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Pat Byrnes

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"This very funny book is full of useful information that first-time dads are unlikely to find elsewhere. For example: Wear a cup."—**Dave Barry**, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Insane City*

CAPTAIN DAD

THE MANLY ART OF STAY-AT-HOME PARENTING



PAT BYRNES

New Yorker cartoonist

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Pat Byrnes : Captain Dad: The Manly Art Of Stay-At-Home Parenting before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Captain Dad: The Manly Art Of Stay-At-Home Parenting:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. CAPATIN DAD WAS AND IS GOOD NOT GREAT BUT VERY FUNNY AND ENJOYABLE.By VALERIE TOWNSENDI REALLY LIKED THE CARTOONS PAT BYRNES IS A VERY FUNNY MAN WHO ENJOYS BEING DADDY. THE CARTOON ARE DARLING AND THE TIPS AND STORY IS VERY WELL WRITTEN I REALLY ENJOYED THIS BOOK AND YOU WILL TOO,1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fun, Informative, Illustrated!By Joseph M. ReningerMost parenting books can be categorized as either inspirational or practical. Some books focus on how great it is to be a parent or the rewards hidden among the diapers, food fights, starting school, etc. Other books tackle specific problems and give practical

advice on how to solve them. The categories often bleed into each other (we were inspired by one potty training book that talked about challenges with much older kids--glad it wasn't us!). Captain Dad is a humorous/inspirational book that gives many practical tips, some serious, some not so serious. The book comes from the less common perspective of a stay-at-home dad who has been raising two girls while his wife works as the state Attorney General. The author is a cartoonist, which means he works from home with flexible hours. It was natural for him to stay at home with the children. As a first-time parent, the task is a lot more than he bargained for, in demanding and delightful ways. As a dad, there are certain barriers (where are the baby changing tables in public? Mostly in the ladies' room, not very helpful for dads) and awkward situations (joining playgroups or going to the park as the only dad among lots of moms) that provide both humor and practical advice. I especially liked the idea of a dad just leaning his back against a wall as if sitting and using his lap as a changing table--that's the sign of a really tough man. The book reads a little bit like the best of his blog posts, but they are woven together well to create a larger whole. The book can be read in bite-size chunks over several days or weeks, giving the reader a chance to enjoy it every day for quite a while. It is full of illustrations too, including some cartoons that originally appeared in the New Yorker. They are delightfully whimsical and add to the comic punch of the writing. The book is very entertaining for dads and moms, validating the difficulty of raising children in our world and the bemusement needed to deal with how the world looks at us parents, stay-at-home or not. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent book, if only for the cartoons! By Bulbo Bunkins I agree with all the compliments that Byrnes has earned with this book. He is a funny and very earnest parent who has considerable insight to share with other parents. But the other reviewers haven't commented on how great his cartoons (illustrations?) are! The cartoons in "Captain Dad" are wonderful! They are the author's brilliant way of reminding readers to not take things too seriously, and to accept the laughter that comes with being a parent. I found them warm, easy to identify with, and very reassuring. As is the book overall! This book is like talking about parenting with some buddies over a few beers during a rare night out.

Pat Byrnes worked at home and made his own hours. His wife's job (Illinois Attorney General) was not so flexible. So when the first baby came, he naively volunteered to go where few men have gone before and stay home with the kids. On one condition. He wouldn't be called Mr. Mom, but . . . Captain Dad. Byrnes has collected his insights in the first book about stay-at-home fatherhood by a professional humorist who has lived the part. He reports on the front lines of modern parenting, tackling all of the expected subjects, like sleep deprivation and the constant battle against Disney for your child's affections. But he also covers the less expected, more random moments on the job and the surprising insights they offer. From the absurd pride that comes from being able to change a diaper almost anywhere to the surprising talent you develop for improvising answers to Life's Most Important Questions, such as "Why is bird poop white?" With wit, pith, and vinegar, Byrnes examines this hitherto unexamined life—and finds it worth living.

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