



Big Trouble

By Dave Barry

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Big Trouble By Dave Barry

Dave Barry makes his fiction debut with a ferociously funny novel of love and mayhem in south Florida.

In his career, Dave Barry has done just about everything--written bestselling nonfiction, won a Pulitzer Prize, seen his life turned into a television series. And now, at last, he has joined the long list of literary figures from Jane Austen to Tolstoy who have made the transition from humor columnist to novelist...and done it with a style and inventiveness that establishes that, yes, he is very good at that, too.

In the city of Coconut Grove, Florida, these things happen: A struggling adman named Eliot Arnold drives home from a meeting with the Client From Hell. His teenage son, Matt, fills a Squirtmaster 9000 for his turn at a high school game called Killer. Matt's intended victim, Jenny Herk, sits down in front of the TV with her mom for what she hopes will be a peaceful evening for once. Jenny's alcoholic and secretly embezzling stepfather, Arthur, emerges from the maid's room, angry at being rebuffed. Henry and Leonard, two hit men from New Jersey, pull up to the Herks' house for a real game of Killer, Arthur's embezzlement apparently not having been quite so secret to his employers after all. And a homeless man named Puggy settles down for the night in a treehouse just inside the Herks' yard.

In a few minutes, a chain of events that will change the lives of each and every one of them will begin, and will leave some of them wiser, some of them deader, and some of them definitely looking for a new line of work. With a wicked wit, razor-sharp observations, rich characters, and a plot with more twists than the Inland Waterway, Dave Barry makes his debut a complete and utter triumph.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Dave Barry, the only newsman to win a Pulitzer for exemplary use of words like *booger*, will please humor and crime-fiction fans alike with this racy debut novel. The scene is Miami. In ritzy Coconut Grove, the teen son of Eliot, a newsman turned adman, sneaks up to spritz a cute girl with a Squirtmaster 9000 to win a high school game called Killer. Meanwhile, two hit men sneak up to kill the girl's abusive stepdad, Arthur. Arthur cheated his bosses at corrupt Penultimate, Inc., which equipped a Florida jail with automatic garage-opener gates that accidentally freed prisoners in a lightning storm.

Farcical confusion ensues, witnessed by a saintly bum named Puggy, camped in a tree in Arthur's yard. Puggy works at the Jolly Jackal Bar & Grill, which has no grill and actually sells guns and bombs to an offshoot of the Crips and Bloods called the Cruds, and to Penultimate (which plans to conquer Cuba). But when dim thugs Eddie and Snake rob the Jolly Jackal and Arthur tells them it's a Russian mob front selling bombs, the proprietor snorts, "*Bombs, pfft!* No bombs! Is bar."

Can Snake and Eddie spirit a suitcase nuke through Miami, "where most motorists obeyed the traffic and customs of their individual countries of origin"? Can Eliot and cop Monica Rodriguez save the day? And how do the 300-pound hallucinogenic Enemy Toad, the 13-foot-long python Daphne, highway goats, and the Denture Adventure seniors' theme park fit in? Everything fits perfectly, including a few dark passages new to Barry's work. But one warning: if you read this book while drinking milk, at some point it will spurt out of your nostrils. --*Tim Appelo*

From Publishers Weekly

In writing a comic thriller set in South Florida, the Pulitzer-winning Miami Herald columnist and author of 20 books of satirical nonfiction (most recently, *Dave Barry Turns 50*) risks the inevitable comparison to Carl Hiaasen. The good news is that he acquits himself well in this slapstick caper. Barry's cast of familiar South Florida oddballs populate what might best be described as a Garry Trudeau (*Doonesbury*) sendup of the hard-boiled crime novels of Elmore Leonard. Featuring a homeless drifter who sleeps in a tree and tends bar for two illegal arms-dealing Russian hoods, a pair of two-bit losers who hustle tourists at parking meters, an ex-journalist (now a failing ad-man), a pretty illegal alien, a boozy embezzler and his ill-used wife and daughter, a teen with a water pistol playing a game of Killer, a retarded dog, a psychedelic South American toad, two klutzy New Jersey hit men and a virtual army of local and Federal law enforcement, the novel's quirky players bounce off each other like popcorn in a microwave, chasing after a mysterious suitcase containing a nuclear bomb in an unlikely race against certain death. The zany plot has more twists than the I-95 Miami airport interchange and more pratfalls than a Three Stooges comedy. Despite an occasional stiffness and tendency to strain for one-liners, the narrative moves at a breezy pace. Barry is indisputably one of the funniest humorists writing today, and his fiction debut will not disappoint a legion of fans. Agent, Al Hart. 150,000 first printing; \$150,000 ad/promo; Literary Guild featured alternate; 12-city author tour.

(Sept.)

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From Library Journal

Humor columnist and writer Barry delights us with his first full-fledged novel. The circumstantial theater of events culminating in much riotous zaniness reminds this reviewer of P.G. Wodehouse. Only Barry sets his characters in 20th-century south Florida ? la Carl Hiaasen and Elmore Leonard. If you remember that Barry always tries to find the humor in everyday situations, you almost instinctively know that when he gets to

develop the plot, twists, and personalities in a story of his imagination, it will be a light-hearted, wacky ride. Consider the combination of a dim, homeless vagrant named Puggy who "lucks" into a job at a bar where two corrupt Russian owners are warehousing and selling high-tech weaponry; several teenagers actively pursuing one another in a secret squirt-gun game of "Killer"; two low-life thugs who have been "contracted" to bump off a sleazy embezzler, and you have the trappings of comedic farce. Dick Hill's rendition of the characters will have you laughing out loud during your commute. Highly recommended for those who like sophomoric silliness.

-Kristin M. Jacobi, Eastern Connecticut State Univ., Willimantic

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jonathan Ouzts:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or even goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They may be reading whatever they have because their hobby is definitely reading a book. How about the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, person feel need book after they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you should have this Big Trouble.

Craig Brown:

Do you really one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt when you are in the book store? Attempt to pick one book that you just dont know the inside because don't judge book by its protect may doesn't work is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not while fantastic as in the outside seem likes. Maybe you answer is usually Big Trouble why because the amazing cover that make you consider about the content will not disappoint a person. The inside or content is definitely fantastic as the outside or maybe cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly guide you to pick up this book.

Bessie Starns:

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Kara Hogan:

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