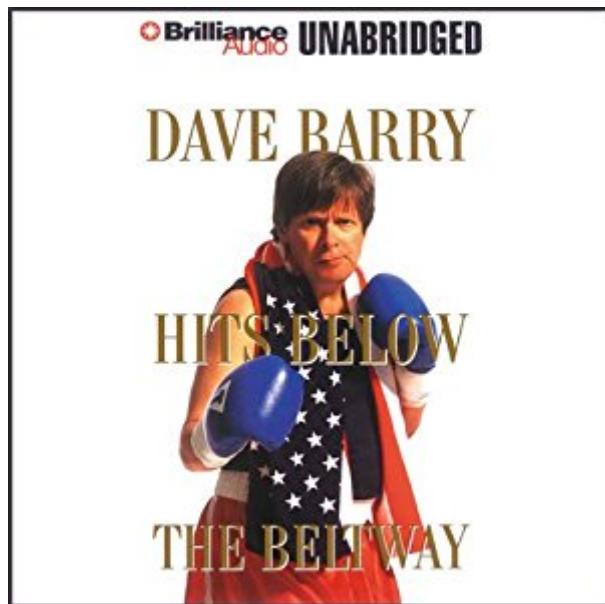


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Dave Barry Hits Below The Beltway



Synopsis

Just in time, Dave Barry supplies the wholly original, much needed history and guide to the new American politics and its three capitals, Washington, D.C., Austin, and South Florida. No surprise: it's hilarious. Understanding the urgent need for a deeply thoughtful balanced book to explain our national political process, Dave Barry has not even come close. Though he himself has covered many campaigns, run for President several times, and run for cover at the rainy inauguration of George W. Bush (the man will spare nothing for his art) Barry has instead outdone himself. Below the Beltway includes Barry's stirring account of how the United States was born, including his version of a properly rewritten Declaration (When in the course of human events it behooves us, the people, not to ask "What can our country do for us, anyway?" but rather whether we have anything to fear except fear itself...) and a revised Constitution (Section II: The House of Representatives shall be composed of people who own at least two dark suits and have not been indicted recently.). Dave also cracks the income tax code, explains the growth(s) of government, congressional hearing difficulties, and the persistent rumors of the influence of capital in the Capitol. Among other civic contributions, his tour of Washington, D.C., should end school class trips forever.

--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have read the vast majority of Dave Barry's books, from his earliest works to some of his latest, and this one has to be my absolute favorite by far. This volume is having-trouble-breathing hysterical. His wit coupled with his unique way of looking at our government is fantastic. It starts off

a bit slow (going over the history and all), but once he gets into the main part of the book, it's non-stop laughs from there. A few of his familiar themes (like describing how this or that would be a good name for a band) appear regularly but at very fitting times. Our government is funny (?!) enough just by itself; Dave Barry makes it that much funnier. If you're a Dave Barry fan, you MUST read this book.

Dave Barry's books are always good. He is not a fortune teller, What gives you is the fact, not the story. His book are full of good thoughts.

I don't know what some of these other reviews are talking about, frankly. This book highlights Barry at his best, hilarious as usual. The more you know about politics, the funnier this stuff gets. Barry is a highly intelligent commentator on politics and on the sometimes insane world of campaigning and lawmaking. His new-and-improved version of the Constitution is roll-on-the-floor laughing material. Barry also discusses the 2000 presidential candidates, making light of their shortcomings, but also getting serious: he met both of them, and says that Gore was much more personable than he seemed on TV, and Bush much more intelligent. He's on to an important point here: the way candidates appear on TV, or the ways they are stereotyped by the media, doesn't necessarily have anything to do with who they are in real life. A must-have for anyone who likes politics, and actually has a sense of humor.

What happens when you mix a true Libertarian with generous helpings of Satire? You get an extremely entertaining book that uses great wit to lampoon the anointed elite known as "our leaders". Dave Barry understands Government better than most of the politicians do and certainly better than the general public (most folks don't actually understand the line "I'm from the Government and I'm here to help" as being funny). The best part of this book is that although he uses satire, there is no exaggeration on his part regarding the inner workings of the Beltway. I'm glad that Dave Barry is a Libertarian and his sense of the absurd is fantastic. Nothing combats evil and pompous people better than humor. Groucho Marx made a career of it. Dave Barry takes it to the next level. I was surprised that the last line of this book wasn't "I'm not making this up". Enjoy the book; it's one of the best since P. J. O'Rourke's "Parliament of Whores".

Funny - you have to enjoy an odd, but good, sense of humor.

I still miss Dave's column and this book should be read the same way: in installments rather than in a gulp like a novel. Dave hasn't lost his voice and for fans, that's good news!

I have never read a Dave Barry book that wasn't laugh out loud funny. He is so ridiculous that you can't help but laugh. I loved his fighter jet ride and snow boarding. Keep up the good work Dave. Keep me laughing.

If you're a Dave Barry fan, you'll like this book; if you're not, you probably won't. If you don't know who he is yet, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? :^) Some of the book is just so-so, but I laughed until I cried - literally - when I read his spoof on 'smear' ads on TV that major political candidates air against each other. His 'complete explanation, including the footnotes' of the Constitution and its amendments is also good. Not his best, but it has its moments.

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