



Calvin Trillin

Calvin Trillin has been acclaimed in fields of writing that are remarkably diverse. As someone who has published solidly reported pieces in *The New Yorker* for more than thirty years, he has been called "perhaps the finest reporter in America." His antic commentary on the American scene and his books chronicling his adventures as a "happy eater" have earned him renown as "a classic American humorist." His best-selling *Remembering Denny*, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in 1993, was hailed as "an elegiac, disturbing and altogether brilliant memoir."

In 1963 he became a staff writer for *The New Yorker*. From 1967 to 1982, he produced a highly praised series of articles for *The New Yorker* called U.S. Journal -- 3,000-word pieces every three weeks from somewhere in the United States, on subjects that ranged from the murder of a farmer's wife in Iowa to the author's effort to write the definitive history of a Louisiana restaurant called Didee's "or to eat an awful lot of baked duck and dirty rice trying." Some of the murder stories from that series were published in 1984 as *Killings*, a book that was described by William Geist in the *New York Times Book Review* as "that rarity, reportage as art."

From 1978 through 1985, Trillin was a columnist for *The Nation*, writing what *USA Today* called "simply the funniest regular column in journalism." From 1986 through 1995, the column was syndicated to newspapers by King Features. These columns were collected in five books: *Uncivil Liberties* (1982), *With All Disrespect* (1985), *If You Can't Say Something Nice* (1988), *Enough's Enough* (1990), and *Too Soon To Tell* (1995). In February, 1996, Trillin returned to the pages of *Time* as a columnist

Trillin's work has included two comic novels and a collection of short stories and a travel book and an account of the desegregation of the University of Georgia. His three antic books on eating -- *American Fried*, *Alice*, *Let's Eat*, and *Third Helpings* -- were compiled in 1994 into a single volume called *The Tummy Trilogy*. *Messages From My Father* was published in hardcover by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in June of 1996 and became a *New York Times* national bestseller. A year later, The Noonday Press, a division of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, published it in paperback.

Speech Topics

- Arts / Music / Drama
- Humor
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