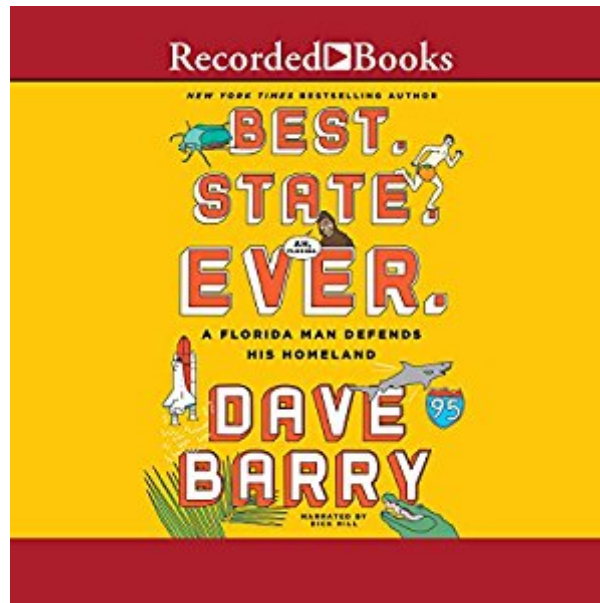




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Best. State. Ever.: A Florida Man Defends His Homeland



Synopsis

A brilliantly funny exploration of the Sunshine State from the man who knows it best: Pulitzer Prize winner and New York Times best-selling author Dave Barry. We never know what will happen next in Florida. We know only that, any minute now, something will. Every few months, Dave Barry gets a call from some media person wanting to know, "What the hell is wrong with Florida?" Somehow, the state's acquired an image as a subtropical festival of stupid, and as a loyal Floridian, Dave begs to differ. Sure, there was the 2000 election. And people seem to take their pants off for no good reason. And it has flying insects the size of LeBron James. But it is a great state, and Dave is going to tell you why. Join him as he celebrates Florida from Key West at the bottom to whatever it is that's at the top, from the Sunshine State's earliest history to the fun-fair of weirdness and gunfire ("Our motto: 'Come back! We weren't firing at you!'") that it is today. It's the most hilarious book yet from "the funniest damn writer in the whole country" (Carl Hiaasen, and he should know). By the end, you'll have to admit that whatever else you might think about Florida - you can never say it's boring.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Barry has always been a writer who can make the reader laugh out loud regardless of the subject but when the subject is Florida -- well, he's a master. I lived in Florida and he absolutely nails the way that people from elsewhere react to the crazy stuff that happens in Florida by saying "what is wrong with people down there? or how can you live there?" Trust me when I say that the same thought crosses the minds of most people particularly when a new arrival first becomes a resident,

but after awhile the new Floridian just accepts the craziness as part of the deal made for living in south Florida with its mild climate and basically 360 plus days of nice weather -- barring an occasional hellish hurricane. The new residents even adapt to the mostly daily rainstorms and living in the lightening strike capital of the US. Dave's book is funny, witty, clever, and will make you laugh out loud in addition to making you smile when not laughing out loud. Barry isn't "mean" about Florida, Floridians, or people who move in and become Floridians, he's just factual plus when he takes on specific subjects like Weeki Wachee's mermaid show, Gatorland, The Villages, Key West, his visit to a Miami firing range -- he's funny but he also gives an accurate portrait of what they are, represent, and what to expect and he's also quite fond of it all which means he can laugh at and with his subjects at the same time the details about all of them may make you laugh and cringe simultaneously. It's a funny book and a fast read. Give your brain a break and take this trip with Dave Barry as your guide. Think of it as mind candy.

As a "Snow Bird", I have to agree with Mr. Barry. Florida is in its own orbit exhibiting a quirkiness that defies description. But when all is said and done, this odd shaped appendage at the bottom of the USA is great place to at least enjoy the winter solstice without fur lined boots & a snow shovel. I enjoyed every written word Mr. Barry so poetically places on each page regarding the great "Sunshine State." He did leave out a few quirks that we Yankees find unusual.....I.e., the Kamakazi maneuvers by headless drivers in super market parking lots and the lifetime it takes for a traffic light to change. Anyone who enjoys humor, travelogues and the joys of living will certainly find this journey a delight!

This text by Dave Barry reads well, but it lacks the spark of his earlier books. He takes a tour of the Florida coast and reports about activities of residents and tourists. He begins in an area I am quite familiar with, Weekie Wachie and the home of the manatees, and heads straight down the coast, defending the people of Florida from recent bad press involving largely simple minded people who have made the state look bad in the recent past. Certainly it made me laugh, but much of the humor is predictable.

You either enjoy Dave Barry's humor, or you don't. If you do, this book is great. One of the things that makes it great is that it is basically true. Although too recent an incident to appear in the book, where else could a fisherman hook a drunken naked female swimmer? I especially enjoyed the last chapter on Kew West, one of my favorite places in the world. If you like Dave Barry or Florida, get

this book. If you like both, read it!

As per usual, Dave Barry writes with a bit of twisted humor and a dash of somber reflection. His adventures are always fun to follow. If you like Barry, in general, you should find this one to be right up your alley. A short book but worth the read.

What can I say about a Dave Barry book that hasn't already been said? Of course, it makes you laugh out loud every few pages, and chuckle on most every one. I just love his sense of humor and appreciate our modern-day Mark Twain!

What started out hysterical, and a hopeful review of Florida, spiraled down with each chapter. As a Floridian, it failed to represent the breadth of the State, and focused on just a small handful of negligible locales. A poor attempt. I wanted more, and got just about nothing. I prefer Bill Bryson. There is far more to Florida. Barry lost many opportunities.

While I said no sexual content, this is not a romance novel, though there is a reference or two to adolescent "memories" that are absolutely hysterical and true. Nothing unseemly here. This book made me want to take a road trip around the great state of FL. I grew up there, and have recently returned 50+ years later (never thought I would). This book should be required reading for anyone living in FL and for anyone who's thinking about visiting, or possibly moving to the great state. You will laugh your silly head off - out loud!!!! Dave Barry is so spot on with his story, and absolutely side-splitting in his delivery. ENJOY!!!!

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