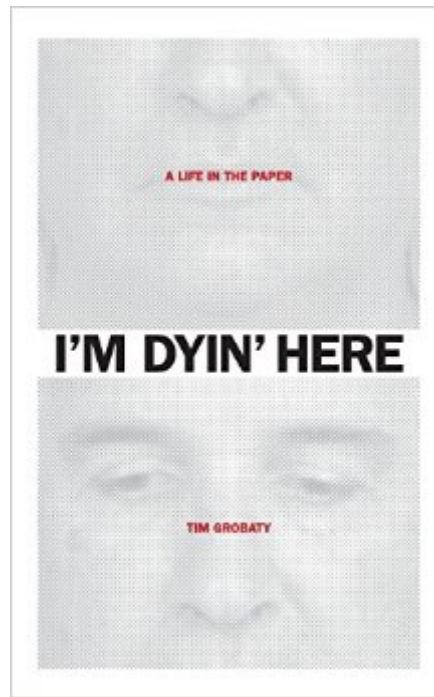


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I'm Dyin' Here: A Life In The Paper



Synopsis

Long Beach Press-Telegram writer Tim Grobaty was promoted to columnist at his newspaper back when it was still a glamorous and coveted job. In *I'm Dyin' Here*, the author means two things: He'll likely die at the job that he's spent nearly four decades doing, and at the same time his profession, too, is seeing its last days. Weaving together personal history and a selection of columns written over the course of his storied career, Grobaty offers readers a rare glimpse into the inner workings of a dying breed: the local columnist. With everyday life — fatherhood, holidays, suburbia, and random encounters with animals — serving as fodder for his column, Grobaty reveals his sources of motivation and vulnerability, all the while struggling to maintain relevance in a rapidly changing industry.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (15 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I'm Dyin' Here kills me. You'd have to be dead not to laugh. A lot. And you're made of stone if it doesn't draw a tear and make you pull your loved ones a little closer. Because hilarity aside, it gently breaks your heart. Threaded between wry reminiscences sardonic and sublime, is a tale not so much about life in newspapers, as it is about life itself. And that's what is so surprisingly inviting (and so profoundly moving) about *I'm Dyin' Here*. For Tim Grobaty, becoming a columnist, it turns out, was the key to unlocking, understanding and ultimately accepting a childhood indelibly colored by the sudden, shocking death of his mother and the resulting emotional retreat of his father. Happily, he uses all the skill at his command to affirm everything that is good about being alive. I'm

Dyin' Here is as brave as it is funny. And, yes, there's a talking dog.

OMG I loved this book! Being a reader of Grobaty's for what seems like a few decades now, he is my Will Rogers or Mark Twain. Geeze is this guy good. He uses the first person plural "we" as if I am sitting in his "barn" with him drinking an ice cold pitcher of martinis. Let's face it, the newspaper biz is dying but Grobaty won't have anything of it. Turn out the lights and shut the door, just don't tell Tim. He will be knee deep in Storyville chewing the fat with some other redneck that wants to kick his ass.

We are regular fans of Tim Grobaty's column in the Long Beach Press Telegram because of his hilariously wry wit and story telling ability. Now he has a book and we find it just as enjoyable, laughable and readable as his columns.

Tim Grobaty's "I'm Dyin' Here: A Life in the Paper" is a raucously funny, touching and provocative memoir. Grobaty came to the Long Beach Press-Telegram in 1976; over the years, he morphed from copyboy to columnist, staying put in Long Beach. The book chronicles his journalism career from its dawn to the twilight of the newspaper. A longtime reader, I can truthfully say I have never read a Grobaty column without snorting with laughter. The book is just as funny. But it also showcases another side of the writer -- his own story is shadowed by the aftermath of his mother's early death. How he weaves in that tragedy demonstrates the funny man's depth. As Shaw said: "Life does not cease to be funny when people die any more than it ceases to be serious when people laugh."

As a daily reader and fan of newspapers, I was intrigued by Mr. Grobaty's chronicle of the decline of the newspaper business as seen through his experiences during forty years at one newspaper. His many columns included throughout the book had me cracking up. He is truly a humorist! Consider this book if you love newspapers or Long Beach, or if you just want some laughs from real newspaper columnist.

A fabulous book. Interesting, nostalgic, moving and often hilarious. While reading at night with my husband asleep beside me, I had to stuff my pillowcase in my mouth to keep from waking him up with my laughter.

One wanders through the passages of Grobaty's book like an accidental tourist in the town you thought you already knew. Often, discovering things a self-preservationist type wouldn't even think to investigate without a cop across the street by your side. Luckily for him, and by extension his loyal readers, the result of these misguided adventures is little more than a bruised ego and another hilarious story for his fans.

Read this book!! It will make you laugh; it will tear you up; it will make you think, and it will cause you to consider your existence. Grobaty's book, by itself, illustrates why we can't lose print journalism. His slices of life lead you to ponder and appreciate the whole pie.

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