



Dummy: Parenting for the Inept and the Clueless

Matt Coyne

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'The night before Charlie was born I had this dream. I dreamt that I was a soldier, riding into battle ... completely naked, and on the back of a large, inflatable duck.'

Matt Coyne's life was turned upside down by the arrival of his first child, Charlie. After three months of fatherhood, he logged on to Facebook and shared his experience of being newly responsible for 'a furious, sleep-murdering, unstable and incontinent, breasts-obsessed midget lodger'. Within days, his post had gone viral - and Matt is now a hero for parents everywhere, through his popular blog: 'Man vs. Baby'.

Dummy is no average parenting book. It's packed with completely impractical, hands-on advice for the inept mum or dad - stuff you just won't find in any baby manual or guide: 'Profanity Bingo' for labour; a categorisation of various nappy disasters; how to counteract the baby plank manoeuvre, and much more. But it is also a story of how becoming a parent is a kind of beautiful insanity. A thing that changes you.

Above all, *Dummy* will keep you laughing like a broken lunatic through the exhaustion, the mystery and the madness of bringing up your own children.

This is the parenting book for real people.

Dummy: Parenting for the Inept and the Clueless Details

Date : Published April 20th 2017 by Wildfire

ISBN :

Author : Matt Coyne

Format : Kindle Edition 288 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Parenting, Autobiography, Memoir, Humor

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From Reader Review Dummy: Parenting for the Inept and the Clueless for online ebook

Joanne says

I guess this is a blog? Parenting is hard. Not much new ground here. Might appeal to the new millennial parent, provided there's a huge tolerance for profanity.

Adrian Rose says

Utterly Hilarious

This book is brilliant, simply brilliant and while my own experience of fatherhood is different to Matt's there are a lot of similarities.

The book discusses parenting in the way you talk to your partner (or a close friend), which is often a lot more graphic than you would be allowed in polite company and this is the reason it's so refreshing and so funny.

I can't wait for the next instalment of Dummy and the continued updates on Facebook.

Thank you Matt for making me realise that many parents are more similar then I ever thought, nobody has the answer and we are all a long way from perfect. We just muddle through and hope our little people come out alright at the end.

Fernanda says

Super funny!!!

Richard says

A trend has developed over the past few years for parenting online bloggers who refuse to sugar coat what parenting is really like and have become known for their brutal honesty and sharing warts and all from their journeys as parents. I first became aware of this trend as my wife read out funny excerpts from blogs written by The Unmumsy Mum and Hurrah for Gin. It wasn't until I discovered Matt Coyne's Man vs Baby blog that I started to pay more attention. His sense of humour and brutal take downs of anyone who suggested what he was doing might be wrong appealed to me.

Before having children I would never have dreamt of reading a book like this. My book shelves are full of sci-fi, horror, fantasy and the occasional brutal crime thriller. There are so many parenting manuals out there full of 'wisdom' from people who think they are far better parents than you and feel the need to share this with the world. This however, is as far removed from a traditional parenting manual as you can find. This is a biographical account of one man surviving the first year of being a father. It is brutally honest and very

very funny. Obviously it's only going to appeal to parents of small children who can relate to the author's musings but even still, it made a change to my usual reading material before I move back onto the impending apocalypse.

Sarah Jones says

BUY IT NOW

I only recently discovered Man VS Baby on Facebook and "dropped a like" seeing as what i read made me chuckle a bit. Saw the book was coming out and thought brilliant, all the chuckles in one place without wading through rubbish comments from people like Greg (you know who you are, Greg. Don't try to deny it now). Other than the soul crushing revelations that the Loch Ness Monster, the Jabberwocky and unicorns are, in fact, not real (spoiler alert, sorry!) it was a thoroughly enjoyable read! I read it in a couple of hours as I couldn't put it down and I don't feel like I want my money (or those hours) back, so what are you waiting for? Go buy it! Enjoy!

Kristina says

I started reading this at 9 months pregnant and finished it whilst my 2 day old son tried to work out if my chin was as useful as my nipples (spoiler alert, it's not and he's not happy about it).

This book is such a breath of fresh air. I've been reading Matt's blog since he created it so was looking forward to his take on a parenting manual. I wasn't disappointed. Good topics, I especially found the review of parent and baby classes useful as I'm about to have a years maternity leave.

Additionally, my husband is also reading it and everytime he laughs I have to ask which part he's up to so I can have another giggle.

Hazel says

My partner and I laughed out loud so many times whilst reading this book. We read some chapters aloud together and then both picked it up intermittently, alone, for a mixture of amusement and education. It really does open your eyes to some of the realities of becoming a new parent.

Each chapter is dedicated to a different topic, such as feeding. With a lighthearted and sarcastic tone throughout, the anecdotes are funny and heartwarming. Each chapter always ends with something heartfelt and therefore I put this book down each time with a laugh...and a cry.

I would recommend this for expectant fathers (I was really pleased to see my partner taking on new 'parent' information without being overwhelmed), expectant mothers (I loved it) and any new parents who want to identify with the horrors, delights and stark truths of parenthood.

Clare says

I might be had up for child neglect but I just couldn't put this book down.

Please note do not read after you've settled your 6 month old baby to sleep next to you, at one point I had to vacate the bed for fear my attempts at silent laughing would jiggle him off the bed and that would have really p***ed him off and to be honest I felt sitting on the loo was probably the safest place as I didn't know if I could control my bladder I could woohoo. However the deranged laughing confused the dog who was concerned that I was an emotional wreck and he just didn't know what to do.

I did decided to take advantage of sleeping baby in the end and get some kip myself but as soon as I woke up the following morning I went in search of coffee and attached baby to boob and resumed reading. Baby not impressed with this and felt that I should be gazing lovely into his eyes and attempted to rip the book (the book was borrowed from the library so I wrestled it from his death grip before any damage could be done). I discovered giggling making boobs jiggle while baby is trying to feed results in a p***ed off baby so I reluctantly had to set the book down for a bit and will child to eat faster, I think he sensed this and decided for a long boobie session.

Noshing done I set baby aside and picked up the book, occasionally bouncing toy bunny in a half arsed attempt to engage with said child and feel like a less s*it parent. Now I was free to laugh out loud and well this then brought both the husband and he dog running as they thought I was in the throws of a serious depressed episode. Neither were impressed that actually I was giggle snorting my little heart out while trying to not pee myself as I'd decided to placate the child and cuddle him but he decided my tummy would make an excellent trampoline.

An honest glimpse into the world of parenting, though of course my little guy sleeps wonderfully (smug face, ok that might not be entirely honest he does have the occasional slip where he becomes a tad grumpy and declares sleep is for wimps) and the only times I've dealt with a poonami is when I've used a disposable nappy but I'm one of those annoying earth mamas that uses washable nappies and occasionally has time to bake lol.

The end of the book though had me in actual emotional sobs, I too have suffered the loss of a parent and my little boy was also long waited for.

We are all making it up as we go along and hiding the c*ap out of shot as we try to Instagram our parenting super powers of pretending we have this s*it together, but we need to remember we are all as clueless as each other with our incredible tiny giggling farting humans that we made and we are all doing an awesome job.

eileen fothergill says

A lighter look at bringing home baby !!

I gave this book 4 stars .

I knew this book would be a lighter look at everything you need to know about a babies first year .I found it very funny especially the part where he is advised to keep a sleep journal and for me personally I found it very relatable . It's very readable and I found it true to life and the author was right when he says most of us

are winging it .The book itself although light hearted also shows how hard it can be coping with a new born and although there are many books on the subject that hands on experience is the only way to go .I laughed and really felt their insecurities .It really reminded me how hectic and confusing life with a baby can be and how even at the end of a sleep deprived / nappies from hell/ unhappy teething month some one little thing will make you see the light at the end of the tunnel . A good honest read .

Jennifer says

There seem to be a lot of books out there anymore where someone has a blog that becomes a book. This means that the books is a bunch of random moments in time, and not really a cohesive piece. Don't get me wrong, there were plenty of funny moments, I'm just kind of over the format by this point. If you haven't read a lot of books that are based off blog posts, and don't care about profanity, then you might like this book.

This book is a definite no-holds-bar approach to a man's view on his first child. He doesn't sugar coat anything that goes on, from the birth to diaper changes. It makes it interesting, but also at times, graphic. If you have a child, you might be able to relate to his writing.

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Author: MattCoyne

Publisher: Scribner

Publication Date: April 17th 2018

Amy says

The book is hilarious! I knew exactly what the author meant abt first time parenting. I laughed throughout the whole book.

Danielle Smith says

Too much swearing for my taste. Would have been absolutely hilarious if every other word wasn't foul.

Shaun Dyer says

Dummy: Parenting for the Inept and the Clueless is a hilarious and heart warming parenting book that, in my humble opinion, should be provided on the NHS to all new parents.

Unlike 99% of the other parenting books I've read Dummy doesn't take itself too seriously, it doesn't pretend to have all the answers and it won't make you feel like your making a hash of things; and that is the kind of book new parents need to read.

Matt Coyne has a fantastically approachable style that make this a swift and fun read. Also despite being a comedy book it is surprisingly informative and most importantly reassuring. The main thrust of the book being 'You might not be getting everything right but no-one else is and that is fine.'

If you only read one parenting book make it this one.

Jason says

Meh...started off good. It was funny, but then in parts it really dragged on. The comedy was funny at first but the over the top descriptions of parenting got old. Seemed like he was pandering to his wife a lot. The part where he's writing to his son seemed pointless and out of place. He tries to be funny and come off like "hey, I don't know what I'm doing" and "there's no right way to do things" but then proceeds to get on a soapbox about certain subjects and lecture to you. And he works in a few of his own political beliefs which were off-putting. I finished the book in blowoff fashion just in case there was something worthwhile in the end, but there wasn't. I think the book should have been half the size that it is, but he had to reach a certain number of pages which resulted in a bunch of filler.

In conclusion, I'm sure a lot of people will think he's hilarious. But for me, I saw through his "schtick" and the comedy routine got quite old really quickly and the author just came off as being a smart-ass, "I'm right and you're wrong", preachy liberal that's trying too hard to be funny.

Edwin Howard says

MAN VS. BABY by Matt Coyne, for those of us who have children, humorously reminds us what we went through when our kids were babies. For those who have yet to have children, I think Coyne might confirm some people's thoughts that they shouldn't have little demons who make their lives infinitely more complicated and messy, but for most Coyne leaves the reader with a sense of enlightenment and happiness that while all of the trials and challenges parenthood of a baby presents, there is something wonderful about connecting, learning and growing as a family.

Coyne describes how this book was born; he would post, blog-style, about his trials as parent and so many people enjoyed it that he took all those thoughts and refined and organized them into a book. He structures the book into logical sections, like "Sleep", "Feeding", "Milestones" and so on and Coyne touches on the actual advice given in these areas that he stumbled across, but then applies the bumbling reality he faced with his own son, Charlie. To say that Coyne is self-deprecating is an understatement, he constantly, hilariously belittles himself and all the ways he did things wrong as a father to a newborn. He also recognizes, towards the end of the book, that there is nothing bad about doing the wrong thing if the end goal is to always try to do the right thing.

Really a fun read, I laughed out loud several times. Being that we all are either parents or know people that are parents, I think everyone laugh with and love Matt Coyne's MAN VS. BABY.

Thank you to Scribner, Matt Coyne, and Netgalley for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review!
