



# **Daddy Needs a Drink: An Irreverent Look at Parenting from a Dad Who Truly Loves His Kids—Even When They're Driving Him Nuts**

*Robert Wilder*

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A Santa Fe dad shares heartwarming, comic, often ludicrous tales of raising a family in this laugh-out-loud book perfect for anyone who enjoys the edgy humor of David Sedaris or the whimsical commentary of Dave Barry. Waxing both profound and profane on issues close to a father's heart—from exploding diapers to toddler tantrums, from the horrors of dressing up as Frosty the Snowman to the moments that make a father proud—Robert Wilder brilliantly captures the joys and absurdities of being a parent today.

With an artist wife and two kids—a daughter, Poppy, and a son, London—Robert Wilder considers himself as open-minded as the next man. Yet even he finds himself parentally challenged when his toddler son, London, careens around the house in the buff or asks the kind of outrageous, embarrassing questions only a kid can ask. A high school teacher who sometimes refers to himself jokingly as Mister Mom (when his wife, Lala, is busy in her studio), Wilder shares warmly funny stories on everything from sleep deprivation to why school-sponsored charities can turn otherwise sane adults into blithering and begging idiots.

Whether trying to conjure up the perfect baby name (“Poppy” came to his wife's mother in a dream) or hiring a Baby Whisperer to get some much-needed sleep, Wilder offers priceless life lessons on discipline, potty training, even phallic fiddling (courtesy of young London). He describes the perils of learning to live monodextrously (doing everything with one hand while carrying your child around with the other) and the joys of watching his daughter morph into a graceful, wise, unique little person right before his eyes.

By turns tender, irreverent, and hysterically funny, **Daddy Needs a Drink** is a hilarious and poignant tribute to his family by a man who truly loves being a father.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## **Daddy Needs a Drink: An Irreverent Look at Parenting from a Dad Who Truly Loves His Kids—Even When They're Driving Him Nuts** Details

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Author : Robert Wilder

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## From Reader Review Daddy Needs a Drink: An Irreverent Look at Parenting from a Dad Who Truly Loves His Kids—Even When They're Driving Him Nuts for online ebook

### Jason says

You couldn't pick four words to better describe my life these days.

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### Erin says

I read this as someone who needed a light, fun read. I love this book. He is crass and a wise ass and I love it. He talks about the crazy, funny things that happen to all parents. I especially loved the talk of crazy diaper changes and unexpected words coming out of your children's mouths. I found that some of the best essays come at the beginning and really each chapter was written as its own little story much in the vein of David Sedaris. He repeats himself a bit and some of the later stories are a little less funny, but I still love it. The stories of how his daughter is in love with Southwestern food and culture (the stories are mostly set in Santa Fe) reminded me so much of my little girls.

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### Brian says

If I could give this book exactly 2 1/2 stars, I would. I suppose by the general rules of math, rounding up to 3 is good enough. As a new parent, I was hoping for something a little more insightful or originally humorous from this collection of what amounts to short, nonfiction(?) or possibly somewhat fictionalized in certain respects (more likely, especially in terms of specific dialogue) stories by a dad about the tribulations of child-rearing. While a lot of the stories were amusing, Robert Wilder falls back a little on some cliches and isn't particularly reflective about his own or his wife's parenting styles. That said, kids do funny things, and the tales of his children give me something to look forward to with my own. Perhaps that extra half-star can also be attributed to his descriptions of life in Santa Fe, a city where I work but don't live. Many of the observations of its people and culture are right on the money.

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### Jen says

LOVED this book. I got this for Bill for Father's Day and then wound up reading it myself in snippets while Cooper napped. There are few things I enjoy more than laughing out loud to myself while reading--and there were more than a few of those moments to be had. The chapter entitled "Pussy" killed me. I can't wait until my kid really starts to talk...hipples!

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### Jack says

Disappointing --- I was hoping for some more humor out of this book by a dad supposedly writing a funny book about parenting. Not that funny. Stories were somewhat interesting but it didn't deliver.

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## **Kelly Coyle DiNorcia says**

Eh. While I thought it was funny at times, I mostly found this book repetitive. Also, while I'm not particularly offended by foul language and potty humor, I felt like it's use in this book was forced and didn't really add to the comic effect.

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## **Liz says**

I picked up this book at the library thinking "hey this has to be funny because if I drank I could sure use one most days." Robert Wilder combines a series of short stories about his adventures in parenting his two children. There are a lot of stories parents can identify with, and some just plain strange ones, told from a humorous point of view. At first I really enjoyed the book, I always appreciate a book that can give me a good laugh. There was some language I don't personally use, but that was probably to be expected. Unfortunately about two thirds of the way through the book some of the stories took a turn for the worse and along with the language got a bit too raunchy for me. I quit reading it about this point and did what I usually do when I don't feel like I should finish the book. Flip to the back and wrap it all up for myself so I don't spend days wondering how the author ended it. Potentially this could be a really enjoyable book if the author had toned it down a bit, or if it doesn't bother you.

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## **Jennifer says**

I bought this book for my husband, but I ended up reading it, too. It had me laughing outloud on the El. One of the taglines on the cover described it as the book David Sedaris would write if he had kids. I agree with that statement.

My one complaint is that I would have preferred a more chronological flow, but I understand that the chapters are individual essays.

Anyway, Robert Wilder has a gift for recounting parenting stories in a hilarious manner.

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## **Kat Shelton says**

Book Jacket:

With an artist wife and two kids--a daughter, Poppy, and a son, London--Robert Wilder considers himself as open minded as the next man. Yet even he finds himself parentally challenged when his toddler son, London, careens around the house in the buff or asks the kind of outrageous, embarrassing questions only a kid can ask.

In this entertaining and heartwarming book, Wilder, a

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Santa Fe high school teacher, waxes both profound and profane on issues close to a father's heart--from exploding diapers to toddler tantrums, from the horrors of dressing up as Frosty the Snowman to the moments that make a father proud. Brilliantly capturing the joys and absurdities of being a parent today, he shares warmly funny stories on everything from sleep deprivation to why school-sponsored charities can turn otherwise sane adults into blithering and begging idiots. By turns tender, irreverent, and laugh-out-loud funny, "Daddy Needs a Drink" is a hilarious and poignant tribute to his family by a man who truly loves being a father.

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### **Stacy says**

I subscribe to Chinaberry which sends out wonderful reviews and ideas for children's book and some adult ones as well. Usually, the recommendations are reliable but they really missed the boat on this one. It was described as "lovely" and "a wonderful fresh look at fatherhood through humor." I know humor and if you think awful language, sexually explicit material and crude comments qualify as humor, well then, this is the book for you! If not, give it a wide berth. You might be saying to yourself, "Stacy, doesn't the title indicate this might be something to be avoided?" Well, if you have read the "Three Martini Play Date" which is hilarious without being offensive, then you wouldn't necessarily be concerned. And add to this the review and support by Chinaberry. I feel that I've been had.

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### **Suparna Banerjee-Emanuel says**

Hilarious! Loving without being sappy, realistic without being discouraging... a humorous and balanced and strangely truthful look at parenting and fatherhood. There were points I laughed so hard I woke up my husband from a sound sleep. And it was touching too. I recommend it for the episode with the exploding diapers alone!

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### **Chris Mocella says**

I get the idea: funny guy with a wife and kids recounts various vignettes and stories written in a comedic format, while sometimes imparting useful tips. I just found myself a little bored with the writing, and it became more of a chore to go through the chapters than enjoying. Probably good for some people, and certainly came recommended, just not my gig I guess.

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### **Douglas Lord says**

This compilation feels like a compendium of rejects from Wilder's humor column for the Santa Fe Reporter; it's a snide commentary on fathering two young children that masks parental indolence with humor. Breezy but shallow, the essays quickly grow tiresome. On the prospect of growing from two children to three, for

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example, Wilder writes, "Why go to zone defense when you can survive just fine with man-to-man?" Bill Cosby's body of work and Tim Bete's *In The Beginning ... There Were No Diapers: Laughing and Learning in the First Years of Fatherhood* have shown that it's possible to poke fun at fatherhood, but Wilder's effort feels particularly undignified. It's hard to be simultaneously snarky and decent, and here his leanings toward the former win out. While the book paints a vivid portrait of paternal love, it also shows a dad who's not trying very hard as a parent. Not recommended.

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### **Rachel Ziegler says**

My friend Jenn sent me this book! I am only a few chapters in and this book is hilarious. Anyone with kids will enjoy this book. It is written by a dad who is a high school literature teacher. The book is written from a males' point of view and is full of real life experiences that most parents have had.

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### **Matthew says**

Three quarters of the way through this book I was still asking myself why I was reading it; so I stopped. The book is full of anecdotes about the parenting of children. Some of the anecdotes hit home and others didn't. There were a few very funny moments but, overall, I got the feeling that the author amuses himself much more than the audience. Without any real words of wisdom or plot line, I felt I was reading a bad stand up comedy routine and eventually gave up.

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