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If you're not already acquainted--nay, infatuated--with the works of the man who the *New York Times* calls "the funniest man in America," you can get cracking right now with this all-time favorite collection of Dave Barry's humor columns. *Dave Barry's Bad Habits* won't rot your teeth, cause your insurance premiums to go up, or make your kids go cross-eyed if they sit too close to it. It will, however, make you laugh so hard your middle actually moves (the best exercise, and possibly the only kind you'll be interested in after forty). Here, preserved for all time, are Barry's profoundest musings on such topics as how to get kids to stop smoking (eliminate tenth grade), what to do if your car is making loud noises (turn up the radio), and a solution to the battle of the sexes (let the men do housework, say, for the next six thousand years to even things up). Together they serve to expose the little insanities of everyday life and assure us that we're not completely alone in a world gone mad.

Dave Barry's Bad Habits: A 100% Fact-Free Book Details

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Author : Dave Barry

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From Reader Review Dave Barry's Bad Habits: A 100% Fact-Free Book for online ebook

Will Caverly says

Sat on the back of my toilet tank for years, to the point where I've basically memorized it. I still laugh out loud reading this today.

My sense of humor was greatly influenced by this sarcastic, hilarious series of columns. It still reads well.

Josh Burns says

Dave Barry rarely disappoints! This book is not only a fun collection of some of his early writings, but a great early eighties time capsule.

Leonie says

As entertaining as always. Barely dated.

Cassie says

This book is a collection of humor articles from the 80s. not much of it is relevant anymore, but it was still pretty funny.

I think the reason I didn't care much for this book is that I read it all at once. I would have enjoyed it much more if I had read the articles separately over a longer period of time, like they were originally intended to be read.

Anuradha Murphy says

I skimmed through this book. It is full of the expected Dave Barry brand of humor, and, as the title says, it's completely fact-free. It was good to read between doses of other disturbing books (The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo).

Karen says

I started reading this but found I wasn't enjoying it all that much

Sarah says

This book hasn't held up well with time. Too many references to things in the 80s kept this from being laugh-out-loud funny to me.

Scott Sevener says

This is the book that first introduced me to Dave Barry when I was in middle school - loved it and aspired to be just like Dave, flashy humor columnist lifestyle and all...

Alan says

My brother gave me a copy of "Bad Habits" some time ago, and I started reading it before I fell asleep each night, but almost every time I cracked the book open I'd start reading and then laughing...as much to myself as possible, because my wife was trying to sleep. But I'd laugh, the bed would shake and she'd roll over and ask "What in the world is going on!?" It's Dave Barry. Being an adult she'd roll her eyes at me, tell me to cut it out, and then ask me to turn off the reading light and go to sleep.

So I had to finish the rest of the book in the light of day...and sure enough, Barry made me laugh out loud again and again, sometimes making me laugh so hard I'd cry so hard that I couldn't see the page.

My wife was a good sport though, and paid me the courtesy of putting down the newspaper again and again while I read her particularly good bits...after which she would roll her eyes again (but I think she secretly loved it) and went back to the newspaper.

Make sure that when you read it you have a willing sounding board, someone who will humor you as you humor them.

Anyway, Dave Barry is a master of boiling down important issues into understandable drivel that anyone would benefit from reading...well, it won't help you understand the issues any better, but it will make you feel a LOT better about not understanding them.

5 stars!

Ed says

Not the best of the Dave Barry offerings, partially because it is a little bit dated. Nevertheless it is a very satisfying read. There were times I laughed out loud and many times I chuckled so the exercise of reading this book was worthwhile.

This is a collection of his newspaper columns, loosely organized under a number of topics like "Household

Perils", "Government Follies", "Taxation Without Reservation", "Media is a mess-up," "Low Finance", etc. My favorite was "Health Habits" as he poked fun at a number of current trends in health care.

One thing that always surprises me about Barry, is that he always surprises me.

Pam says

News columns covering every topic imaginable. Take your pick. Dave Barry is always fun.

Corielle Hayley says

Sometimes you just need a little junk food for your brain -- what my dad calls "popcorn books" -- and Dave Barry is always a good source for that kind of nonsense. You can read a few pages, set it down, and come back to it whenever.

I've reviewed Dave Barry collections here before, and there's nothing really new to say. This one's a collection of articles, no more than a couple pages each, published in 1993. He groups them by general categories: healthy habits, home maintenance, etc. The humor holds up pretty well, although he makes a lot of Reagan jokes. Like, a lot. But they're funny, and he's funny, and he provides a lot of good advice. For instance, we should all stop paying our taxes, because if the government had less money to spend, then they'd make better use of what they have. Just don't call Barry for bail money when the IRS throws you in prison. Or how to fix that loud noise your car is making by turning up the radio (definitely my style of auto maintenance). Barry makes for a great break from the serious stuff, although I wouldn't recommend leaving the book on your bedside table -- that cover will give you nightmares.

Terry says

Hilarious book filled with short anecdotes about everyday life. His articles originally appeared in newspaper columns, so many of them are related to current events. His imagination is what makes his humor. Truth about things like politics is often funny.

Kaitlin says

This book isn't outdated - it's awesome. Yes, I'm too young to be a Dave Barry fan, but fan I am. I read a book of his when I was a kid and will never grow out of him. True, most of these articles were written in 1982, the year my older brother was born, but so what? Barry's criticisms are still valid, and his perspective on life certainly is as well. And to say I laughed at nearly every one of these articles would not be an exaggeration.

I feel with Barry like I'm visiting with a friend. I understand his sense of humor and can't wait to hear what else he has to tell me about. I really need to read more (OK, all) of his books.

Oh, and I read this over the course of about 40 days, which for me is unheard of (this year I've been reading obsessively and usually finish books in 5 days or less). I kept this one under the bed and read a couple articles every day or so. It made me happy before falling asleep, and it never lost its charm.

Ignore the haters, Dave. Your groupies are here for you.

Kimberly Seibert says

I picked this book up at a Library book sale based off of the cavemen illustration and the words "bad habits." Regardless of this book being published in 1985 Dave Barry's wit can still be related to politics and views today. His sarcastic approach in his "100% fact free book" was thought provoking in the sense that our government repeats itself in it's mistakes. In this book Dave Barry talks about certain topics that are easy to relate to and laugh along with. But then there were some references I didn't understand, which made the humor difficult for me to follow and this book feel like it was dragging on. I also thought the ending was abrupt, but I may have missed the humor in that too?
