Someone Could Get Hurt: A Memoir Of Twenty-First-Century Parenthood
Synopsis

A sharp, funny, and heartfelt memoir about fatherhood and the ups and downs of raising a family in modern America. No one writes about family quite like Drew Magary. The GQ correspondent and Deadspin columnists’ stories about trying to raise a family have attracted millions of readers online. And now he’s finally bringing that unique voice to a memoir. In Someone Could Get Hurt, he reflects on his own parenting experiences to explore the anxiety, rationalizations, compromises, and overpowering love that come with raising children in contemporary America. In brutally honest and funny stories, Magary reveals how American mothers and fathers cope with being in over their heads (getting drunk while trick-or-treating, watching helplessly as a child defiantly pees in a hotel pool, engaging in role-play with a princess-crazed daughter), and how stepping back can sometimes make all the difference (talking a toddler down from the third story of a netted-in playhouse, allowing children to make little mistakes in the kitchen to keep them from making the bigger ones in life). It’s a celebration of all the surprises—"joyful and otherwise—"that come with being part of a real family. In the wake of recent bestsellers that expose how every other culture raises their children better, Someone Could Get Hurt offers a hilarious and heartfelt defense of American child rearing with a glimpse into the genuine love and compassion that accompany the missteps and flawed logic. It’s the story of head lice, almost-dirty words, and flat head syndrome, and a man trying to commit the ultimate act of selflessness in a selfish world.

Book Information

File Size: 1188 KB
Print Length: 257 pages
Publisher: Avery; Reprint edition (May 16, 2013)
Publication Date: May 16, 2013
Sold by: Digital Services LLC
Language: English
ASIN: B009VMBIJ0
Text-to-Speech: Enabled
X-Ray: Enabled
Word Wise: Enabled
Lending: Not Enabled
Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled
Best Sellers Rank: #78,581 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #17 in Kindle
People saying "LOL" is often misleading: are they really laughing out loud? But I can honestly say that I couldn’t help laughing and had to try and stifle my laughs on my train commute as I read this book. A series of short stories of Magary’s adventures in being a father of three children, this book will be instantly familiar to any parent. He doesn’t shy away from the honest truth about parenthood: it’s wonderful, but those kids can drive you crazy too. Magary manages to give a voice to all of those little thoughts every parent has but do their best to shove back down into the subconscious. He also discusses his relationship with his wife, which like any modern parenting relationship consists of both teamwork and combat: who can fake sleeping long enough so the other has to get up and feed the crying baby? The stories are the perfect balance between the hilarity of parenting and the touching moments that any parent will recognize. Magary is able to discuss his feelings without venturing into the trite or overly corny cliches that other parenting books often fall into to. If you are a parent that misses the days of childless freedom but still cherish your children, you’ll love this book. He perfectly captures the range of emotions, some that you didn’t even know existed, that any parent moves through. One note of warning, however: if you are looking for innocent portrayals of parenthood, this isn’t the book for you: Magary often invokes profanity and "off-color" topics to tell his tales. Of course, in my opinion, this is true to actual parenthood. He doesn’t go overboard, but he doesn’t restrain himself either.

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