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Big Trouble



"Dave Barry has gone completely—and delightfully—bonkers." —People



Synopsis

Dave Barry makes his fiction debut with a ferociously funny novel of love and mayhem in south Florida. In his career, Dave Barry has done just about everything—written bestselling nonfiction, won a Pulitzer Prize, seen his life turned into a television series. And now, at last, he has joined the long list of literary figures from Jane Austen to Tolstoy who have made the transition from humor columnist to novelist...and done it with a style and inventiveness that establishes that, yes, he is very good at that, too. In the city of Coconut Grove, Florida, these things happen: A struggling adman named Eliot Arnold drives home from a meeting with the Client From Hell. His teenage son, Matt, fills a Squirtmaster 9000 for his turn at a high school game called Killer. Matt's intended victim, Jenny Herk, sits down in front of the TV with her mom for what she hopes will be a peaceful evening for once. Jenny's alcoholic and secretly embezzling stepfather, Arthur, emerges from the maid's room, angry at being rebuffed. Henry and Leonard, two hit men from New Jersey, pull up to the Herks' house for a real game of Killer, Arthur's embezzlement apparently not having been quite so secret to his employers after all. And a homeless man named Puggy settles down for the night in a treehouse just inside the Herks' yard. In a few minutes, a chain of events that will change the lives of each and every one of them will begin, and will leave some of them wiser, some of them deader, and some of them definitely looking for a new line of work. With a wicked wit, razor-sharp observations, rich characters, and a plot with more twists than the Inland Waterway, Dave Barry makes his debut a complete and utter triumph.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dave manages to combine Russian mafia, a hit team from New Jersey, a dog with the IQ of celery, irresponsible teenagers, sacrificial goats, rogue FBI agents and other petty criminals, and a nuclear bomb to explain just one day's worth of 5 o'clock news for Miami. You could think of it as a travelogue for those not familiar with the customs of the people of Miami, combined with a love story, and a book on modern parenting....

I like Dave Barry's work. That being said, if you have watched the movie starring Tim Allen, Rene Russo, Dennis Farina and Tom Sizemore, it was taken from this book but it has more of a comedic edge than this story. Of the two I like the movie version better but this book is still a good read.

Satirical farces are some of my favorite books, and Big Trouble is among the greatest. It takes a lot for a book to captivate me as much as this one did; every time I picked it up, I didn't want to put it down until it was finished. Big Trouble is a book about people, a lot of different kinds of people, and the ridiculous events that take place when an almost random assortment of these people bump heads. The characters have heart, and the contrasts between goals, such as looking for a bomb and facing off against an Enemy Toad, make for a hilarious and wonderfully insane story that's going to rock your socks off.

Laugh out loud funny. With great characters, dialogue & a level of absurdity that only a few authors can handle these days this book will keep you turning the pages.

This was either the first or second book that I read by Dave Barry. I LOVED it!!! A great entertaining read!

I read this book and was talking about it to my daughter, and she told me it was written prior to 9-11, but not pushed at the time because it would be bad form to take on our friends at TSA. Well maybe

if might be a good to take on the TSA rent a cops that make all of our live miserable while we wait in line and endure the Potemkin security state that inconveniences us all, but probably does very little to make our lives safer. Now that I have gotten that off my chest, I can say that Barry sends up Florida and the TSA with the a sense of humor and an appreciation of the absurdity that we all endure in our daily lives. His characters are entertaining, and if I didn't know South Florida and the keystone cops of the TSA, I would say they are a little absurd, but then, even the most absurd fiction, can hardly begin to describe the reality of the absurd that occurs when TSA meets South Florida. Apart from his social criticism, his characters are sweet, and I was smiling at the kids and the adults trying to make the best of a crazy world. If laughter is the best medicene, Barry is a brilliant doctor. Buy the book and smile.

I found myself laughing out loud regularly, as Dave Barry takes the reader through a convoluted series of events that reach an exciting and bizarre conclusion. Barry's odd ball characters come with outlandish back stories. By the time he wraps their fate up in an Epilogue, we're glad our new friends are OK, or not, depending on their place on the good-bad continuum.

If there's anything missing from Dave Barry's "Big Trouble," I don't know what it is. It's got humor, action, romance, adults, teens, thrills, crime, corruption, bribery, current events (even though it was written 15 years ago), popular culture, immigration issues, terrorism issues, weapons issues, and, even though Barry makes a joke of it in his introductory material, a plot. Of course, Dave Barry wrote this (not Hemingway or anyone like that). So, don't expect capital-L Literature here. But, for being a light, fast, fun read (NOT for the kids, though), I'm happy to rate it at an Excellent 5 stars out of 5.

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