



# **Sit, Ubu, Sit: How I went from Brooklyn to Hollywood with the Same Woman, the Same Dog, and a Lot Less Hair**

*Gary David Goldberg*

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A sports-crazed kid from Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, Gary David Goldberg never imagined he'd end up in Hollywood, let alone make it big there. But as a twenty-five-year-old waiter in Greenwich Village he met Diana, the love of his life; followed her out to Northern California; then moved in and never moved out. He also, without realizing it, put himself on track to found UBU Productions (named after his beloved Labrador retriever) and become a successful creator of such family sitcoms as *Family Ties*, *Brooklyn Bridge*, and *Spin City*.\*

In *Sit, Ubu, Sit*, award-winning writer/producer Goldberg tells the mostly upbeat, sometimes difficult, and frequently hilarious tale of his improbable career and the people who have filled it. A love story and a rare behind-the-scenes look at the entertainment industry, *Sit, Ubu, Sit* proves that it is possible to be creative and successful while holding on to your integrity, your family, and your sense of humor. \*with Bill Lawrence

## Sit, Ubu, Sit: How I went from Brooklyn to Hollywood with the Same Woman, the Same Dog, and a Lot Less Hair Details

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## **From Reader Review Sit, Ubu, Sit: How I went from Brooklyn to Hollywood with the Same Woman, the Same Dog, and a Lot Less Hair for online ebook**

### **David says**

Saw this only familiar tag-line staring back at me on a visit to the library and knew right away I had to give it a read. These were the parting words on every TV show I watched growing up it seemed.

Goldberg supplies a great behind-the-scenes account of his life landing almost by accident in Hollywood.

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### **Deb says**

It started out funnier than it ended up. It was interesting because I know very little about how Hollywood works. (nor do I really care.)

Now I know where the closer "Sit, Ubu" Sit" comes from. Is my life better for it?

I'm glad I read it as a library book and didn't spend \$\$.

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### **Sam says**

I generally liked this book. I liked hearing more about Goldberg's adventures with his wife and family then with his TV show career, mainly because I never watched those shows (I wasn't born yet) and also because, besides Michael J. Fox and Steven Spielberg a lot of the name dropping and episode discussing in the book was lost to me. Besides that, Goldberg is mainly funny and is a great writer. The title of the book grabbed me and made me want to read it. Gary's happy-go-lucky lifestyle and loyalty to his loved ones makes him instantly likable to any reader. This was a very easy read and worth reading out to the end. The last sentence of the book was a great close.

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### **Patricia says**

I think the Oregonian recommended this to me. It sounded good at the time so into the to-read Goodreads que it went. It didn't look quite as interesting when it came up in the Goodreads que, however. But I'm mostly committed to at least sampling the books I put in that que so I ordered it from the Library. I'm glad I did.

The title pretty much says it all. Reading this book, you get vignettes from different periods of the author's life: wanderinghippy, young father, daycare owner, TV writer, TV producer. I grew up hearing "Sit Ubu, sit." at the very end of Family Ties and other shows in the 80s and 90s. I did wonder who Ubu was, off and on, and now I know. In addition, Goldberg has some good stories too.

The back-and-forth vignette can be a bit confusing at times, and I agree with the statement Goldberg makes

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at the end of the book. Something to the effect of "memoir writers tend to cast themselves as better than they are" he hopes he hasn't done so, but guesses he has. An interesting companion to this book would be if his daughters wrote a book about their childhoods. One, the flower child and the other a successful producer's daughter. The contrasts must be amazing.

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### Rebecca says

4.0 stars. Adult nonfiction. Very humorous memoir of Gary David Goldberg the creator of Family Ties, Brooklyn Bridge, and Spin City. And, of course, his beautiful black lab, Ubu. But Ubu is not the main thrust or even a secondary thrust. Goldberg starts out with his life in the year 1985 then moves back to 1972. His story moves back and forth through 20 years. The movement was not jarring or distracting for me. Goldberg has a marvelous tightly-edited style and though there is some poignant and serious moments, for the most part, it's a marvelous breezy read. It is not "dishy" or gossipy. Goldberg comes across as a pretty decent, kindhearted guy. Fairly self-effacing too. His last paragraph (in Acknowledgments) reads "Finally, I've always felt that people who write memoirs make themselves out to be better than they actually were in real life. I'm confident I have not violated that tradition." Even if you didn't like the shows, or never watched them, it's still an interesting look at show business. (And presents the business as more normal and less ruthless and dramatic as I've imagined.)

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### Jen says

I was looking forward to this book, especially after the interviews I saw with Goldberg. But reading the book was like being the guest of your spouse or a good friend at a high school reunion party. You are there, you know no one, the names you don't recognize and you listen politely as everyone revels in inside jokes and stories from the past.

I didn't even finish this book. After I read about how Goldberg and his wife got together and the story behind the Ubu photograph (the tale of their times hitchhiking in Europe was fun to read), I was ready to put this down. There was too much name dropping and shop talk about the TV industry to hold my interest.

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### Paula says

Enjoyably read. Lost a bit of interest when Ubu went to live in the Ozarks, but enjoyed reading about Michael J Fox and many of the TV programs I watched as a young mom.

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### Laura says

Sit, Ubu, Sit! Every time I hear this, I'm transported to watching tv as a child. I enjoyed the memoir, mostly because Goldberg seems to be a pretty reasonable guy. I also really liked *Family Ties* and enjoyed hearing about Goldberg's role in the show's creation and finding out about his relationship with Michael J. Fox. Another point I found interesting was the differing perspectives of Goldberg's daughters. One was raised on food stamps and available but struggling parents; the other with the best money can buy. It reminded me of some of the differences that my sister and I probably see between our childhoods.

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## Susan says

After living in LA and working around "the Industry", this looked like an appealing book. Once I started reading it, I found myself wanting to be this man. I wanted a hit show, I wanted Michael J. Fox to call me and cry. Sigh...

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## ThomasAD says

Self serving

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## Dan says

I read this book on a whim, because it looked like it might be an interesting story.

I especially enjoyed the formatting of the book - short, punchy tales that jumped around in chronology. There were some great life lessons to be gleaned from Gary's roundabout path into show business - he certainly stumbled before he found his way, and the love story between him and his wife is compelling if also a bit short in the telling.

Gary's humorous tone was nice, but it sometimes felt a bit too self-indulgent, especially when he talked about some of the politics that went into creating his very popular television shows. I enjoyed learning more about his relationship with Michael J. Fox, and how it became strained on Sin City. It was powerful to read about his wife's struggles with illness, and nice to hear of their charity work. But still, a bit too self-indulgent. There was one story when he took a stand against people trying to limit how much he spent on food for the crew. They said no more bagels and he ordered more bagels. What hilarity! What a way to stick it to the man! Fell totally flat for me.

But I did end up reading the whole book. And I feel the way this man wrote was good, even though the content got a bit messy. Definitely a good book to read in spurts, since the chapters are so short.

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## Rosy says

This was a happy birthday surprise: a quick, amusing, and enjoyable read. Another good title would be "Good Guys in Hollywood," since it is the memoir of a nice man who enjoys "kind, sweet" people and manages to find several of them where we've grown to expect subethical selfishness only.

I don't mean to poke fun. The book is emotional--you should be prepared for that--but in a refreshingly positive way. Goldberg is also funny, which really helps. He's a generous, sensitive man who has had good fortune as a writer/producer and is able to share a part of his joy in this book.

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## **Evan Carr says**

This book is a great memoir about moving from "rags to riches", about taking risks and being rewarded for them, and about balancing family life and a successful television writing and production career. There are also quite a few interesting bits of trivia, and I see a lot of myself in both Gary David Goldberg and Dr. Diana Meehan. Well worth the read!

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## **Sharon says**

'Sit Ubu Sit' is a sweet, funny and often touching book by a man who isn't afraid to express his love and admiration for his wife, family, friends and pet dog. I found this very refreshing and I wish more celebrity autobiographies could be this enjoyable. It was also lots of fun getting the inside scoop on "Family Ties," one of my favorite TV shows. The only thing I don't like is that the chapters aren't in chronological order. One chapter you're in the '60s, then you're in the '80s, then you're in the '70s and then you're back to the '80s. I got a little confused trying to keep the events in order. Maybe Goldberg thought he would lose his audience if he didn't mention Michael J. Fox at regular intervals. He didn't need to worry. Check it out! You'll laugh, cry and hug your own "Ubu."

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## **Erin says**

This book was written so well and really made me envious of the relationship that Gary David has with his wife, and even Michael J. Fox. I'm now inspired to rent Family Ties and Spin City, now that I know all the blood sweat and tears that went into making each one! I highly recommend this book for anyone that loves TV.

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