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Were the first fourteen years of the twentieth century “Good Years”? Yes, there was the Wright Brothers’ first faltering steps towards flight, Henry Ford’s development of an affordable car, and the beginnings of a drive towards votes for women. But there was also the assassination of President McKinley, the Panic of 1907 when numerous banks and businesses went bankrupt, and the devastating earthquake and subsequent fire that destroyed much of San Francisco. Yet, as Walter Lord points out in his remarkable book, “These years were good because, whatever the trouble, people were sure they could fix it.” The first fourteen years of the twentieth century are frequently overlooked, being bookended by the glamorous Gilded Age at the beginning and the terrible years of the First World War at the end. Lord’s brilliant work shines light onto these years and highlights many of the fascinating events, from the Boxer Rebellion to the murder of union leader Big Bill Haywood right through to America’s reaction to events that sent Europe spiraling into war. “Informative and entertaining . . . although *The Good Years* is naturally and properly selective, it still achieves something of a panoramic effect.” — *The New York Times* “[Lord uses] a kind of literary pointillism, the arrangement of contrasting bits of fact and emotion in such a fashion that a vividly real impression of an event is conveyed to the reader.” — *New York Herald Tribune* This book is essential reading for anyone interested in early twentieth century and wishes to understand a little more about these “Good Years”. Walter Lord was an American author who wrote a number of popular works on history. Some of his most famous works include his account of the sinking of the *Titanic*, *A Night to Remember*, and his history of the attack on Pearl Harbor, *Day of Infamy*. *The Good Years* was first published in 1960. Lord passed away in 2002.

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