

From: **The Writer's Almanac** newsletter@americanpublicmedia.org  
Subject: The Writer's Almanac for June 15, 2014  
Date: June 14, 2014, 11:49 PM  
To: John P. Frey john@freyplockroot.com

SUNDAY  
**Jun. 15,**  
**2014**

# The Writer's Almanac

with GARRISON KEILLOR

## LISTEN

### Solitude

by [Ella Wheeler Wilcox](#)

Laugh, and the world laughs with you;  
Weep, and you weep alone.  
For the sad old earth must borrow it's mirth,  
But has trouble enough of its own.  
Sing, and the hills will answer;  
Sigh, it is lost on the air.  
The echoes bound to a joyful sound,  
But shrink from voicing care.

Rejoice, and men will seek you;  
Grieve, and they turn and go.  
They want full measure of all your pleasure,  
But they do not need your woe.  
Be glad, and your friends are many;  
Be sad, and you lose them all.  
There are none to decline your nectared wine,  
But alone you must drink life's gall.

Feast, and your halls are crowded;  
Fast, and the world goes by.  
Succeed and give, and it helps you live,  
But no man can help you die.  
There is room in the halls of pleasure  
For a long and lordly train,  
But one by one we must all file on  
Through the narrow aisles of pain.

"Solitude" by Ella Wheeler Wilcox. Public Domain. ([buy now](#))

**It's the birthday** of advertising exec-turned-writer [Ilene Beckerman](#) ([books by this author](#)), born in Manhattan (1935). She didn't begin her writing career until the age of 60, and even then, she became a published author almost by accident. She had written

SPONSOR



POETRY

GET POETRY

CLICK FOR SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

**English Majors**  
with Garrison Keillor



[Order your copy today.](#)

*listen to the*  
**PROGRAM**

[On the Radio](#) • [Podcast](#) • [Web Archive](#)

*browse*  
**POEMS** by

**Title** • **Author** • **Date**

*visit the*