



Dave Barry Turns Forty

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"Just the ticket for the '90s."

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

If you're too young for a nursing home yet too old to be a rock star, if your marriage is as exciting as scraping grass off the lawnmower blades, then this hilarious book by Pulitzer-Prize-winning columnist and author is for you. Put on your protective eyewear and take a probing look inside your increasingly Spam-like body at: The Midlife (Yawn) Marriage; Wise Financial Planning for Irresponsible Scum Such as Yourself; Sex After 40 (or, Sex? After 40?), and other harsh, but amusing realities that leave you laughing, crying and drooling.

Dave Barry Turns Forty Details

Date : Published May 7th 1991 by Ballantine Books (first published 1990)

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Author : Dave Barry

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Genre : Humor, Nonfiction, Comedy, Writing, Essays

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From Reader Review Dave Barry Turns Forty for online ebook

Kelly Kazek says

You can't go wrong by buying a Dave Barry humor collection.

Michael says

This Dave Barry book, titled "Dave Barry Turns 40," was quite funny. I very much enjoyed the booger joke on page 37. Numerous parts, including that part about breakfast cereal, were especially funny! I laughed aloud! Haha!

At the end of the book I was left with the sense that, although I'd just been entertained for an hour and a half, that I'd basically been doing the literary equivalent of shoving peeps up my nose. Peeps the candy, not the slang word for acquaintances.

Dave Barry is exactly as funny here as he was in Dave Barry Turns 40, which means quite a riot! Haha!

You're right, I haven't read this one since I was about 15. How did you know?

Denise Chojnacki says

Another rib tickler by Dave Barry! He has a way of presenting topics that elicit chuckles and laugh out loud moments throughout the book. This particular subject matter had me laughing out loud in places and made me smile throughout. Thanks for the laughs Dave!

Chy says

Okay, it's a reread, but it's been, like, ten years since I first read it and I would imagine that if I read it again in ten more years, it'll earn another star.

I'm still peeved he made me cry, in a humor book. (In a good way.)

Anyway, I tripped over it in the used-book store and I'd recently been unable to continue reading this other book of his (but I will later because it's not Dave's fault, but my life's fault.) These things added up to make the rereading of a book I'd remembered pretty much nothing about exactly what I needed to do.

Thanks, Dave.

Of course, the question this book leaves you with, because of the picture on the cover (and the fact that Dave's image from the picture starts every chapter, though in black and white) is, Where are the tops/straps of Dave's shoes?

I finally figured it out. And I'm not going to ruin it for anybody else.

Steve says

This is the kind of book I would have found stupid and banal when I was in my 20s, 30s and even 40s. Now that I'm in my 60s, I enjoyed it quite a bit. As someone who is about the same age, and definitely the same generation as Mr. Barry, I can understand and relate to just about everything he's saying. I don't think a younger person would enjoy this book. While there are no guffaws here, there are plenty of chuckles, and it was a very fast read.

Cirilio says

This book was literally the last interesting I could have to go to sleep at night. *Dave Barry Turns Forty* is a somewhat relatable book about the experiences one might go through as they age, including topics like weight, looks, love and so on. Barry has done a well and intriguing job for this lecture as he adds his notorious humor into the topic. I personally found some of his humor to be cringy at some moments, but other times I still laughed out loud. I glad I found this book in my classroom because not only was it something that could actually keep my eyes glued, but it also has made me take into consideration my future such as what happens to stored fat when you age, and how exercise is a vital aspect. I can also say that I respect his way of trying to communicate with the reader by making them take test; not many authors will attempt to do that, so I figured I might as well try to get at what he's doing for the reader. This is a book I'm very glad to have found and I'm happy to have enjoyed reading it.

Rugged Llama says

Meh.

Cheryl says

Well, I just turned 40 this year and I love Dave Barry. So this feels like a good one to read right now. :-)

EDITED:

The book was written in 1990, so it's a little outdated (Barry turned 40 in 90, while I was in college and just turned 40 in '08). So, there's a lot of stuff that didn't quite meld with today's 40--the music, styles, politics, etc.--but there WAS a lot of stuff that still resonates today with turning 40. The chapter on marriage and sex was hilarious, and the chapter on sports was spot-on (especially in talking about youth sports. I could see my husband and I in that chapter!).

Brent says

I love Dave Barry. Actually I have never met him but I love his work. This book however was not as enjoyable as some of his others due to the fact it was focused almost entirely at baby boomers.

I could easily live the rest of my life without any more references to the sixties or hippy to yuppie cliches.

Don't get me wrong, parts of it were really funny, but I just couldn't overcome the generational handicap.

Gale says

"Help me--Dr. Ruth or Dr. Joyce Brothers!"

A rollicking, roller-coaster of a read which definitively proves that it IS all downhill after the big 4.0! And since the alternative is not worth considering, bring it on! This deliciously-irreverent guide to a guy's midlife crisis fearlessly treads where bigger fools have sunk in the quagmire of Denial. Shamelessly baring the facts of middle-age-hood (along with his chest) Barry examines signs of aging, safer games, coping with the new era of Disrespectful Kids and their weird music (unlike Ours, of course).

Now don't expect to find much advice about sex after 40 though... I love the cover photo, but the author's face of strained angst introduces every chapter; it would be cute if his expression of pained stoicism worsened (or improved) with each succeeding chapter. Be assured, however, that the writing style remains consistently and deliciously humorous. Highly recommended for all men approaching 40--and those who refuse to admit that they passed it a decade since.

August 1, 2015

Aaron Ambrose says

Boomer humor, rescued from the discard box at the library where I vacationed this week. I've enjoyed Barry's columns in the past, and this seemed like a breezy end-of-summer read, so I fished it out. It was indeed breezy and amusing, although his tactics for generating laughs become clear and predictable when you ingest more than 20 pages in a sitting. It's still funny, but less so when the mechanics are on display. The humor also deflects from true thought and feeling, except for one strikingly serious passage describing his mother's path after the death of her husband. Barry is a smart, entertaining writer, but there's not much depth here, and that's not his intent, anyway.

Deborah Markus says

Okay, YES, I'm officially reading too many books at once. But what you have to understand is, these books are all in *different rooms*. And/or different forms -- one of my "currently reading" books is the audio version, which I only "read" when I'm doing the dishes. Another is only on Kindle. Yet another isn't allowed to leave the bathroom. And I'm actually finishing one or two titles a week. So calm down. Sheesh.

Lori says

Some of his essays here on middle age are hysterical. I especially loved the completely surprising serious bit on caring for aging parents. I was touched and his guilt and sorrow in those few pages really seared my heart. Of course, being Barry, he immediately bounded to more funny business in the next chapter. But his little unexpected cul de sac of grief and remorse was further proof to me that it is darn hard to find humor in caring for your parents in their old age. It is just too sensitive a topic for anyone who has ever done it -- or who is left with the guilt of having avoided it.

Shawn Cooke says

Make no mistake -- this is not a book about turning 40. This is a book about Baby Boomers turning 40. The generation aspect is rife throughout the book, drowning out any reflections that might be more timeless. In fact, when Barry does attempt to find something that applies to all generations, it often is more typical of his generation than his age. I read this upon turning 40 myself, and I couldn't help but remark at how little really felt familiar.

One thing to be aware of -- the typical hyperbolic humor holds for 95% of the book, but a section of the penultimate chapter gets unexpectedly real, dealing with his mother's depression and suicide. It was out of place, but an utterly beautiful passage that is worth the price of the book.

Recommended for Boomers who want to remember the glory days of their forties, not for Gen X'ers or Millennials reaching that age.

Kimberly says

I love Dave Barry - I find him absolutely hilarious so pretty much any & all reviews from me are going to read the same unless I manage to find something of his that is actually not funny but that would probably occur in an alternate reality. I would also recommend watching the movie Big Trouble that was adapted from Dave Barry's book of the same name - the cast is all-star [including Tim Allen, Rene Russo, Zooey Deschanel, Stanley Tucci] and is great Dave Barry fun. Of course, if you don't get his humor, then none of this works and you just need to keep looking.
