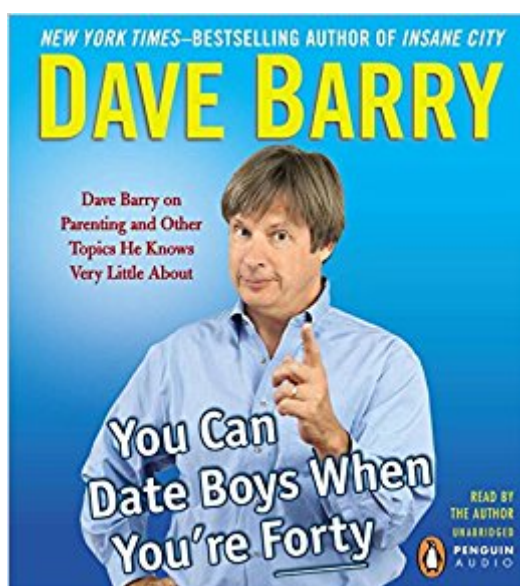


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# You Can Date Boys When You're Forty: Dave Barry On Parenting And Other Topics He Knows Very Little About



## Synopsis

A brilliantly funny exploration of the twin mysteries of parenthood and families from the Pulitzer Prize winner and New York Times bestselling author of *Insane City*. In his New York Times bestselling *I'm All Mature When I'm Dead*, Dave Barry embarked on the treacherous seas of adulthood, to hilarious results. What comes next? Parenthood, of course, and families. In uproarious, brand-new pieces, Barry tackles everything from family trips, bat mitzvah parties and dating (he's serious about that title: "When my daughter can legally commence dating" • February 24, 2014) to funeral instructions ("I intend to monitor her closely, even if I am deceased" • January 1, 2014), the differences between male and female friendships, the deeper meaning of *Fifty Shades of Grey*, and a father's ultimate sacrifice: accompanying his daughter to a Justin Bieber concert ("It turns out that the noise teenaged girls make to express happiness is the same noise they would make if their feet were being gnawed off by badgers"). Let's face it: families not only enrich our lives every day, they drive us completely around the bend. Thank goodness we have Dave Barry as our guide!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

P.J. O'Rourke and Dave Barry in Conversation In the first paragraph of the prologue to his new book, *The Baby Boom: How It Got That Way... And It Wasn't My Fault... And I'll Never Do It Again*, political humor writer P.J. O'Rourke declares in no uncertain terms that he is "full of crap." Similarly, in the introduction to his upcoming book, *You Can Date Boys When You're Forty*, humor columnist

Dave Barry explains that his book, despite its subtitle "Parenting and Other Topics He Knows Very Little About," is not about parenting. It's easy to imagine that when these two bestselling authors and longtime pals get together, commiserative silliness ensues. But in this case, no imagination is necessary. We popped in on an email exchange between these two masters of existential trolling. Here's what happened: Dave Barry: P.J. O'Rourke: I loved The Baby Boom which manages to be both hilarious and insightful. What I want to know is: How did you remember all that stuff? Especially about the '60s. Didn't you take drugs? Of course not! Neither did I! Drugs are bad! But my memories of that era are very purple-hazy, whereas you seem to remember every detail of everything that happened. How did you do that? P.J. O'Rourke: I made it up. I'm a professional reporter. I'm PAID to make things up. Actually, I do remember a lot about the '60s. Probably because I still know a lot of the same people. And they're still yelling at me about things I did back then. Keeps memories fresh. Sort of like a wife. Just kidding, dear. Sort of like a first wife. And I loved You Can Date Boys When You're Forty. You admit you went to a Justin Bieber concert. Kind of pushing the envelope even for a confessional memoir. You're brave, dude, brave. DB: I did indeed go to a Justin Bieber concert, because my daughter really really really wanted to go because she LOVED Justin Bieber. It was terrifying. I was in Coral Gables, Florida, in 1992 when Hurricane Andrew passed over and nearly took off the roof of the home in which I was cowering. I understood then why the noise of a hurricane is always compared to a freight train. What it SHOULD be compared to is a Justin Bieber concert. Given the choice, I'd rather sit through Andrew again. PJO: When I pick my daughters up from school they, for some reason I can't imagine, don't want to listen to Rush Limbaugh, and so they tune the radio to what sounds to me like somebody donated 200 drum sets and an Auto-Tune to a juvenile delinquent corrections facility. But does this mean today's music sucks? Yes. Read the full conversation on Omnivoracious. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Parenting is one of many topics Barry treats to his humorous take on life. The author of I'm Not a Teen Anymore (1997) and I'm Not a Man Anymore (2010) recalls taking his 13-year-old daughter to a Justin Bieber concert, where she pitched an invitation to her bat mitzvah onto the stage, where it was then ignored in the ensuing dance frenzy. Barry offers a baby-boomer perspective on a faster-paced life of electronic gadgetry and the Internet and ponders the aging process, including getting mail marketing Medicare and watching Viagra commercials in the company of your children. Barry laments the current lack of manliness and offers detailed instructions on a host of activities a manly man should be capable of doing, such as barbecuing a steak, jump-starting a dead battery, riding a horse, and performing emergency first aid, and offers hilarious musings on the popularity among

women of Fifty Shades of Grey (2011). Barry fans will appreciate this latest collection by the Pulitzer Prize-winning humorist. --Vanessa Bush --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

If you know Dave Barry you already know you are going to get a side splittingly funny take on whatever subject he takes on, if you don't just hurry up and buy all his books and laugh yourself silly!! I got this book for a friend who had just had a daughter but even as the father of 2 boys I laughed myself silly at Dave's take on daughters. One of my favourite people and authors of all time, he should be running America and all your problems would be solved!!! for a British take on humour writing try Ben Elton, especially his early works, brilliant people like this should be in positions of power!

Book Review Sunday, April 6, 2014 You Can Date Boys When You're Forty by Dave Barry In this latest collection of humorous essays, Dave Barry again proves why he is the funniest writer alive! I mean if you can read Dave's books and not almost collapse with laughter, I'm sorry, but you may be clinically dead. In the introduction Dave explains the title of the book. The best explanation is that he, Dave Barry, didn't pick the name on his own. (Note here to Mr. Barry: Sir, many of us, your fans, are stilling waiting on Moby Dave! Hint! Hint!) Join Dave as he expounds on life with a teen-aged daughter, (he's clueless!) what it means to be manly (remembering that most males are simply guys, a special kind of, well, stupid,) his thoughts on what women want, (that is, man doesn't have the information.) Move on to a semi-serious essay on death, (always remembering that Dave finds it hard to be serious,) how to talk with your wife, (Dave's way involves walking a dog,) lessons in grammar, (your kidding, right?) Dave then gives a lesson on air travel to frequent fliers, (your plane will never take off!) takes the reader to Jerusalem and the rest of Israel, a semi-serious piece (chasing WiFi, for example,) and Dave's Expert Tips on becoming a professional author (major in English and get lucky!) Any book of humor by Dave Barry is worth ten out of five any day. He is the King of Dry Humor! Quoth the Raven

Those were the worst group of selections I have ever seen offered in a questionnaire. Under mood how about funny, hilarious, hysterical? Why even ask about the plot? Would you have offered plot as a choice for a Gary Larkin cartoon collection? It just doesn't apply. I guess this is supposed to be a "One size fits all" questionnaire, designed to cover the entire spectrum of novels, but if you can't at

least have someone read the book before designing the questions, don't even bother. It's a total injustice to Dave Barry and to the potential readers/buyers of the book. It's a truly funny book. If you're a fan, it's a "can't miss". If you're not a fan, try it and maybe you'll become one.

I love and need a good laugh sometimes. Not only is it healthy but lifts the spirits, and I can always count on a Dave Barry book to provide this necessary life ingredient. This particular book pokes some good-natured fun at the aging process with all its conundrums. I'm going through this process so could especially identify with the humor.

I used to read Dave's syndicated column in the local paper regularly until they cancelled it for an unknown reason. There is no doubt he is very funny. This book is no exception except for his Israel travelogue which I thought was out of place. He could not be very funny for fear of offending persons of Jewish persuasion, most of all his wife. It is a small book as books go and I think it took me about 45 minutes to read it. It should have been priced in the \$4-5 range, not what is charging. So I am afraid I will not be reading any more of David's books unless I can borrow them from the public library. He IS funny, but not THAT funny. I should also note that his language is a lot saltier in his book than it is in his columns. So if you are vulgarity-challenged you won't like this book. Finally, should look into the dynamic pricing technology that Disney is using to sell theater tickets. Books like this one will sell more if priced appropriately.

This was entertaining as all the past books I have read by Barry. This one focuses initially on a father's concerns of his daughter growing up and covers a lot of funny, modern themes in society. I found the entire book entertaining...the only drawback was the way his trip to the Holy Land was too long and drawn out. Nevertheless, he maintains his amazing ability to humor and bring the things many of us in life experience to a different, humorous light. The subjects covered in this book are: "Manliness", "What Women Want" (the ultimate enigma), "Death", "Grammar" (where he humorously ravages the English language!), "Air Travelers' FAQ", etc., but found the part about his daughter most entertaining. I recommend this book to all of those men who have daughters...you read it and you will know why.

Dave Barry's brilliant hilarity is nicely displayed in the early part of the book where he actually talks about parenting issues, like describing going to a Justin Beiber concert with his daughter. And the chapter at the end where he explains "How to become a professional author" is the best part of all --

had me laughing out loud repeatedly. The section where he does a side-by-side comparison of women's novels and men's novels is absolutely priceless. Regrettably, this book is a sandwich and the bread is much tastier than the thick filling, which consists of a detailed day-by-day travelogue of his visit to Israel. Yes there are some wickedly funny moments in there, but on the whole that middle section was disappointing. Still a very good book overall and a must-read for any serious Dave Barry fan.

I've been reading Dave Barry for more than 30 years and many years ago I found his books uproariously funny. Either he's not as funny as he once was or it takes more for me to laugh out loud. This book was much better than the previous four or five (including his novel) but it wasn't as funny as his earlier books on babies, etc. It's worth reading but if you're looking for the Dave Barry of the 1980s and '90s, it's not quite here.

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