



## Going to Sea in a Sieve

*Danny Baker*

Download now

Read Online ➔

# Going to Sea in a Sieve

*Danny Baker*

## Going to Sea in a Sieve Danny Baker

Danny Baker was born in Deptford, South East London in June 1957, and from an early age was involved in magazine journalism, with the founding of fanzine *Sniffin' Glue* alongside friend Mark Perry. From there he moved to documentary series for LWT and over the years worked on a variety of quiz shows (*Win, Lose or Draw*, *Pets Win Prizes*, *TV Heroes*), as well two television commercials which made him a household name—Daz and Mars Bars. With a number of guest appearances on comedy shows such as *Have I Got News For You*, *Shooting Stars*, and *Room 101*, Danny has also presented on BBC Radio since 1989. Most recently he presents a weekday show on BBC London 94.9 and a weekly show on BBC Radio 5 Live. This book charts Danny's showbiz career, the highs and lows, and everything in between, including the accusation that he killed Bob Marley.

## Going to Sea in a Sieve Details

Date : Published November 1st 2012 by Orion (first published October 1st 2012)

ISBN : 9780297863403

Author : Danny Baker

Format : Hardcover 266 pages

Genre : Biography, Nonfiction, Autobiography, Humor, Music, Comedy

 [Download Going to Sea in a Sieve ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Going to Sea in a Sieve ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Going to Sea in a Sieve Danny Baker**

---

# From Reader Review Going to Sea in a Sieve for online ebook

## Sal Noel says

So, it's never going to win an award but it was just the right bit of light relief I was after. I've a feeling Danny Baker used to live in my road in East London- or I used to think so, but that doesn't fit in with the chronology of this book. Never mind.

It was funny. I liked a bit of everyday/ music scene history (having recently read Viv Albertine) and, although it seems unfair as less likely to happen these days, I like that you can wangle yourself into all sorts of circles having had no prior advantage or connections- just being in the right place and having the knack. I enjoyed recognising some of the scenarios from "cradle to grave". (Catch that series if you haven't already).

---

## Simon says

In short doses cheerful and occasional hilarious: especially any story connected with his dad.

Read for too long and he, in the manner of English radio folk of the youth culture generations, begins to pall and eventually become tedious.

So, read it in short doses!

---

## David Evans says

This is a rollicking good read. If you have had no previous exposure to the constantly inventive master of lightweight banter then you are in for a treat. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to catch his radio shows will find many of his funniest anecdotes here. I first came across him on Radio 5's 606 football phone-in during the 1980's and was, and still am enormously cheered by his ability to find nuggets of gold in the seemingly mundane experiences of football fans. The atmosphere of his radio programmes (4th form common room) reminds me of the old days of Test Match Special and I have always thought that he was a natural successor to Brian Johnson - happiest when an entire session of cricket has been washed out and there are 3 hours of airtime to fill. Somehow his radio genius and the world he creates doesn't seem suited to TV (like Terry Wogan) and Podcasts of his current show have been known to leave me laughing so much that I have to stop running.

The book contains his trademark double takes of pure joy and he is completely aware that he is living a life that anyone of around our age (50+) could only look upon with tremendous envy, especially as he is irritatingly enormously talented, witty and generous. The real heroes of the tale so far are his parents, in particular the exploits of his father would be worth a biography of their own.

---

## Andrew Robins says

If you have ever listened to a Danny Baker radio show, you'll be used to his style - fast, chatty, always witty, and seemingly effortless on his part. The first instalment of his memoirs reads in exactly the same way.

He's helped in that he's got such an interesting background - he's one of those people to whom interesting things just seem to happen all the time, and as a result, this book is a great read from start to finish.

I wonder if there is another broadcaster working today with as fantastic a collection of anecdotes as he has. There are certainly plenty here - successfully passing himself off as David Essex's brother, being rescued from an angry mob of Brummie punks by Kevin Rowland, touring with as diverse a range of bands as Ian Dury, Earth Wind and Fire and, err, Darts, working in a record shop frequented by pretty much every interesting person of the late 70s, being given Marc Bolan's shirt (later ruined in traumatic washing machine incident), and being possibly the first journalist to realise the true extent of Michael Jackson's nuttiness are just a handful of them.

Highly recommended, am already looking forward to the next instalment.

---

### **Nigeyb says**

Danny Baker is a great story teller and someone with many great stories to tell. The first thing to confess is that I am very biased in favour of Mr Baker. I am frequently amazed to discover that not everyone shares my enthusiasm. What's not to love? One of the most consummate radio presenters and raconteurs I've ever come across. Needless to say 'Going to Sea in a Sieve' the first memoir (of hopefully many more), which takes us from his birth in the last 1950s to the very early 1980s, is - to use a Bakerism - a pip and a dandy. The book is very similar to listening to Danny talk - quick, chatty, witty, and compelling.

The book is crammed full of great anecdotes: passing himself off as David Essex's brother; pretending to be gay; being saved from a murderous mob of Brummie punks by Kevin Rowland; touring with Darts and Ian Dury (curiously Darts were the more hard living group); working in one of the West End's hippest record shops; being given a shirt by Marc Bolan only to see it ruined by his Mum in the wash; doing the last proper interview with Michael Jackson and spotting the telltale signs of, ahem, extreme eccentricity.

The stories are great but also what makes it such a rollicking good read is all the period detail: attending his first Millwall match with his Dad; a glorious visit to a holiday camp; a failed potato heist that put him off serious crime for life; bottling out of a romantic liaison with one of his school teachers; and so on. There is so much to enjoy and I find it hard to imagine that most people wouldn't devour it - and certainly it should appeal to anyone with a love of music, the seventies, London, the NME, and other associated cultural landmarks.

---

### **Mike says**

Danny Baker is one of the funniest writers around. There's no rose tint, just honesty in his recount of growing up in South London in the 60s and 70s. The early days of punk were that mundane - this was what it was really like in Britain at that time. All chaos, not really having a plan and just getting on with life. And Mr Baker did, becoming a successful journalist and TV presenter, not without hiccup - but that's how you learn, from mistakes. Some of these stories are laugh out loud. There are some big name checks: Elton John, Queen, Michael Jackson to name a few of the people that cropped up in Baker's life. The fact that Danny Baker became a household name (at one point) seems to surprise him. The Boy done well. Great book.

---

## Deanne says

Fun reminiscences of Danny Baker's childhood and early adulthood in London, some very funny moments and bizarre characters. For a change Danny confesses he had a happy childhood, enjoyed school and liked his sport, no angst but fond memories.

---

## Claire (Book Blog Bird) says

This book was flippin' hilarious! Seriously, I had no idea Danny Baker has had such an interesting life and has accomplished so much in the field of entertainment. In the World of Claire, he's only ever been famous for:

- 1) The Daz advert
- 2) Going on massive benders with Chris Evans and Gazza in the nineties

And that's about it.

I had no idea he used to work for the NME (in the eighties, he conducted the last interview that Michael Jackson gave for fifteen years) or LWT (Saturday night staple when I was a kid), or any of the other things he's done.

This book starts off in his childhood and takes you through his schooldays, his first jobs and how he eventually broke into journalism and then TV. It's written in South Londonese and if you know what Danny Baker sounds like, you can absolutely hear him speak as you read. In fact, if you've never heard or heard of Danny Baker, listen to his Radio Five show on BBC iPlayer before you start - your reading experience will be improved if you do.

I'd totally recommend this book, even if you've never heard of him: such an interesting read.

---

## Joey Shepherd says

I'm a fan of Danny's radio 5 show on Saturday mornings and I really wanted to love this, but it left me feeling..just..annoyed. It started out well, it was a pleasant change to hear (I had it on audiobook) about a happy rumbunctious past with no regrets and some funny tales, but by about half way through I was so tired of hearing about how wonderful he finds himself that I nearly gave up. Maybe it's because I was listening to him tell me in his own voice how handsome, how lucky, how sporty he was, how very clever, how girls and gay men loved him, how he is a 'wonderful' drunk who never gets hangovers, ad nauseum that did it but it really rankled. What really annoyed me was the part when he started to talk about he loved to spend money and had spent millions on his fabulous life and felt sorry for bankers working for their bonuses and dropping dead of heart attacks (Ahem? Aren't they just trying to earn 'millions' so they can have a fabulous time as well?), as is he is somehow special for wanting to enjoy life and everyone else is some kind of staid sheep. I've gone right off him, and I didn't expect or want that. I don't even normally bother leaving reviews but this got my goat so much...!

---

## Patrick Neylan says

It took me more than two decades to realise that Danny Baker isn't a chattering imbecile but is in fact a genius. This revelation came through spending an hour a day listening to the gloriously surreal inventiveness of his BBC London radio show.

Despite being co-founder of the legendary punk fanzine *Sniffin' Glue* and a major writer at *New Musical Express* in the late 70s and 80s, where conformity to 'correct' opinions was almost Maoist in its intensity, this is a man who has never denied his love for unhip, old music (such as Steely Dan and Anthony Newley) and who was almost lynched when, aged 20, he leapt on stage to berate a punk audience that was cheering at the news that Elvis had just died. More recently he's been railing against the tyranny of 'cool'.

This covers the first 25 years of his life, and what a fascinating life it is. His father was a docker who supplemented his income - as they all did - by taking a cut of Britain's flagging export trade. Baker sold knocked-off records to the Petticoat Lane traders and left school at 15, despite being top of the class, to work in a hip record shop in Soho, where he met all the stars but chucked Queen out for demanding that the shop play their debut album, which he and the manager hated.

Baker's story isn't a tale of triumph in the face of hardship: it's a story of of a happy, trauma-free, working-class upbringing; staying just the right side of poverty by keeping just the wrong side of the law; being happy by spending every penny as it comes; and succeeding by cheek, talent, wit, blarney and outrageous good fortune.

His warmth and utter lack of pretention keeps the book charming, while his comic talent keeps it fun and sometimes hilarious, never more so than in his record-shop days or his japes as receptionist at the *NME*. He even apologises for calling Kate Bush Chicken Licken.

My only complaint is that, having never given Nick Kent's testicles a moment's thought, I now have an image of them in my mind that can never be erased.

---

## Paul says

While for some Danny Baker is a slightly annoying type who has made a career in UK broadcasting out of being a sort of professional semi-intelligent oik, for me he is a personal favourite, and a welcome and irreverent bastion of intelligent quippery, good musical taste, and most of all how to have complete fun with the British people who tune in to his (now) weekly radio show. Trading in a charming blend of amusing audience contributions with a cheeky repartee backed by a musical bed of cartoonish sound affects and mood music, his show appeals to a certain silly British sensibility equally at home with the likes of Spike Milligan (and all the Goons for that matter,) or a Ronnie Barker if you prefer. If nothing else, he is probably the best interviewer of musicians and singers going in the business on this side of the pond.

I was happily surveying street trees in Ealing a few years ago - happy chiefly because of Danny's then daily afternoon show on BBC Radio London coming through my earphones; it was the last day of his Halloween spooky specials - when to my horror, the listeners learnt straight from the horse's mouth that the BBC in their

infinite wisdom had effectively sacked the man who single-handedly constituted the best thing about the whole station. Danny defiantly berated and humiliated the bigwigs responsible while delivering a faultless performance at the microphone for the ensuing two hours of his last show with that station.

The period covered in this first volume of his memoirs includes his lively and generally happy childhood in working class south London of the 1960s and '70s, as well as his working at one of London's pioneering independent record shops - where the likes of Elton John and Marc Bolan were regulars on first name terms. Then came his entree to the world of music journalism: a DIY punk fanzine leading to a job with the (then relevant) New Musical Express before his first forays into TV broadcasting. I will be on the lookout for his second volume, which covers his further career in television, before finding his best calling (my opinion) in radio and bringing the story up to date.

With his simple and immediate writing style he brings to life the atmosphere of life in 1970s England, and in particular the musical soundtrack to that era. Full of great stories and plenty of fun and laughs, this is a very entertaining read for all, and a must for any of his admirers.

---

### **Gary says**

Wonderfully engaging and entertaining autobiography. Being of a similar age to the author there were so many musical and cultural references that I could relate to that I found myself regularly thinking, 'Yes, I remember thinking/feeling like that'. He even unashamedly owns up to liking Tommy Steele's 'Little White Bull', which was the first record I ever badgered my parents into buying for me (Ike and Tina Turner's 'River Deep Mountain High, also referenced in the book as having a major impact on his young ears, was the first record I bought with my own money).

His conversational and witty style held my interest throughout and I read it with an almost constant smile and laughed out loud on more than one occasion.

I would definitely recommend this book to anyone interested in British musical culture of the 60s and 70s or to anyone interested in the fascinating story of someone to whom things just seem to happen told in a witty, chatty and engaging manner.

Oh, and this only takes us up to the age of 24. There's more to come in vol 2

---

### **Elizabeth says**

Really good. Narrated superbly by Danny Baker. I loved the moments when he was recounting interactions with his dad, often making me laugh helplessly - best listened to at home! And probably best avoided if you are at all sensitive to earthy language - though used only ever in context (his dad was a docker in the East End of London). I want the next book now.

---

### **Jim says**

I thought the Rod Stewart autobiography was pretty good, easy-going and written with a joie de vivre and

chatty style that drew you closer to the person and the life being recalled. Danny Baker, however, comes along and shows Rod how it's really done. Frankly, I could never really be bothered with Danny Baker on the TV or radio, but the good reviews of this book attracted me to it. He always struck me as some sort of wannabee Cockney wide-boy who probably in reality spent most of his youth in his bedroom absorbing Seventies trivia about pop music and football. I was unaware of his career as a journalist for the NME, or his early days in TV, and thought he'd come to fame through knowing Chris Evans (another erstwhile Southern twat whose autobiography is supposed to be excellent and is sitting on my Kindle awaiting its day.) I was pleasantly surprised, therefore, to become immediately caught up in Danny's tales of growing up in working-class London, and a large part of the book is devoted to his years at school and giving us the background to his world view. He develops the theme of loving life from the carefree standpoint of having a secure family and community background behind him, giving the impression that as long as he has loved ones around him the world can do its worst. But the world is kind in the early days to Baker and opens doors for him in an effortless way that makes you think it really could have happened to you, thereby painting over what is probably quite a steely personal streak of work ethic, ambition and drive within the man himself. Baker wants to come over as one of the lads who just happened to love life and it loved him back - and maybe there's a healthy dose of truth in that.

The tone of the book and the reminiscences are akin to one of a kid being let loose in a sweet shop, with a kind of "Cor blimey, can you believe it?" approach to things. This could be annoying but is actually quite endearing, and I laughed along with his tales of working in a record shop in Soho that brought him into contact with some pop icons of the Seventies, Queen, Elton John, Rod Stewart and so on. His following days at the NME continue the theme, recounting dalliances with The Sex Pistols, The Jam and Michael Jackson to name but a few, and he always seems to find something pretty interesting and original to say or tell about all of them. You can't help but envy him, but in a likeable way unlike, say, Piers Morgan (whose book "The Insider" is also a belter, despite the fact that you still finish it thinking "What a tosser".)

I look forward to the next installment of Danny Baker's autobiography, and wouldn't hesitate to recommend this to all and sundry.

---

## **Jules says**

If you like your autobiographies to be honest in tone and full of banter than you could do far worse than to read this one by Danny Baker. Baker himself is a certified 'chatter' (or 'chatterer') and I'm sure he could talk for London/England/ UK in that order if this book is anything to go by. He quickly introduces himself in the book without any airs and graces and what you see is pretty much what you get with Baker – a self-made South London lad who has rolled with the punches in life and who started writing factual music and feature pieces for a plethora of British media in the late seventies almost by accident and without any prescribed career route in his head.

The pace of this autobiography is pretty much rapid fire and Baker hardly takes a moment in time to catch a breath. He paints his family on a canvas full of love and appreciates his working class heritage with a particular pride. His professional career was concocted almost by accident and chance as opposed to him struggling or striving for anything, or taking the academic route. Baker comes under category of being that rarer breed of stemming from the University of Life and hard knocks – he is naturally gifted and, again, is a person in ownership of an organic stream of on-tap banter.

After all my obvious reader-gush and admiration for the man, I would say the autobiography is an easy going read that still suffers with being too lengthy and expanded-upon in places. Although Baker is captivating and effervescent when it comes to recalling life experiences, he did, for me, go over the boil in spots –



particularly with some of his re-telling of the punk years. It's a fine line, I'm sure, for any writer to know where the exact saturation point is when telling a yarn and I've got to say that Baker passes it well over a couple of times for me. By the same token, he talks a lot about other stories being mentioned in the 'next book' and by hook or by crook I certainly think any future Baker tome will be more than worth a glance and read for his sheer original showmanship alone!

Baker is, in short, an unconventional and 'un'-establishment British original and this book is recommend, interesting and seemingly-unfiltered reading in all, even if it is just a little 'too' over-blurped in places.

---