



Chicken Every Sunday: My Life with Mother's Borders

Rosemary Taylor , Donald Mackay (Illustrator)

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Chicken Every Sunday: My Life with Mother's Boarders

Rosemary Taylor , Donald Mackay (Illustrator)

Chicken Every Sunday: My Life with Mother's Boarders Rosemary Taylor , Donald Mackay (Illustrator)

One of the boarders who ate Mother's chicken every Sunday summed it up when he said, "I was told that in your house I'd have good food and some fun." They all had fun, and they all became part of the family -- Jeffrey, who lost his front teeth and won his independence, Rita Vlasak, who loved anything in pants, including Father, Miss Sally, who loved Miss Sally and cold cream, the Lathams, who bought a mine, and even the hell-bent-for-heaven Woolleys, who were sure God had sent the skunk to hide under the house because the family didn't go to church on Sunday. If you have room for some fun and old-fashioned enjoyment, Mother's sure to have room for you.

Chicken Every Sunday: My Life with Mother's Boarders Details

Date : Published 1943 by McGraw-Hill

ISBN :

Author : Rosemary Taylor , Donald Mackay (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 307 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Autobiography, Memoir, Humor, Biography, Biography Memoir

 [Download Chicken Every Sunday: My Life with Mother's Boarde ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Chicken Every Sunday: My Life with Mother's Boar ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Chicken Every Sunday: My Life with Mother's Boarders Rosemary Taylor , Donald Mackay (Illustrator)

From Reader Review Chicken Every Sunday: My Life with Mother's Boarders for online ebook

Deb says

After reading "When Books Went to War" I decided to read/reread the four books that were most popular with the GIs. This is one I'd never read. It was fun, it was clean - yet not without double entendres and minor risqué elements. The descriptions of food (including Mexican food!) and the mother's managing ways probably reminded the soldiers of their own mothers. The details about the early development of Tucson were interesting, too. I'd compare this to "Cheaper By the Dozen" or "Mama's Bank Account." It's too bad this isn't widely available - had to get it from an academic library.

Roberta says

This was different from what I expected after reading the first few lines. I thought it would be funnier. I was enthralled that a book published in 1943 would start out talking so frankly about pre-marital sex. It was the story of all the boarders Rosemary's mother took in over the years and all the business "mis"adventures her father had.

Daphne Chennault says

This is a peach of a book, and is an excellent bit of Americana as well. It is one of my favorite nonfiction books.

The author's parents were settlers in Arizona in the early 1900s. Her father was a wheeler-dealer who was fond of speculating with his money. So, to provide for her family, the mother began taking in boarders. From that point on, the fun began. From Jeffrey the poet who had teeth like Bugs Bunny, to tramps who marked the house with a hobo marker which read, "Good cook lives here!"

This is not high literature, just a charming recounting of a colorful life by a girl who experienced a broad swath of individuals from all walks of life. This is a wonderful book which deserves much more than to be forgotten.

Lbaker says

A book I have picked up and read more than once, first when I was a child and more than once as an adult. The boarders in this book are a great variety and are looked at from the child's point of view. It is interesting reading about the mother, she is a superhero. The straightforward manner in which the mother looks after her family, fighting against all adversity, especially her spouse is inspirational.

Karen says

I found this book delightful. It reminded me of all that I loved about Cheaper by the Dozen...it's quick and witty character development and turn of the century narrative style had me from page 1. I can't say that I wish I had her life, but I will admit to wishing mine were as colorful! (And okay, I suppose I do wish I were a little more like Rosemary's mother...what a lady!)

Susan says

My husband and I lived in the Chicken Every Sunday house for three years while we were newlywed grad students at U of A in the early 1980s. The house was no longer in the author's family by then. It was owned by a business woman who had her office on one side of the building while the other half had been divided into two separate apartments. There were two other small outbuildings on the property which were rented out as well. It was fun reading the book all these years after having lived there and I could easily picture many of the scenes from the book in my mind.

This memoir is well written overall and entertaining to read. It is definitely a period-piece though, and as other reviewers have mentioned it contains a number of unfortunate and jarring racial and sexist stereotypes that were representative of the prevailing attitudes of the time in which it was written. Parts of the book were hard to stomach because of this while other parts were very enjoyable and lightly humorous. I recommend this book for its gentle humor and anecdotal tales of growing up in Tucson in the early 20th century, but do be forewarned about the racism and sexism. Some of the language and stories that were meant to be entertaining and funny were actually pretty cringe-worthy.

Bonnye Reed says

XX I looked for this book after reading a review by Pamela. Thank you, Pam! Published in 1943, I was very lucky to locate a copy, order and receive it, and find time to read it before my trip to see my son Mac and his family in Tucson. And it is a wonderful, special look at Tucson in the late '30's, early '40's. The things that made Tucson special then, still exist today. This is a very touching memoir, and one I am grateful to have absorbed. It is good to take a realistic look at yesterday occasionally, so you can better appreciate today. And I haven't laughed so hard in a long time. If you love Tucson, AZ you need to read this book. It has not been reprinted, but if you run across a copy, get it - it is a special trip into the tiny, insular village that became the 27th largest county in America. Metro Tucson is the 32nd largest city in the US. On the way in on Interstate 10 West, there were industrial parks 40 miles outside the city, where there was only high plains desert on my last trip in 2006. Fortunately the places I love are still the same - and very much appreciated after reading Chicken Every Sunday.

Mary Jo says

A wonderful, charming book that delighted me to the last page. This book was made into a movie. We happened to buy the DVD before I ever bought the book (but have yet to watch it). I look forward in anticipation to see how Hollywood transformed the written word to the "Silver Screen".

Dee Anne says

I really enjoyed this book. It is full of wonderful character sketches. I find it interesting that the characters of some of the boarders are better developed than those of the children. Mother of course is my favorite. She made me start thinking of all the ways to earn a little extra money. I think my favorite chapter was the one that talked about the secret to successful boarding. I think it is so true of anyone. I think we all know of homes we are welcome in and those we are not. I could have enjoyed a few more stories.

Linda says

A witty autobiography/memoir written in 1945 by a woman who grew up in her mother's rooming house in Tucson Arizona during the days when the 'desert cure' was prescribed by illnesses right and left. The family itself is zany and quirky, the boarders add another element of wackiness that make this family's life seem like one big circus and picnic.

The children can't imagine life without boarders while the hard-working mother is always hoping that someday her ne'er do well husband will finally pull his weight in the family.

This is the kind of book you can find at the library book sale in the humor section: believe me, it's worth every penny of the 50 cents you pay for it.

Elizabeth R says

Fun little historical memoir, pleasant in an antiquated way. It's a fun and funny window into life in "old Tucson", in the days when the West was being settled and everyone from the rest of the country was running off to sunny Arizona for weather cures. Sweet and light.

Ann says

I found this book because it was identified as a favorite with the US troops during WWII, in "When books went to war". It's an affectionate memoir of a family living in Tucson in the early 20th century. Father is an inveterate dealmaker, always off on his next business venture/get rich quick scheme. Mother, always remembering her hardscrabble early years as the daughter of plantation owners ruined by the Civil War, makes her own money by taking in boarders and catering Mexican-style food for various charity dos. Their three children, including the author, contribute to the various family enterprises with varying degrees of enthusiasm and skill.

The tone of the book is lighthearted, affectionate. The contrast between the big-dreamer father and the penny-pinching mother is always funny, never bitter. The various boarders and their peculiarities are described with amused affection. Some of them were schoolmarms, some were connected with the mining business, and some were Easterners sent to Arizona for the healthy climate. The author's family took them in and made them part of the family for a couple of weeks or months, in a strange mixture of hospitality and commercial acumen. There are some really funny episodes, such as the time when Mother and the maid suspect that one of their boarders might be a German spy, or when a retired Easterner decides to go on a

mine-prospecting trip with Father.

I found it amazing to realize that in the early 20th century, Tucson was still a brand-new city, and that many people had personal memories of the Civil War. People were still trying to get gold out of abandoned mines, and the days of Earp were not so far in the past. So although there is a lot of hustle and bustle in the book, there are moments where the sense of connection with the past is marked.

The main problem with the book, inevitably, is the language pertaining to Native Americans, African-Americans and Mexicans, which is offensive to modern readers. It's cringe-inducing to hear Mother speak of her childhood back in Virginia and her black Mammy. So in that sense the book is both dated and informative.

Heather says

I heard about this book on NPR. Apparently, it was a particular favorite of WWII soldiers serving overseas because it had wonderful descriptions of home cooking when the soldiers had nothing but icky rations.

I found the stories to be about 95 percent charming anecdotes about the antics of an active family at the beginning of the 1900s, and living with boarders. Father seemed like a bit of a shyster: he never heard of a deal that he didn't want in on, and didn't scruple to invest every penny of the family money in the shadiest of schemes.

The real star, however, was Mother. She was incredibly resourceful and ingenious about supporting her family. I loved the stories of her particular way of doing things, like when she watched and took notes as her first house was being built and decided to become her own architect and contractor when the family moved to a different city. She was so smart and vigilant that the handymen who thought it would be easy to take advantage of a "little woman" had to work twice as hard, and the house ended up just the way she wanted it. And the parts about Mother's cooking were everything the radio promised, and more. Delectable-sounding entrees and desserts, plus (since they were in Arizona) some of the yummiest descriptions of Mexican cooking that I've ever read. And the woman could rework leftovers like nobodies business!

The final 5 percent that proved jarring and less than satisfying is just a victim of the book's age. As was also the case with another popular memoir I've read that was written in the 1940s, of course many of the ideas about gender roles and race that were considered "normal" then aren't going to be acceptable today. I know that things were different in white middle class America 70 years ago, but I couldn't help but be dismayed by the casual racism and sexism. However, the book is definitely worth a read and I hope that some publisher will do something to keep it from falling completely out of print.

Kelli says

I really liked this book I thought it had some good humor in it. I enjoyed the meaning behind it and the service it taught of. I think that this will be a book that I may read again someday. I really liked some of the advise that it gave, I used some of it. The one about the onion works pretty well. If you can remember it. I don't want to give it away at all. I thought it funny how the mom would put her boarders before her children in that they would sleep on the porch. That is all I am going to say. Read to find out. Great book.

Pamela says

What a charmingly delicious memoir!!! I could almost taste the traditional southern fare and authentic Mexican dishes prevalent throughout Rosemary Taylor's compilation of family stories. So be forewarned: Don't read this on an empty stomach. Or you'll be drooling onto the pages.

Oh, and laugh!! The family antics are hysterical. Each of which typically involve "Mother" and her boarders, in some capacity or another.

Let me just say, "Mother" (originally from Virginia) is ever the contemporary woman, way ahead of her time. She ran her own business, maintained a personal checking account, invested wisely, designed and contracted the building of houses and their additions.... Moreover, no one could put anything over on her. Not even "Father," though he gave it his best shot at times. As did a boarder or two.

Some of the best and funniest stories are: "Man Hunt" / "God's Day and the Boarders" / "Father Slept on the Floor" / "More Sin at Midnight."

Fun stuff!!!

In addition to humor, Chicken Every Sunday: My Life with Mother's Boarders is atmospheric and transporting, quite telling of social-customs and culture during the early-to-mid nineteen-hundreds, Arizona. In many ways, it was a simpler, more delightful and innocent time. Emphasis on family values. Neighborhood hospitality. Sunday drives. Children free to roam and play outdoors. However, racial and gender profiling are far from delightful. None of the stories encompass racial prejudice, per se, but there are a couple stories which contain derogatory mindsets and language.

Aside from a bit of derogatory language and profiling, there's not a bad story in the bunch. Reads like a novel, and every bit as enjoyable. All in all, Five Deliciously-Charming Stars.
