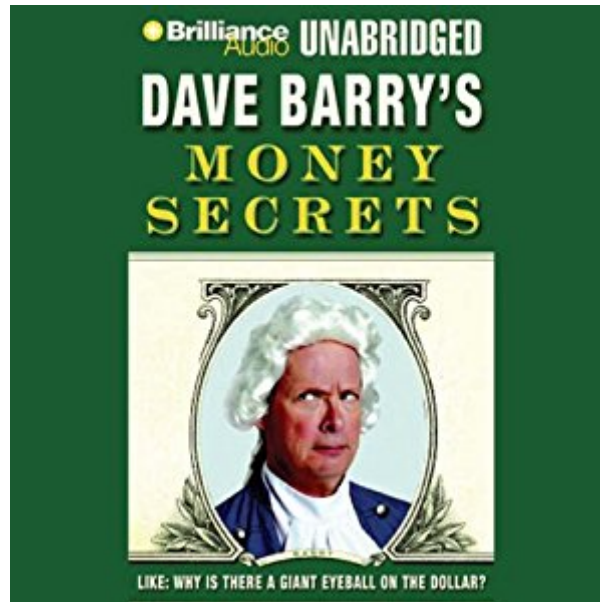


The book was found

Dave Barry's Money Secrets: Like: Why Is There A Giant Eyeball On The Dollar?



Synopsis

Did you ever wish that you really understood money? Well, Dave Barry wishes that he did, too. But that hasn't stopped him from writing this book. In it, Dave explores (as only he can) such topics as:

- How the U.S. economy works, including the often overlooked role of Adam Sandler
- Why it is not a good idea to use squirrels for money
- Strategies that will give you the confidence you need to try for a good job, even though you are "let's be honest" a no-talent loser
- How corporate executives, simply by walking into their offices, immediately become much stupider
- An absolutely foolproof system for making money in the stock market, requiring only a little effort (and access to time travel)
- Surefire tips for buying and selling real estate, the key being: Never buy or, for that matter, sell real estate
- How to minimize your federal taxes, safely and legally, by cheating
- Why good colleges cost so much, and how to make sure your child does not get into one
- How to reduce the cost of your medical care by basically not getting any
- Estate planning, especially the financial benefits of an early death
- And many, many pictures of Suze Orman

But that's only the beginning! Dave has also included in this book all of the important points from a book written by Donald Trump, so you don't have to read it yourself. Plus he explains how to tip, how to negotiate for everything (including bridge tolls), how to argue with your spouse about money, and how much allowance to give your children (three dollars is plenty). He also presents, for the first time in print anywhere, the Car Dealership Code of Ethics (œEthic Seven: The customer is an idiot•). Also, there are many gratuitous references to Angelina Jolie naked. You can't afford not to buy this book! Probably you need several copies.

What kind of financial shape are you in right now? This scientific quiz will show you. Be honest in your answers: If you lie, you'll only be lying to yourself! The place to lie is on your federal tax return.

What is your annual income?

1. More than \$50,000.
2. Less than \$50,000.
3. However much I get when I return these empties. Not counting your mortgage, how much money do you currently owe?

1. Less than \$10,000.
2. More than \$10,000.
3. Men are threatening to cut off my thumbs.

How would you describe your portfolio?

1. Conservative, mainly bonds and blue-chip equities.
2. Aggressive, mainly options and speculative stocks.
3. My what?

When analyzing an investment, what do you consider to be the most important factor?

1. The amount of return.
2. The degree of risk.
3. The name of the jockey.

How do you plan to finance your retirement?

1. Savings.
2. Social security.
3. Sale of kidneys.

—from the Introduction:

œWhy You Need This Book•

•Also available as a Crown eBook. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm almost always amused by Dave Barry's books. Some of his humor is a bit juvenile but overall his books are generally worth the money. This one was no different and there were several laugh-out-loud sections, particularly when he discussed purchasing a car and his opinion of several cars, including the Aztek (the "Buttmobile"). His vision of the corporate world was also hilarious to me as I was one of the many individuals who suffered when Coca-Cola decided to change its formula; I mean, what were they thinking??? The Suze Orman shtick got a bit old but overall this book was well worth my time.

Sadly enough, Barry makes more sense than most of the economics professors, money managers, and state financial officials who I have met. Barry is indeed smarter than a monkey and funnier than Karl Marx. In the financial world, these are two wonderful qualities! His analysis of Social Security only has one major flaw, a better job than our federal friends have done, although I am sure he did not intend to be accurate. Frankly, pointy headed economics instructors should make this title required reading. Although most economic students are too boring to laugh, their boyfriends/girlfriends might get it. As difficult a task as it is to be funny throughout an entire book, Barry does a good job. Think about it. Who would you rather have telling you how to manage your money: some certified money flushing financial planner, or Dave Barry? Yipes! Watch out for the squirrels!

How do you plan to finance your retirement? 1. Savings 2. Social Security 3. Sale of kidneys

You need to be honest in your answer. If you lie, you'll only be lying to yourself. And, according to advice given in DAVE BARRY'S MONEY SECRETS (from which this question was taken), "The place to lie in on your federal tax return." This is a very funny guide that spoofs much of the personal financial advice that can be found in other books, TV shows and online . . . save your money on them; buy this one instead . . . you may not get rich if you do, but you will certainly laugh a lot. Barry has previously written on such other topics as politics, fitness and parenting . . . I enjoyed those, but this latest one may well be his very best--especially because it will make you wonder why people behave the way they do when it comes to money. For example, in the above quiz, he states, "That if your answers are all threes [on all the questions], be advised that we're having a minor technical problem calculating your score because of Nigerian red tape. To smooth things out, we need you to send us an 'advance fee' of \$5,000, which you will get back many times over." The amazing thing is that many people do just that!

There were many other hilarious tidbits; among them:

- * Many children learn about money by starting their own businesses, the classic example being the sidewalk lemonade stand. This is an opportunity to teach your child fundamental economic principles. I'm not suggesting that you encourage your child to have a lemonade stand; that's WAY too much work. I'm suggesting that you explain to your child that if he buys lemonade from some other kid's stand, and then happens to choke on a lemon seed, they you would be in a position to sue the other kid's parents for thousands of dollars. That is what I mean by "fundamental economic principles."
- * One way to take money is in the form of traveler's checks. The way these work is, you give a traveler's check company a bunch of money, and the traveler's check company gives you some checks. You cash some of these checks on your trip, and when you get home you put the rest of them in the back of your sock drawer for safekeeping, and then you forget all about them. Eventually you die, and the traveler's check company gets to keep the money you paid for the uncashed checks forever. And this final one that--while presented in a humorous fashion--makes much sense at least to me:

* Presidential Election Campaign Fund checkoff box: If you check this box, \$3 of your taxes will be earmarked for a special fund to pay for presidential campaigns. Notice that the government does not permit you to earmark money for poor people, or sick people, or national defense. No, the government permits you to earmark money only for the purpose of enabling politicians to produce TV commercials designed to appeal to voters who have the IQ of a Vienna sausage. To make matters worse, some of this federal campaign money goes to candidates who have about as much chance of getting elected president as SpongeBob SquarePants. In 2004, of example, more than \$800,000 of earmarked U.S. taxpayer dollars went to Lyndon LaRouche, a convicted felon and complete space

loon who has been running for president since 1980, and who has claimed, among other things, that Walter Mondale was a Soviet agent and Queen Elizabeth II is a drug dealer. If you check the Presidential Election Campaign Fund box, it won't affect the amount of tax you owe, but I will lose all respect for you.

If you like Dave already, you'll love this book. If you're one of those people who thinks he's too juvenile and does too many 'booger jokes', you may like this one more, because he doesn't get as goofy as that in this one. If you're one of those oddballs - and I still run across a lot of these people - who haven't even heard of him until now, well, you need to get educated! For one thing, this book has little to do with actual financial information, and (big surprise) Dave often gets off-topic - WAY off topic. But it doesn't matter - there are many funny pieces in here, including Trump-bashing (his hair is the color of 'troll dolls or certain food groups, such as Cheetos'), the top 10 dog thoughts, interviewing tips, investing tips, the whole car-buying process, travel tips (in the helpful Spanish phrases: 'Hey! There's a freakin' WORM in this bottle!'), and many more. If you need a cheering-up, which I did, this is a tonic.

Ooooooh Dave. How often I read thee. If you have a heart condition, I do not recommend this book. You will likely laugh so hard that you actually die. That said, if you think that you may die soon anyways, it is probably a good way to go. In which case, I do highly recommend this book to you, and also, rest in peace. In this book, Dave Barry pokes a ridiculous amount of fun at one Suze Orman, who is apparently some sort of money expert who has written about 100 books about how to be rich without getting a better job. Someone had to do it, and I'm glad Dave stepped up to the plate! Whenever he is kidding, he puts a picture of Suze Orman into the book. That's all you need to know. Now buy it.

Am retired financial economist who earned living analyzing money and its institutions, etc. for the Government. Found this was hilarious in its (deliberately) twisted views of finance. Understandable for normal people too. Just don't use as investing guide.

I have read several of his books over the years. They are laugh out loud funny and this book was no exception. However, I noticed the addition of coarse words as he has gotten older (to bad). I like the way he can mix true and ridiculous and make it sound plausible. The real life experiences are a scream. I have a couple more of his books to read. Keep them coming Dave!

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