



Your Dad Stole My Rake: And Other Family Dilemmas

Tom Papa

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“I have been a close friend of Tom Papa for 17 years. His lack of ability to perceive even the most basic principles of human functioning have made him an invaluable asset to me as a friend and colleague. Because he sees nothing, knows nothing and understands nothing, I always seek his advice for the most complex matters. Furthermore, I would definitely recommend whatever the name of this book is, because I know it comes from a place of pure nonsense without any knowledge of anything. He is really one of my favorite people.” —Jerry Seinfeld, author of *SeinLanguage*

“Finally a funny book about parenting. Great observations. Great writing. Actually funny. I’ve always known Tom was hysterical, now I know he is a great writer and a fantastic storyteller. Can Tom Papa write all books?” —Jim Gaffigan, author of *Dad is Fat*

It’s hard being a person, especially in a family, and no one knows that better than stand-up comedian, family man, and *Live From Here* head writer and performer, Tom Papa.

How do you deal with a life filled with a whole host of characters and their bizarre, inescapable behavior? Especially when you’re *related* to them? Tom Papa is here to help you make sense of it all. *Your Dad Stole My Rake* is a hilarious and warm book that saws deep into every branch of the family tree and uncovers the most bizarre and surprisingly meaningful aspects of our lives. He exposes everyone, from crazy aunts with mustaches, grandparents who communicate by yelling, and uncles who use marijuana as a condiment.

Among the topics covered:

- Tiger Mom v. Ice-Cream Mom
- Stop Trying to be Cool
- In Defense of Family Vacations
- No Fighting Before Coffee
- Least Popular Baby Names
- Wife Lie Detector
- Your Cat Thinks You’re Too Needy

Anyone who has a family, grew up in a family, or has spent time with another human being will love this book.

Your Dad Stole My Rake: And Other Family Dilemmas Details

Date : Published June 5th 2018 by St. Martin's Press

ISBN :

Author : Tom Papa

Format : Kindle Edition 284 pages

Genre : Humor, Nonfiction, Audiobook, Comedy, Writing, Essays, Adult

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From Reader Review Your Dad Stole My Rake: And Other Family Dilemmas for online ebook

Denny says

In a period of increased stress in my life, Tom Papa's *Your Dad Stole My Rake* landed in my car CD player right on time. Almost every aspect of his life mirrors my own, and his reflections on marriage, fatherhood, and getting along in modern American society are sharp, witty, uproarious, and dead-on. I haven't laughed out loud so heartily and often in a long time, and I really need to do so these days. Thank you, Mr. Papa. You may've saved my life this week. I'll be looking for more from you.

Jacquie Mayer says

Very cute, funny, easy-reading book of essays.

Kalisa Hyman says

Tom Papa is the head writer for "Live From Here" (formerly Prairie Home Companion), which I saw when it came to the Saenger in New Orleans. And just last week I caught his debut as a panelist on "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me." Very funny guy.

I found this book to be not only funny, but very, very TRUE. Like when I read his descriptions of what your potential spouse will eventually look like ("You Aren't Marrying Who You Think You Are"), I had to LOL because he was describing my husband TO A TEE after 25 years of marriage.

And when I read "That Cute Thing She Does," in which he recommends eating with a new date to determine if you can live with them for the rest of your life - or, indeed, even stand a second date with them - I was reminded of a story.

In was 1992. Chip and I were going to hang out for the first time just the two of us after our third friend, Mike, had moved back to Minnesota. We picked up lunch from Captain Dees and went to Overton Park. We ate our picnic lunch and talked about the presidential election and other timely things. When Chip finished his lunch, he closed up his box. I continued to eat and we kept talking. He took a final swipe of his mouth with his napkin, wadded it up, and threw it into my open box...WHICH I WAS STILL EATING FROM.

Damn, I wish Tom Papa had written this book 26 years earlier.

Andrew Alderman says

My wife and I actually listened to the audiobook version of this. It's read by Tom Papa, which is great because of the personal nature of the narrative.

This is basically a collection of essays about Papa's life and family, and his related insights. It's at times very funny, and at times sentimental. Sometimes, I could totally identify with what he said, and other times, I just thought he was crazy. He's an interesting guy, loves his family, but does he have some issues. Hoo boy, like his grandfather would say.

Kate says

I heard an interview with the author, Tom Papa, on NPR, and decided I would check this book out--not because I thought I would like it, but so I could assess whether or not it'd be a good gift for my father-in-law. My conclusion: yes, my father-in-law (and my father, actually) will like it; and indeed it was Not For Me.

Whether YOU will like it depends primarily on whether you're Tom Papa's target audience. (I don't think he knows that he HAS a target audience, but that's a different screed.) If you are: a Baby Boomer or older (but we'll throw in Gen Xers born prior to 1975); male; white; definitely cisgender and probably straight; and a US resident, you'll probably enjoy this book. Bonus points for folks who come from big families, especially Italian ones.

If, on the other hand, you're exhausted by Yet More "men are X, women are Y" gags, that alone is enough reason to give this a pass. That's just one reason, but it's likely the #1 disqualification for most people. Even if you're not offended, you WILL be bored. This shtick was old before Tom Papa himself was born and even his "I am a marginally more sensitive modern man" attempts at it are dull at best.

This is not to say the book is joyless. There are moments of genuine insight and tenderness, and some laugh-out-loud moments (the time he got high with his cousins? Priceless). But overall, we're talking about 300 pages of stuff that I enjoyed 20% of the time, and yawned or eye-rolled my way through the other 80% of the time. That's a one-star rating if there ever was one.

Simon says

Tom Papa is one of my favorite comics and this was a very enjoyable collection of his thoughts...

Harold Millican says

Because I listen to NPR, I downloaded this book. It has been a wild ride deconstructing the emotional, psychological roller derby that is your family. With Tom, I was able to re-visit why I hate my family, but I also had to confront how my family made me the writer, satirist, and jerk that I am.

Mr. Papa confirms that the writer's personality is a different, naked, and gorilla-sized animal when compared to the socially graceful person portrayed at the surface level. Tom allows me to appreciate why I will never regret my writing career.

And while I have not published a book yet. I have written the essay and the poem several wonderful times over the course of 25 years. Becoming an English major shows that I have yet to truly peak when it comes to literary success. It's books like this one that remind me that people need to hear blunt, funny, hilarious

recollections of human experiences to share hope that those train-wrecks of family vacation and reunion are not just dramatic foregone tele-plays lingering in the "Twilight Zone" of the writer's psyche.

The dilemma can and should make you some money, too.

Tom can "steal my rake" any time. We've all got creepy relatives that we're afraid to write stories about. I'm gonna have to get over that fear, and take it straight to NPR or a national publisher like Saint Martin's Press.

Amy says

Never did find out what happened to the rake.

Brian's Book Blog says

Your Dad Stole My Rake Had Me Cracking Up

I knew going into this that I was going to love it. I've been a fan of Papa's stand up for years now and with every comedian's book I've read (so far) - it's just made me like them more. Your Dad Stole My Rake was no different.

From stories about dealing with family, kids, being a guy - to describing the different kinds of dads - Your Dad Stole My Rake is a collection of stories and thoughts about different topics that affect him and his life make this deeply relatable and incredibly enjoyable. Papa had me laughing so hard on my morning commute that other drivers were looking over at me like I was the weirdo (we're all weirdos).

It's hard to describe a book that I enjoyed and needed this much because I know that not everyone will like it - but if you are a fan of Papa's comedy (especially the topics that he talks about on stage and in his specials) then this book is definitely for you. He only reused one bit (that I could remember) from his specials, which genuinely surprises me.

If you need something to cheer you up and make you laugh on your morning commute (especially if you're a dad) then this book is for you.

Kuldeep says

I loved this book very much. Many time I laughed hard and got amazed too.

Many places in this book is hilarious than other part is a comedy.

Someplace you will feel like this book is self-help which gives you different thought process than other part is humour.

It's altogether relaxing while reading it. Small chapters which finish fast and second with a different topic to go through again.

This book is the pack of healthy comedy/memoir. If you are not American and not being in America will give your 80s-90s lifestyle mimic.

Hoping this book should have more chapters, series of observations. Finished quit interestingly.

Angel Hench says

Actually, 4.5 stars.

I laughed very hard in multiple places, one time laughing so hard I cried. This is a hysterical book about the extended family and pets and children. I'm not sure anyone without kids could relate to maybe a third of the book - there's a lot about spouses and having children - but the other stuff is relatable to anyone, so still give it a try. Enjoy!

(A review copy of this book was provided by the publisher.)

Tasha Ogilvie says

Generalizations and stereotypes (bordering on sexism & ageism) abound!

It's clear that this wasn't meant to be malicious, it's just born out of pure ignorance. At one point I realized, oh, this was published a while ago maybe (as that could offer explanation - though not an excuse - for these very outdated views)? But nope.

Such a shame, because the overall tone of the book is very wholesome and lighthearted - his comedic voice is actually very compelling and he IS funny, so when I first started I was thinking I was going to enjoy the heck out of this book. Sadly, as the book went on I found myself constantly distracted by the things he was saying (relating to the traditional roles of husband and wife and differences between men and women were what mainly irked me) and by the end, I was just about fed up (not in an angry way, more just resigned). Oof.

Paula says

I was not familiar with comedian Tom Papa until I saw him on Colbert hawking this book. He was funny enough in that short interview that I decided to purchase the book on Audible. (I've found that listening to an author read his/her own biographical work--especially if it's humorous--is best.) Papa's humor reminds me of Erma Bombeck (remember her?) and Jim Gaffigan, with a touch of Brian Regan. I laughed out loud all the way through. Papa points out the idiosyncrasies of family life and relationships with poignancy and self-depreciation. His short lists at the end of chapters ("Things To Give A Grandma" or "Things Not To Have As Pets") made me laugh until I cried. Definitely my type of humor.

David says

4.0

Definitely a book that provided a lot of laughs, but also a book that you might need to be a parent to totally

appreciate. I appreciate that he can be funny without being vulgar, or going for cheap laughs.

David says

hadn't heard of him before but apparently a standup comic with famous friends [Jerry Seinfeld and Jane Lynch among others blurbed the book].

pretty funny, very occasionally moving [esp. chapter about a boyhood friend who died in an accident], series of essays/bits/observations. mostly light, affectionate tone. the ones about his own kids, wife and pets were more amusing to me than the ones about his family of origin and people in general -- some of the "old people are like this/uncles are fun/what's up with morning people?" stuff seemed a little formulaic.
