

For your Huntiana back dust-jacket flap, A Gift for Gomala, from a library copy. Given me in this form

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(Continued from front flap)

up for a conference in full tribal regalia. And an astrologically oriented manicurist quite accurately predicts change and uncertainty, as these and other characters play out their roles against a backdrop of diplomatic maneuvers and dry martinis.

A Gift for Gomala proves that Official Washington is well supplied with clay feet—and it is *must* reading for followers of Reston, Alsop, and Lippmann who are looking for comic relief.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JOHN BAXTER is one of three pen names used by the author of *A Gift for Gomala*. Born in western New York, Baxter served as a naval officer in the North Atlantic and South Pacific, and with the OSS in China. After the war Baxter worked as a screen writer until Hollywood felt the impact of TV. "When unemployed screen writer colleagues began hanging themselves aboard their yachts," Baxter joined the Foreign Service.

For the next twelve years he served at diplomatic posts in Europe, Asia and Latin America—at the same time writing mystery and adventure novels and contributing to various magazines including *The New Yorker* and *Cosmopolitan*. In 1960 Baxter resigned from the Foreign Service to devote himself wholly to writing. John Baxter is married, the father of three children, and lives with his family in Washington, D.C.