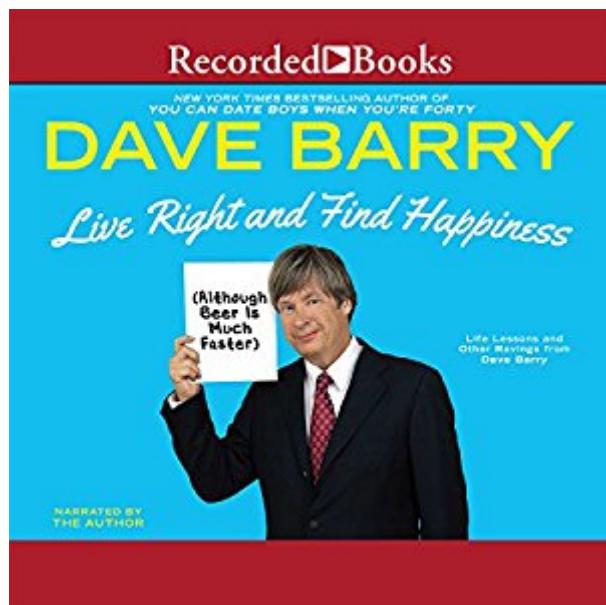


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# Live Right And Find Happiness (Although Beer Is Much Faster): Life Lessons From Dave Barry



## **Synopsis**

An uproariously funny examination of what one generation can teach to another - or not - from the Pulitzer Prize winner and New York Times - best-selling author of *You Can Date Boys When You're Forty* and *Insane City*. During the course of living (mumble, mumble) years, Dave Barry has gained much wisdom\* (\*actual wisdom not guaranteed), and he is eager to pass it on - to the next generation, the generation after that, and those idiots who make driving to the grocery store in Florida a death-defying experience. In brilliant, brand-new, never-before-published pieces, Dave passes on home truths to his new grandson and to his daughter, Sophie (who will be getting her learner's permit in 2015, the thought of which scares Dave silly). He explores the hometown of his youth, when all the men went to the city in suits and hats but still seemed to be having un-Mad Men-like fun, and how they turned into the neurotic hover-parents of today. He dives into everything from Google Glass (bottom line: "You feel like an idiot") to why men hate birthdays and anniversaries; from how to speak Spanish to firsthand accounts of the soccer craziness of Brazil and the just-plain-crazy craziness of Putin's Russia, and a lot more besides. By the end, if you do not feel wiser, richer in knowledge, and more attuned to the universe...it wouldn't be surprising. But you'll have had a lot to laugh about!

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

If you've never read a Dave Barry book before you should - he is always hilarious and I love his insights on life. Over his writing career his books have always captured the unique experiences of the times he's in. He's also written a couple of mystery books I'd highly recommend. This newest

book catches Dave in his later 60's. (How this has happened so fast I don't know; he's not all that much older than I am so I am taking his getting older very personally.) Dave reflects in his usually witty and laugh-out-loud way about various subjects such as his 15 year old daughter getting her driver's license, traveling to Brazil for the World Cup and his love of soccer (really Dave?), and traveling to Russia with fellow writer Ridley Pearson. My favorite chapters have to do with his discussion of his own teenage awkwardness (gosh he speaks for us all) and I especially the chapter about the differences between our parents generation (the Greatest Generation), our own, and the way we treat our kids. As funny as it is, it is all incredible astute and he really points out how we have become a generation that does to much for our children and helps pave the way for their success - whereas our own parents didn't fret so much about our not wearing helmets or eating gluten etc - we were allowed to be kids and the less worry about us really made for better lives for us all. I love Dave Barry. I saw him speak at UCLA once with Ridley Pearson at the Los Angeles Times Book Festival. It was the best panel I went to and the most memorable and afterwards we saw them perform with the Rock Bottom Remainders - an experience I will never forget. He is not just a very funny guy but seems like a genuinely kind one too. I know that shouldn't matter as much in terms of enjoying his books yet it does and I am happy to support whatever he does.

If you like Dave Barry, you will love "Live Right and Fend Happiness (although beer is much fast)". His humor is much the same as always. He seems to hit the nail on the head with his observations. The section on soccer - regarding the World Cup in Brazil - and the section on home improvement brought about almost continuous tears of laughter. His review of past parenting practices and present ones was so real it brought about great memories from my past. Read it. You'll love it.

I'm a voracious reader, but, despite my innate human desire to laugh, I rarely find myself reading humorous books. Comedy is a subjective thing, and it's usually best served by watching/hearing the potentially funny subject matter. It's hard to make me laugh at the printed word. It's not unheard of, but it's a pretty rare thing to see me sitting there with a book, laughing. I used to read Dave Barry's column when I was a teenager in New York's Daily News, and while I must have liked it well enough (I don't remember much about it, but I do remember reading it each week....), I really wasn't expecting much when I started reading Barry's newest book, **LIVE RIGHT AND FIND HAPPINESS (ALTHOUGH BEER IS MUCH FASTER): LIFE LESSONS AND OTHER RAVINGS FROM DAVE BARRY**. I was happily surprised to find that I must have grown into the target audience for Barry's humor. (I'm 44) Although Barry is older than me, I immediately connected with his essay about how

parents today worry about so many things that they find themselves unable to enjoy life the way their parents and grandparents did. I appreciated the way he worried about his daughter learning how to drive, and I was touched by the letter to his newborn grandson that closes out the book. And, on more than one occasion, I found myself laughing out loud. (At the very least, each page had at least one part that brought a smile to my face.) As a totally clueless homeowner, I especially appreciated Barry's essay on Do-it-yourself projects, and the sage wisdom that he received on the subject from Johnny Carson during an appearance on The Tonight Show. There are also some truly insightful points that Barry makes, as well as a few (Shudder....!) educational moments. Barry's writing style makes for a quick, fun read, and this was a nice break from some of the heavier subjects that I've been reading about lately. Good stuff.

I just finished reading this book last night and I don't think I've laughed so hard in years. There is one chapter about Google Glass that had me rolling on the floor. In fact I had to put the book down a few times just to catch my breath. I had to do the same while reading the chapter about a trip he took to Russia with fellow author, Ridley Pearson. I believe the moral of that chapter was, "Don't eat Mexican food in Russia". If you're looking for a book with subtle, thought provoking humor, this is not for you. However if you want to read a book that's extremely funny and a little silly you will love this book. Most of the stories are based on real life experiences. There is also a wonderful chapter where he writes a letter to his grandson. I could go on and on about my favorite chapters but the fact is I enjoyed all of the chapters and would definitely recommend this book to anyone. Unlike a lot of other so called humor books this is one that I wouldn't be afraid to give as a gift to a parent or grandparent. It's funny, it's clean, and it's typical Dave Barry. It doesn't get any better than that.

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