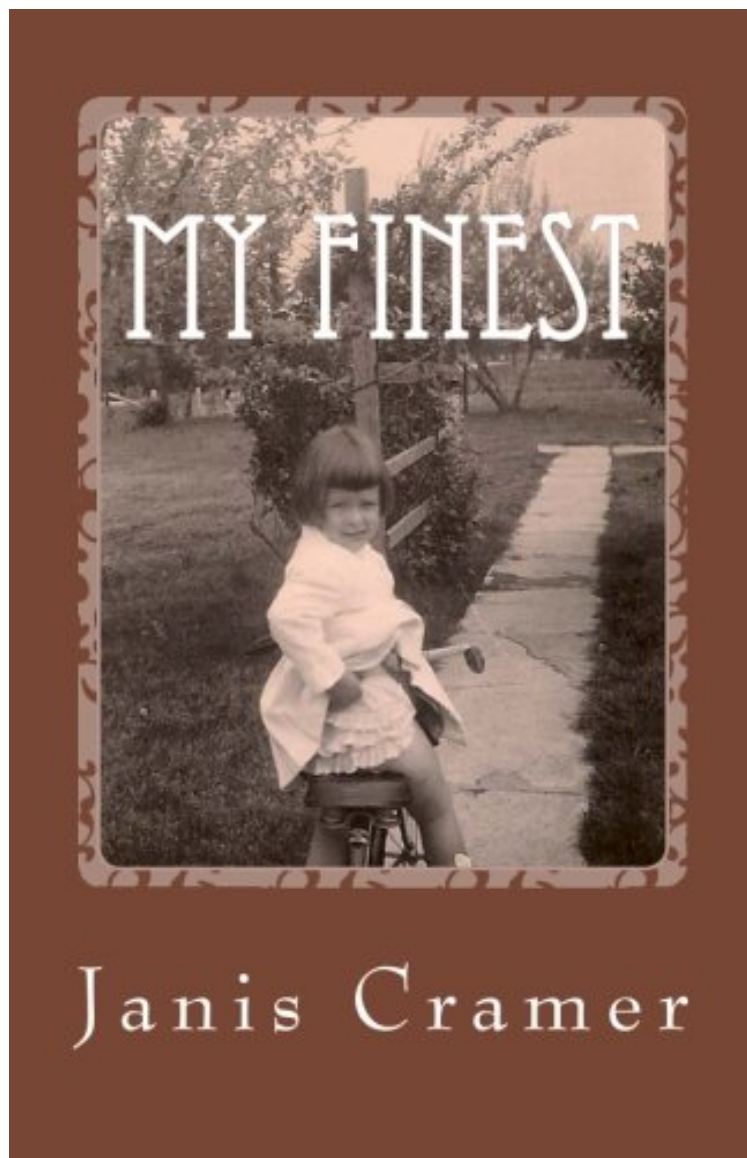


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## My Finest

*Janis Cramer*

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**Janis Cramer : My Finest** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Finest:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Janis Cramer's My Finest is Mighty FineBy June AnglinI loved this book.The stories' authentic detail and voice take the reader to the scene. Whether Cramer is sharing her moments with Bob Dylan or with a dangerous childhood predator or with a suicidal student, the reader is there with her, in the moment. The work is simply stunning, and simply beautiful. Cramer promises us more to come. From mind and heart,

I look forward to the next chapter.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Step Back in TimeBy Jean C. MurphyI enjoyed reading of the author's adventures, be they about life in a small town or seeking out gorillas in Africa.The humor and descriptions added a great deal to the reader's enjoyment.Well-written, keeping the reader involved with the feelings which the author experienced.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Janis is a great storyteller!By Becky PradoI enjoyed this book and the walk down memory lane. Once I started the book it was hard to put down. I shed a few tears but there were many more smiles as I read some of the interesting stories that shaped this author's life.

Janis Cramer, a true "Okie from Muskogee" Oklahoma, another one in a family of storytellers, has finally compiled experiences of her lifetime into one book, "My Finest." Inside you will find "Grandma's Panties," "My Ten Minutes with Bob Dylan," "2001, a Gorilla Odyssey," and "Some Girls Would," to name a few. Cramer, a creative writing teacher for 18 years at Muskogee High School and 23 years at Mustang High School in Oklahoma, has included in this portfolio of memoirs several genres of writing: childhood experiences, family stories, teacher lore, travel pieces, a professional piece for other teachers, and a couple of poems. Depending on what phase of her life you might have known the author--whether she was Sweetiepie, Janis Thomas, Mrs. Lowrance, or Mrs. Cramer--you might have heard her tell a few of these stories. Now you will have a chance to read the rest. At the end of each chapter is a reflection on the piece, put there for her students to show she practices what she preached. She hopes each piece in this showcase portfolio of her years of work will bring a belly laugh or a tear or two from the reader.

About the AuthorJanis Cramer came from a family of storytellers in Muskogee, Oklahoma. She has been a writer since third grade, when she started composing cartoon strips instead of doing her school work. She held school for the neighborhood kids on her front porch in the summers, so not suprisingly, she ended up becoming a creative writing teacher. She taught 18 years at Muskogee High School and 12 years at Mustang High School in Oklahoma. She served on the advisory board of the Oklahoma Association of Student Councils in the 1980's and the Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English in the 1990's. In 1987 her life changed when she participated in the Summer Institute of the Oklahoma Writing Project, where after 19 years in the classroom, she finally learned the writing process. Cramer was named one of the Top Twelve Oklahoma Teachers of the Year for 1995. She was awarded the Medal for Excellence in Secondary Teaching by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence in 1994. As a teacher consultant for OWP, she has presented hundreds of workshops on the teaching of writing to teachers in Oklahoma and at national teacher conferences. After retiring from the classroom in 1998, Cramer became the Co-Director of the Oklahoma Writing Project, teaching teachers how to teach other teachers how to teach writing. Now retired, she has finally compiled her memoirs into this portfolio of her best writing, just as she always promised her students she would. In the future, you can expect a collection of her childhood experiences, a book on how to form a successful writing group with other writers, a travel book, and, of course, her own great American novel.