



Things I Learned About My Dad in Therapy

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Perfectly timed for Father's Day, this collection of hilarious stories by some of the brightest and most outrageous bloggers celebrates the joys (and otherwise) of fatherhood.

Things I Learned About My Dad in Therapy Details

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From Reader Review Things I Learned About My Dad in Therapy for online ebook

Rachelle Bowden says

This is a book of essays about fathers compiled and edited by Heather Armstrong (Dooce). Some stories are about being a father, some are about the writers' fathers. All of the authors are bloggers and some people have had issue with this. That many of these stories were already mostly written on the web somewhere. I didn't have an issue and I enjoyed the book. I read Dooce daily, but none of the other writer's sites, so most of this was new to me. Even the essay by Jon, Heather's husband, was new to me. Or maybe I just have a bias because I've met Heather when we sat on a panel together at BlogHer 2006. I also saw her speak on a few panels at SXSW last year - Content Boundaries, a 12-Step Program & Online Adulation. Or it could be that my dad's 60th birthday is tomorrow and I've been thinking about him a lot in planning his party. Some of the stories are funny, some insightful, some sentimental, some all three. In any case, I think if you are a father or you have a father (or father figure) you will probably enjoy this book.

Andarika says

Got the book "fresh from the oven". It was sent by my friend in London as soon as it appear on Amazon. I think I'm one of the first Indonesian who read it. Dooce is always my number one writer. Love her blog, love her book too.

This book contains pieces of story from several coolest blog in the world. Dooce's story is unquestionably rock, but other manuscripts she chooses is also superb. She pick fatherhood as a theme, but it's actually only the wrap. In the inside we would find lots of entertaining, brilliant and heart-touched stories-- about little things happen in parents-children's "love and hate" relationship.

Very highly recommended for those who expect to read a entertaining, useful yet brilliant piece of work. I proclaimed this book as one of my "bible" in writing style.

Sarah Pascarella says

I bought this book for James Griffioen's essay (blogger extraordinare of Sweet-Juniper.com), and it didn't disappoint. The essays by Heather Armstrong, Jon Armstrong, and Sarah Brown were also fun reads.

Megan says

I really enjoyed this. It has been awhile since I have read a collection of essays (the last was Sedaris which I did not like. I'm sorry! I know I'm supposed to like it! But I didn't!) Sadly, with two older boys and a new baby, sitting down for a ten or fifteen minute read is the perfect amount for me, and it was nice to start each reading session with someone new. I read several of the blogs by the writers, and this made some of the essays feel like they were written by old friends, which is a bit creepy for them probably. A few times I

laughed out loud (that kid with the firecracker!) and others were sad. I could relate to some of the stories as my father's daughter, and other times as my husband's wife, and others as a mother. I feel like this a very general review but I don't want to talk too much about the specific essays. I would def. recommend this book.

Laura says

This book of essays was a nice read, but nothing spectacular. Some were better than others. The second-to-last one was just bizarre and rambling.

This would be a nice gift to a new father. Several of the essays written by men about being fathers were really great. I laughed out loud over some of them. The editor, Heather Armstrong, should have just gone with that theme instead of including stories by her various blogging friends about fathers and fatherhood. There was only one written by a woman that I really enjoyed, the rest were so-so.

I'm disappointed that I paid money for this book, but I had high expectations since I really enjoy dooce.com (Ms. Armstrong's personal website). I thought her keen eye for her own blogging would make her a good editor of other people's works. Um, not so much.

Nolan says

Some of these essays literally forced me to turn off my book player because I was laughing so hard I couldn't hear the text. Not all of them were that funny, but one or two of them certainly were. Sarah Brown's essay on admitting she simply loved her dad and got along extremely well with him was a nice change to the widely accepted and hailed idea that dads are the appendix of the family, hanging in there maybe, but not all that useful.

I think the second essay in the collection was the funniest and best written of the group. The idea that it may be easier to kick a heroin habit than to endure the withering resentment of a woman who had to give up booze, coffee and more while the guy essentially gives up nothing during a pregnancy was scream-out-loud funny. I was fascinated by what seemed to be a high level of essayists who had once belonged to the mormon faith but had renounced it. Both the editor of the collection and presumably her husband fit that category, as does at least one other essay writer. It's not a big deal, since they didn't dwell on the fact, but that skewed perspective fascinated me.

Some of these essays felt more like blog entries than what I would call a fully structured essay. But there are enough humorous and otherwise touching moments in here to make it worth the read.

There is a good bit of profanity in some of these essays, so those who prefer not to read profanity may want to let this go unread.

Jeanne says

There were about two essays that I did not care for but the rest were very touching in one way or another. I am not close with my father and naturally have never really experienced the intimacy of fatherhood in a

sense that I have motherhood. Exploring these close relationships makes me a little sad, and there's a pang of jealousy there too. However, I anticipate the future when I can witness the relationship Scott will have with our kids. I have no doubt in my mind that he will be an amazing dad. There were a couple essays where the father/child relationship was strained and uncomfortable and I felt it and related to it and it made me cry and feel less alone.

Tyler says

I really like the essays by Heather B. Armstrong and a few of the other bloggers. Unfortunately there were a couple essays that just seemed disjointed and unrelated. I laughed while reading most essays and got a bit teary-eyed during a couple of others. It really was quite interesting to get so many different viewpoints in one little book.

Jessica says

I must confess a little something. I have been an avid reader of Dooce for years. It is a "mommy blog," yes, but I enjoyed it well before I had a child. I love the writing most of all. So, when Heather B. Armstrong, the creator of *Dooce*, published her first book, I had to read it. *It Sucked and Then I Cried* is an excellent memoir that explores pregnancy and being a new mother and post-partum depression and mental illness. And it's hilarious. Did I mention that Armstrong lives in Utah?

Armstrong's second foray into published works was to edit a collection of essays on fatherhood called *Things I Learned About My Dad (in Therapy)*. Two of the included essays are hers and one was written by her now estranged husband, Jon.

Unfortunately, I didn't love the collection. Each of the pieces was easy to read. But, for a book about fatherhood, I felt relatively unconnected to the authors. And many of the essays, as well as the arrangement of the essays, felt uneven. I felt as if each piece were simply a lengthier blog post. And that makes sense, as almost every contributor is, in fact, a blogger. My favorite essays were "Ten Conclusions from Four Years of Fatherhood," by Kevin Guilfoile and "Peas and Domestic Tranquility," by Greg Knauss. While some of the essays contained hilarity and parenting truths, this collection just didn't quite gel for me.

Magda says

I hadn't realized that Dooce was just the editor and the contributor of one of the essays. I enjoyed this book more than I had thought I would, although at least two of the essays went into some darker experiences with fathers than the rest. Another difficulty was that everything was in first person, so I sort of glommed all the stories I'd already read into one narrative, which was retrospectively confusing.

Audrey says

I've been looking forward to this collection for several reasons. #1, I truly enjoy Heather's blog -- she makes

me laugh and think and yell WTF? on a daily basis. The topic of fatherhood really caught my attention, too, as my husband is a much more hands-on father than my dad was, and also because my dad passed away 8 years ago so there's an entirely different dynamic there now.

Overall, I wasn't that impressed. There were about three or four GOOD essays here, and the rest were just so-so. This might be better if you just dip into it now and then, rather than reading it all at once.

Sarah says

A few of these essays were brilliant pieces of writing. Moving, funny, and very clever. But you have to wade through some duds to appreciate the good stuff. Alice Bradley, Doug French, Maggie Mason, and James Griffioen's were some of my favorites.

Karen says

I am just about done with this very funny read. Some of the essays are so funny I had tears running down my face. Others are just very honest and true to life, and they all make you think a little more about your own father/husband/self (depending on who you are) and what role they play in your life.

Genie says

When I first started reading through this essay collection, I wasn't particularly entranced with it, but it definitely grew on me. I loved, in particular, Sarah Brown's essay about her kick-arse Dad, and Jon Armstrong's essay about his relationship with his father, as well as "Long Live the Weeds and the Wilderness Yet" by James Griffioen.

CupcakeBlonde says

I love Dooce.com. It was the blog that sparked my need to get a blog of my own. I still read it daily and enjoy Heather's sharp wit and brutal honesty. So when I heard about this book I snatched it up right away because I was so excited to read something written by her. I knew it was a collaboration of essays from other writers/bloggers as well but was surprised to discover how little of Heather there was in the book. And while some of the entries had me rolling on the floor holding my gut in exploding laughter, others made me wish I wasn't reading them. Not that they were bad but rather made me slightly uncomfortable. Which is why I couldn't give more than three stars to this book. Also the quote blocks distracted me since they often quoted the line right before or after them so I felt like I was reading a repeat.

Still love Dooce and look forward to the possibility of a solo book from her.
