

Dave Barry's History of the Millennium (So Far)

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A brilliantly funny exploration of the tumultuous years 2000-2006 from the Pulitzer Prize-winning humorist.

Dave Barry's History of the Millennium (So Far) Details

Date : Published September 18th 2007 by Brilliance Audio (first published September 1st 2007)

ISBN : 9781423340867

Author : Dave Barry

Format : Audio CD

Genre : Humor, Nonfiction, History, Writing, Essays, Comedy

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From Reader Review Dave Barry's History of the Millennium (So Far) for online ebook

Karma Hope says

FUNNY!!! I laughed out loud so many times, my kids were looking at me like I was crazy. I have always been a huge fan of Barry's column but this was my first book - he did not disappoint!!! With his usual clever/silly take on the world and politics; this book was entertaining and thought provoking all at once. Truly a great way to spend an afternoon!

S. says

Facebook photos little flat now that it's 10 years after the last year in review I'll put it in the book. It's an interesting reminder the new stories of my junior high, high school and missionaries. overall has some definitely amusing laugh-out-loud Worthy sections but generally relies on too many inside jokes and things that if you weren't aware during those years you would be completely clueless about.

Laura says

He signed this for me when I went with some friends to see him at a bookstore in DC. The inscription reads, "For Laura, a goddess."

Sarah says

Dave Barry's History of the Millennium (So Far) is one of the author's more tedious works. The format of the book itself gives it a repetitive nature, but the author's style of writing also leads to repetition. While some repetition can not be avoided, I was hoping for a more original and inspired work. If you have never read one of Dave Barry's works, I do not suggest you start with this one. Read some of Barry's older books such as, *Dave Barry Is Not Taking This Sitting Down*. All-in-all this book is an easy read with some easy laughs, but it leaves something to be desired.

Kelly says

I've always liked Dave Barry (of his work, I've read one other book, scattered columns, and really liked his TV show), and I really, really enjoyed reading this. Both the history of the previous millennium and the newer stuff from the beginning of the 21st (2000-2006) are hilarious. The turn of the millennium was around the time I started seriously following the news (I had just turned 13), and I was surprised by how quickly most of the stories came back—but of course not at all surprised that Barry's take on them was hysterical. I was especially amused to hear all the references to the Clintons & Trump (mostly his hair) in light of recent and current events, as well as a couple of Obama references (I wonder what mid-to-late 2000s Barry would have to say if he knew where all these players are now). The numerous references to Democrat-Republican

animosity and Democratic obstruction of Bush were both really funny and oddly comforting (given all the hand-wringing about our divisive political landscape, it helps to be reminded that things weren't *all* that different in the past). So overall this was a really great read, both as a reminder of why I like Barry and of a simpler time in my life (which may have been a simpler time in everyone's lives, but given the parallels I've noted here, I sort of doubt it).

Format note I listened to the audio version of this from the National Library Service for the Blind. It was read by Michael Kramer, who also records commercial audiobooks for Audible and other publishers (I think he specializes in fantasy books; I know he's narrated some of Brandon Sanderson's books). He was surprisingly good at reading humor, which made the book even more enjoyable.

Grant Cousineau says

I haven't read a Barry book in nearly 10 years, and looking back at some of my old reviews, the word "hilarious" rears its head frequently. I remember loving Barry, having to stop from time to time to laugh and think about where a certain joke came from, or what made it so funny. Perhaps I've changed as a reader since then, or perhaps this was one of his lesser successful collections, but I felt myself smiling a lot, though rarely laughing out loud, maybe three or four times. His wit is certainly there, and there's definitely a good amount of research that goes into making these columns, both in terms of inaccuracy and finding the joke in even the most dire of stories (Natalie Holloway comes up a lot, simply for the fact that, apparently, Greta Van Susteren found reason to basically live in Aruba for most of a year to report, mostly, non-news). But the enjoyability wasn't the same.

I was digesting it all right, and I know it's unfair to rate a humor book solely on its ability to make me laugh, but it was merely a time-passer and a nice way to remember the news events I've already begun defragging from my brain. Unfortunately, this book likely will be something I forget I ever read. Humor is fine, and it's probably also unfair to judge this as a book and not seven completely separate essays, but it's a nice coffee table book at best, and I get the feeling Barry knew that. Heck, he didn't even have to write new content for this book--simply get the rights to republish stuff he'd already been paid for. I'd have done the same thing. But if you're going to call a book "The History of the Millennium," I'd have much more enjoyed his thoughts after year had become actual "history" and he'd had time to put things into context rather than reactionary archives that, today, seem perhaps not so funny (such as ridiculing Michael Jackson's legal woes and Donald Trump's then-seemingly-silly idea of running for president). In other words, if jokes can't stand the test of time, the book as a whole likely won't either.

And yet, because it does its job, it's not a bad book. Most readers will know what they're walking into, and if they're already Barry fans, they'll probably be adequately satisfied (myself excluded).

Heather says

I thought this was a good one to read at work in the middle of the night, something I didn't have to think hard about. But it was too mindless even for that and I couldn't bring myself to waste my time to finish it.

Joe says

The first chapter of Dave Barry's millennial review is a hilarious, condensed chronicle of the previous thousand years (1000-1999 A.D.); wars, revolutions and cultural epochs swirl past in a kaleidoscope of muddled history. The ensuing chapters lampoon the media, politics and pop-culture of first eight years of our current millennium; these chapters are less inspired. Apparently there's more comic material in one thousand years than in eight and those subjects were already well-worn by a multitude of modern mockers by the time Barry's book got published.

But while the prolific jokester struggles to find comedic ground not covered by Leno, Letterman or Stewart, his wit makes this stroll through absurdity a quaint one. And you might just recall some Earth-shaking events from the recent past; remember the hullabaloo over Scooter Libby? (I hadn't.) How about Elian Gonzales? (Sadly, I had.) What about that time congress was super-dysfunctional? (Ha ha.) Barry makes all this silliness palatable, though it's hard to laugh when you're cringing.

Edited 12-17-2017

Chrisiant says

I think Dave Barry retired at the right time. I grew up loving his humor, but it's become more and more formulaic as time goes on, and there's only so many times that the letters in someone's name rearranged, or a goofy suggested band name, or even, dare I say it, a fart joke, can be funny. This book is mostly a compilation of his "Year in Review" columns, with a bit of other humorous quick recap thrown in for good measure. It seemed tired to me, and not all that funny, and that's saying a lot for someone who grew up loving his books and columns.

I think in the end there's just only so far he can carry his humor before it needs a shot in the arm of new and interesting, and this book was absolutely missing that.

Kristal Cooper says

Dave Barry's half serious, half silly take on history which consists of his year-end wrap-ups from 2000 to 2006 and a brief rundown of everything before that. (IE: "In Texas, Davy Crockett, Sam Houston, and Roy Rogers die defending the Alamo, which is a place that rents horses.") Dave's stuff may be seriously lightweight compared to most of today's comics, but he's always good for a giggle!

C. Scott says

Look, I like Dave Barry a lot, but I could not finish this book. Barry can be hilarious but I just thought this was silly nonsense. Perhaps I wasn't in the right mood but I don't think this kind of material ages very well. Maybe these annual recaps were funnier when it was all recent history.

Charlotte says

A typical quick and funny Dave Barry book--these are good for those occasions when you just don't feel like

using your brain as you read. This book was a collection of the seven "Year in Review" columns he has written since the turn of the millennium along with some other fluff to get it close to 200 pages. I smiled/chuckled a few times, but I just don't find him as funny as I used to. There's something a little unseemly (or creepy?) about a 60 (!) year old man making booger and bathroom jokes (or the equivalent). I'm glad I didn't buy it (got it from the library).

Gerald Kinro says

Very funny as I expected. He does it without being overly acerbic. Barry writes what I call an alternate history by using perceived idiosyncrasies of major world figures and institutions to create a fun book. It ends in 2006. Just think what he would do with eight years of Obama and now Trump.

Jimyanni says

Some of Dave Barry's books are screamingly, laugh-out-loud funny. Others are just silly and juvenile. Even the silly and juvenile ones are amusing and enjoyable reads, but they aren't nearly as good as, say, "Dave Barry Is NOt Making This Up", "Dave Barry Turns 40", and "Dave Barry's Only Travel Guide You'll Ever Need". This is one of the lesser Dave Barry books; it's still amusing, in a juvenile and just plain silly way, but it's far from his best. In it, he gives a spoof, "Harvard Lampoon" style recap of the millennium from 1000-1999 (which, for some reason apparently involving a complete lack of a grasp of simple arithmetic, he calls the first millennium) and then follows this up with his spoof "year in review" columns for 2000 and 2002-2006; he explains that in 2001, he simply didn't feel that it was appropriate to deal with the 9/11 attack in a humorous way, but he didn't see any way that he could either A) ignore it, or B) treat it seriously while treating the rest of the year humorously; this shows that he actually DOES have some taste, tact, and common sense, despite what he would have you believe.)

Peter Barr says

This is Dave Barry's take on the last millennium (in the first chapter) and the current one (in all the remaining chapters). Dave is at his best when discussing the craziness that is our modern life. He is close enough to what is really taking place that it is the best humor I've read in quite a while.
