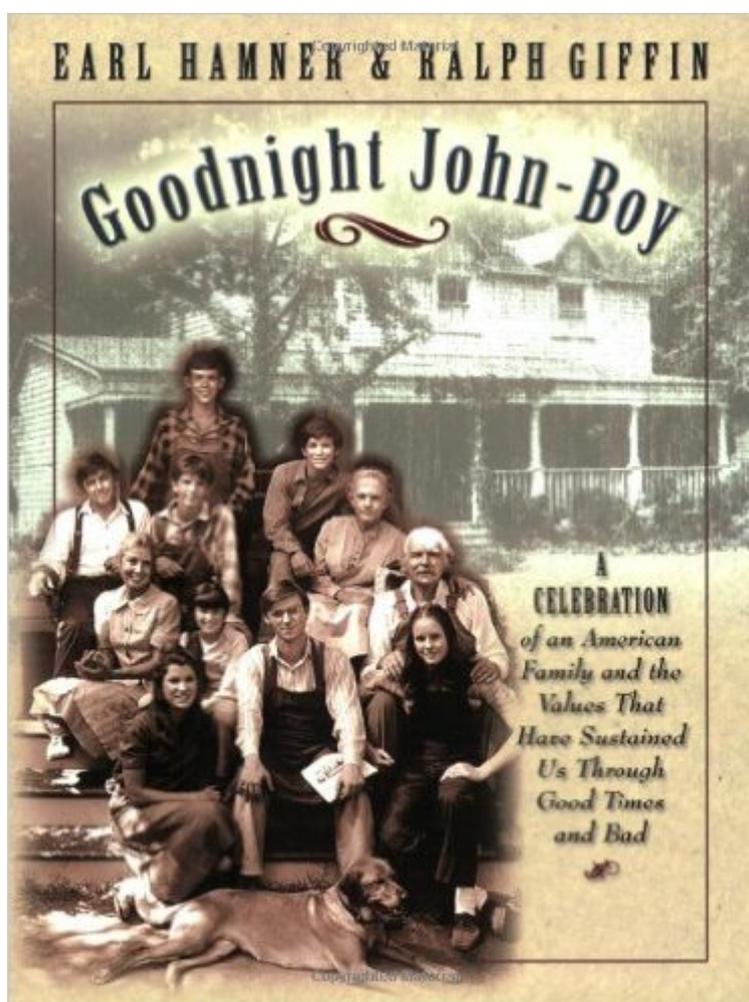


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# Goodnight John-Boy



## Synopsis

For eight wonderful years *The Waltons*, the story of a family living in the foothills of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains during the Depression, entertained America and the world. Yet this television show was more than entertaining. Each episode combined wonderful stories and "teachable moments" in which adults and children alike learned the importance of honesty, hard work, respect, responsibility, self-sacrifice, and kindness. As is true in most families, the Waltons faced many challenges, occasionally stumbled along the way, but they struggled to live their lives within the framework of the values they believed and taught. *Goodnight, John-Boy* is a memory book of *The Waltons*, the number-one television show of its time. Filled with behind-the-scenes anecdotes and profiles of people who appeared on the show, it introduces readers to the Hamner family members who later became characters on *The Waltons*, suggests events and locales that inspired many of the episodes, and traces Earl Hamner's life as a writer from Virginia to New York to Hollywood. Included is a description of each episode plus reminiscence, comments, and personal feelings from numerous people connected with the series-writers, actors, directors, producers, family, and fans. Heavily illustrated with publicity shots and personal photographs taken by cast, crew, and others, *Goodnight John-Boy* will be a welcomed book by millions of loyal fans. When *The Waltons* first aired in 1972, it was at the bottom of the Nielson ratings-by December it led the list. That dramatic leap came about because fans told their friends about it and wrote the CBS network to praise the show and to plead that the show not be canceled. Thirty years later, *Goodnight, John-Boy* is sure to touch the hearts of the show's fans again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a fan of "The Waltons" since I was 11 when the show premiered in 1972, this book is a must have for ALL fans!! It is truly insightful with many wonderful photographs. The best part of the book of course are the season by season synopses of the episodes but some of them are inaccurate. For example in the synopsis for "The Thanksgiving Story" there is a subplot with Jason helping the Baldwin Sisters making 'The Recipe'. The sisters decide they want to adopt Jason. However, in the brief synopsis given in the book it is mentioned that BEN is the ONE they want to adopt. Any TRUE BONA FIDE WALTON FAN knows this is wrong. It is Jason whom the Baldwin Ladies had affinity for. The research for the synopses could have been better as they are brief but I appreciate the commentaries that have been included with some of them. There could also have been more interviews with the cast. I have read and re-read the book many times and have no interview to find with David Harper who played Jim-Bob. Everyone else was included, why wasn't he? Maybe he just didn't make himself available. Another piece of information that should have been addressed but was not was the fact that Richard Thomas was NOT the ONLY John Boy. During the last 2 seasons the show recast the role with actor Robert Wightman in the part. Of course, Richard Thomas was the definitive John Boy and the show wasn't the same after the fifth season, when he left. Why they recast the role will forever remain a mystery. This, by no means, is a reflection on Robert Wightman who brought his own sensitivity and depth to the role....but it WAS a role that COULD not and SHOULD NOT have been recast. It would have been interesting to read Hamner's explanation as to why this was done to give Wightman some credit.

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