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# Barrel Fever



## Synopsis

In David Sedaris's world, no one is safe and no cow is sacred. A manic cross between Mark Leyner, Fran Lebowitz and the National Enquirer, Sedaris's collection of stories and essays is a rollicking tour through the American Zeitgeist: a man who is loved too much flees the heavyweight champion of the world; a teenage suicide tried to incite a lynch mob at her funeral; and in his essays, David Sedaris considers the hazards of rewards of smoking, writing for *Giantess* magazine, and living with his scrappy brother Paul, aka 'The Rooster'. With a perfect eye and a voice infused with as much empathy as wit, Sedaris writes and reads stories and essays that target the soulful ridiculousness of our behaviour. *Barrel Fever* is like a blind date with modern life - and anything can happen.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A collection of stories and essays by humorist and NPR commentator David Sedaris based upon his own experiences and the hidden perversity that can be found in Anytown, U.S.A. Here are images and blasphemies that nice people don't dare look at--blatantly exposed and told with the clear, casual voice of intimate knowledge. Sedaris' humor is born of compassion and his tales range from the sharing of cheery Christmas letters featuring infanticide, to experiences of the Gay and Famous (Charlton Heston and Elizabeth Dole, for example), to the lives of siblings named Hope, Faith, Charity and Adolph and to alcoholics and chain smokers you can laugh with. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In this collection of short writings that both celebrate and skewer various odd elements of contemporary American culture, Sedaris, who's a regular commentator for National Public Radio, fashions a mordantly comic, outspoken and often delusional narrative, suggesting a caustic mix of J. D. Salinger and John Waters. Twelve imaginative stories and four equally colorful essays ruthlessly lampoon pet social and domestic dysfunctions, most notably the demise of the nuclear family, the epidemic of victim complexes and the apparent prevalence of stunted adolescence. "The Last You'll Hear from Me" is Trish Moody's suicide note, which she wants read at her funeral, excoriating an unfaithful boyfriend, a disloyal friend and an unfeeling mother. "Glen's Homophobia Newsletter, Vol. 3, No. 2" chronicles its title character's perceived harassment after trying unsuccessfully to seduce a clerk at the local convenience store. "Don's Story" is the acceptance speech for the third Oscar that Hollywood neophyte Don wins for an autobiographical film in which his father and mother are played by, respectively, Charles Bronson and Don Rickles. Closing the collection, the essay "Santaland Diaries" recounts Sedaris's seamy experiences working as an elf in Macy's SantaLand. Other pieces take aim at recovering alcoholics, ardent nonsmokers and "people who overuse the words 'rage' and 'empowerment.'" Sedaris ekes humor from the blackest of scenarios, peppering his narrative with memorable turns of phrase and repeatedly surprising with his double-edged wit. Just as the reader is convinced by some sharp gem of vituperation, it will turn back and cut its speaker as deeply as its subject. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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Reading Sedaris is like accepting a ride from a stranger because he is headed in your general direction. You may end up someplace else, but the ride was worthwhile. This book is divided into stories and essays. The stories are as weird as Sedaris' thought process. The essays top out with the Santaland Diaries, a true account of his experiences as a Christmas elf at Macy's. Sedaris is an acquired taste, one that I enjoy immensely. I like Stilton cheese, too.

David Sedaris' writing is such a treat. He is the only author to have made me snort-laugh on a crowded subway. I really enjoy his writing and am fans of both he and his sister, Amy. I've read just about all of his books and hope to see him in person one day.

No one writes quite like David Sedaris. This collection of stories and essays reaches new highs/lows in comedy so caustically humorous, that guilty pleasures become real. Revel in his memoir of his love affairs and fights amongst the rich and famous such as Charlton Heston, Pat

Buchanan, Chuck Connors and his ultimate love, Mike Tyson. Listen in on Sedaris' account of living with his aunt and hearing all of his Mother and her sister's sordid stories. Nothing smacks of hilarious hypocrisy more than Sedaris telling his friend Gill he that he drinks too much while he cannot understand why using the vacuum cleaner as a pillow unintentionally is wrong. If you have ever known a smoker, "Diary Of A Smoker" will have you licking ashtrays to stop from laughing. Of course, Sedaris chooses his most famous story, "The SantaLand Diaries" for last. This is the ultimate barometer for true magic in the commercialized Christmas world we all have to endure. Barrel Fever is worth it just for this one essay!

I first discovered David Sedaris when a friend left me a copy of "The Last You'll Hear from Me" - still to this day one of my favorite short stories. It's just one of the many stories and essays included in this clever, insightful and funny-as-hell collection. I'll end with a Sedaris quote to give those unfamiliar with his work a taste of his tone: I haven't got the slightest idea how to change people, but still I keep a long list of prospective candidates just in case I should ever figure it out.

I'm a gotta have them all collector, so I got this early Sedaris. Like many of the earlier works, it is much less polished than the later stuff.

Enjoyable but not as much as his other books . Somewhat angrier. But I will always be a big fan.

Usually have liked his stories, but this book failed to entertain me and capture my interest.

David Sedaris is probably my favorite author, glad his books are on here.

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