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Calypso

by David Sedaris

Price: \$30.00(Hardcover)

Published: May 29, 2018



Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: David Sedaris returns with his most deeply personal and darkly hilarious book. If you've ever laughed your way through David Sedaris's cheerfully misanthropic stories, you might think you know what you're getting with *Calypso*. You'd be wrong. When he buys a beach house on the Carolina coast, Sedaris envisions long, relaxing vacations spent playing board games and lounging in the sun with those he loves most. And life at the Sea Section, as he names the vacation home, is exactly as idyllic as he imagined, except for one tiny, vexing realization: it's impossible to take a vacation from yourself. With *Calypso*, Sedaris sets his formidable powers of observation toward middle age and mortality. Make no mistake: these stories are very, very funny--it's a book that can make you laugh 'til you snort, the way only family can. Sedaris's powers of observation have never been sharper, and his ability to shock readers into laughter unparalleled. But much of the comedy here is born out of that vertiginous moment when your own body betrays you and you realize that the story of your life is made up of more past than future. This is beach reading for people who detest beaches, required reading for those who loathe the small talk and love a good tumor joke. *Calypso* is simultaneously Sedaris's darkest and warmest book yet--and it just might be his very best.

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About The Author

David Sedaris

David Sedaris is the author of the books *Theft by Finding*, *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls*, *Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk*, *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*, *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, *Holidays on Ice*, *Naked*, and *Barrel Fever*. He is a regular contributor to *The New Yorker* and BBC Radio 4. He lives in England.

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What We Say

How do you like your Sedaris? Many prefer the audiobook versions because David Sedaris is such a terrific performer, bringing out the acid wit and dark undercurrents of his essays with aplomb. Others enjoy diving in as soon as a new piece appears in *The New Yorker* or elsewhere. By the time a new collection arrives, it's more like a greatest hits collection. And most people reading a collection probably gobble it down quickly, giggling all the while. But to appreciate his talent in the

best possible light, might I suggest you read his new collection, but not all at once. And not too slowly either! Go too slow and you'll miss the over-arching wholeness he brings to these stories. Read them too quickly and the humor blurs together, like binge-watching five episodes of a sitcom. Tackle them just so and you can laugh yourself silly while feeling the weight of what he's really writing about. Here as perhaps never before, Sedaris shines. He captures the difficulty of family, the pain of addiction, the way only a loved one can truly wound you, the surprise over a parent who frustrates and surprises you almost as much as you do the same for them, and how you can shock yourself with a capacity for cruelty or just the indifference you need to survive when someone you love is drowning and threatens to pull you under. "Calypso" is very funny, but it's no laughing matter. -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

"It seemed that this entrancing collection of essays, and my fascination with its author, had sucked me into some nerdy netherworld where real life becomes weirder and funnier and darker and bleaker than, well, real life...The brilliance of David Sedaris's writing is that his very essence, his aura, seeps through the pages of his books like an intoxicating cloud."âAlan Cumming, *New York Times Book Review* -

"The king of the humorous essay returns with a brand-new collection -- his first in five years. Sedaris fans will find plenty of familiar delights: His misanthropic charms and wry wit are as delightful as ever, even if some of the subject matter has changed. From his new vacation home on the coast of North Carolina, he writes about the concerns of health and aging, treating us to a story about the persnickety doctor who refused to let him keep a noncancerous tumor that he'd planned to feed to a snapping turtle once removed. We can only assume that the audiobook version of *Calypso* will be the perfect travel companion during road trips and getaways this spring and beyond."âMaris Kreizman, *New York Magazine* -

"Age and family occupy beloved humorist Sedaris's latest collection of essays. His observations feel sharper and often darker than in previous collections, as he ponders the inevitable breakdown of the human body, the shame attendant with illness and age, the nature of addiction, and the eccentricities of his family. Though middle age may have made his shades of gray blacker, the wit and incisiveness that make Sedaris much-adored remain."âLauren Hubbard, *Harper's Bazaar* -

"Sedaris hasn't lost his capacity for bemused observations of the people he encounters...But bad news has sharpened the author's humor, and this book is defined by a persistent, engaging bafflement over how seriously or unseriously to take life when it's increasingly filled with Trump and funerals. Sedaris at his darkest--and his best."âKirkus (*starred review*) -

"If you're ever stuck in an elevator or airport, just pray for David Sedaris to appear. Time passes quickly with this national treasure of a storyteller. Reading *Calypso* is like settling into a glorious beach vacation with the author, whose parents, siblings and longtime boyfriend, Hugh, feel like old friends to faithful readers...While Sedaris is laugh-out-loud funny in his brilliant, meandering way, it's his personal reflections that will stay with you."âAlice Cary, *Bookpage* -

"Sedaris collects 21 essays largely about family bonds and getting older in this hilarious yet tender volume...The author's fans and newcomers alike will be richly rewarded by this sidesplitting collection."â*Publishers Weekly* (*starred review*) -

PRAISE FOR *THEFT BY FINDING*:

"An observant, acidic writer... The prickly Southern wit is still intact and sparkling... It's helpful to see that a voice as original, hilarious and sometimes as infuriating as his was put through the same Struggle and Starve meat grinder that most of us go through."âPatton Oswalt, *New York Times Book Review* -

"If it's hard to be funny, it's an astounding feat to stay funny--wildly, wickedly, ingeniously so--for more than twenty years. Yet David Sedaris has somehow pulled it off, in exhilarating essays that zero in on the absurd and the poignant with eviscerating wit and radiant humanity."âFiona Maazel, *O, The Oprah Magazine* -

"Mesmerizing... Delightful... Sedaris describes the world around him... the vast and splendid array of human life that can be observed at IHOP, or the vagaries of fruit picking... Reading *Theft by Finding* is like watching a favorite play from behind the scenes, in the company of a friend who can identify what is absurd and heartbreaking and human about every person on stage."âAnnalisa Quinn, *NPR* -

"Whether he's in an IHOP in Raleigh or his apartment in the 6th arrondissement of Paris, Sedaris's eye for the absurd and the vulgar is infallible and his deadpan prose style inimitable...His personal essays are put together so carefully that none of the seams show; they often ingeniously build to a sneak attack of wisdom or poignancy in the final lines."âMarion Winik, *Newsday* -

"Sedaris has become a reigning master of crystalline social commentary and blisteringly humorous self-reflection. His unforgettable autobiographical essay collections have become modern classics. They reveal the author's life in unsparingly personal, often gritty, always poignant detail."âLauren Christensen, *Los Angeles Times* -

"Sedaris, a master of incisive and comic cultural criticism, is about to get more personal than ever...*Theft by Finding* reveals intimate details of this literary luminary's life and mind--all told with his singular sense of humor."

àHarper's Bazaar

-

"Randomly open to any page in *Theft by Finding* and you'll find a gem... Sedaris's gift is to make you stop and think one moment and laugh out loud the next."

àRob Merrill, *Associated Press* -

"This is Sedaris, who can be wickedly funny as well as deliciously insightful about modern mores... His eccentric existence is eminently enthralling."

àDavid Holahan, *USA Today* -

"The thrill of Sedaris's nonfiction lies in the absurd details of his memories, burnished with...polish and comic timing."

àBoris Kachka, *New York*

-

"Sedaris fans will thrill to this opportunity to poke around in the writer's personal diaries, which he has faithfully kept for four decades and used as raw material for his hilarious nonfiction as well as his performances."

àPaul S. Makishima, *Boston Globe*

-

"Sedaris's diaries are the wellspring for his cuttingly funny autobiographical essays, and he now presents a mesmerizing volume of deftly edited passages...Sedaris is caustically witty about his bad habits and artistic floundering...A candid, socially incisive, and sharply amusing chronicle of the evolution of an arresting comedic artist."

àDonna Seaman, *Booklist (Starred Review)*

-

"Raw glimpses of the humorist's personal life as he clambered from starving artist to household name... Though the mood is usually light, the book is also a more serious look into his travails as an artist and person... A surprisingly poignant portrait of the artist as a young to middle-aged man."

àKirkus (*Starred Review*)

-

"A David Sedaris book is always a welcome addition to any personal library -- his hilarity, his self-deprecation, his compassion for (and amusement with) the human condition, and his clear joy at making his readers laugh out loud are all what make a David Sedaris book great."àE. Ce Miller, *Bustle*

-

"Scintillating... Sedaris is a latter-day Charlie Chaplin: droll, put-upon but not innocent, and besieged by all sorts of obstreperous or menacing folks... Sedaris's storytelling, even in diary jottings, is consistently well-crafted and hilarious."à*Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)* -

"Sedaris hasn't lost his capacity for bemused observations of the people he encounters...But bad news has sharpened the author's humor, and this book is defined by a persistent, engaging bafflement over how seriously or unseriously to take life when it's increasingly filled with Trump and funerals. Sedaris at his darkest--and his best."à*Kirkus Reviews* -

PRAISE FOR *LET'S EXPLORE DIABETES WITH OWLS*

"Deeply satisfying.... Sedaris can bring to mind Anthony Trollope, P.G. Wodehouse, Alice Munro, and Woody Allen, sometimes in the same paragraph."

--David Carr, *New York Times Book Review* -

"Quintessential Sedaris....Essays on everything from air travel to today's child-rearing techniques by a writer who's a master of pointing out the absurd in everyday life."

---Craig Wilson, *USA Today* -

"Sedaris is a remarkably skilled storyteller and savvy essayist. He weaves together vivid images and sensations into a coherent whole that packs a serious emotional punch....Yes, David Sedaris is really that good. And based, on this latest collection, he's getting only better."

---Heather Havrilesky, *Los Angeles Times* -

"Over-the-top ruminations on life, death, and the joys of French dental work... Sedaris makes the mundane hilarious."

--Danielle Trussoni, *People* -

"The funniest writer in America....Sedaris is thoughtful and sweet in addition to being slyly hilarious."

---Leigh Haber, *O, the Oprah Magazine* -

"David Sedaris has become a signifier of taste and intelligence....*Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls* was the kind of book that I finished and just immediately wanted to start reading again."

---Anna Peele, *Esquire* -

"David Sedaris's biggest strength as an essayist and a humorist lies in his remarkable power of observation, of

detecting the humor and pathos in the everyday conversations most of us don't register. His attention and wit are as incisive as ever, but Sedaris brings a stronger sense of self to the pages of *Calypso*...It's both warmer and bleaker than any Sedaris that's come before."âLaura Adamczyk and Caitlin Penzeymoog, *AV Club* -

"Sedaris is widely considered America's leading humorist, and his new book *Calypso* does nothing but burnish that reputation."âNic Brown, *Garden & Gun* -

"*Calypso* is the most family-centered of his books yet and, although much of it is very funny, it's also his most melancholy as it addresses aging and loss...it ranges across a number of other subjects as well, often with Sedaris's trademark off-center, self-deprecating humor."âColette Bancroft, *Tampa Bay Times* -

What You Say

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