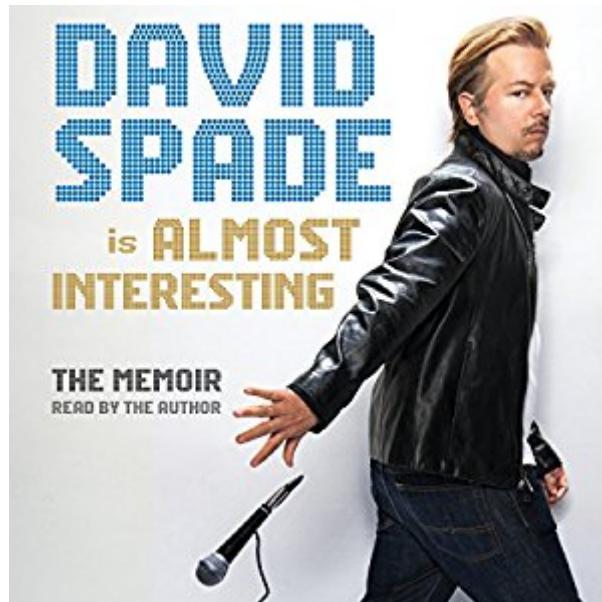


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Almost Interesting: The Memoir



Synopsis

A hilarious and biting memoir from the actor, comedian, and Saturday Night Live alumnus. David Spade is best known for his harsh "Hollywood Minute" sketches on SNL, his starring roles in movies like *Tommy Boy* and *Joe Dirt*, and his seven-year stint as Dennis Finch on the series *Just Shoot Me*. Now, with a wit as dry as the weather in his home state of Arizona, the "comic brat extraordinaire" delivers a memoir. Spade takes fans back to his childhood as a wannabe cool younger brother and recounts his excruciating road tour to fame - when he was regularly mistaken for a 14-year-old. He dishes about his time on SNL during the beloved Rock/Sandler/Farley era of the 1990s and brags about the ridiculous perks that fame has brought into his life, including a crazy assistant who attacked him while he was sleeping, being threatened on the street in Beverly Hills by Eddie Murphy, and being one of the shortest guys at the Playboy mansion (the views weren't bad). Sometimes dirty, sometimes just plain silly, David Spade reminds us what made him one of our favorite funny people.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was a funny and casually well-written book, a good read. But it's a little frustrating because it abandons the "narrative," if you will, without finishing it. The first 2/3 of the book deal with Spade's upbringing, his grind through the comedy club scene, and his slow climb from SNL writer to SNL performer. Even though it's written with a light touch, that stuff is all pretty compelling. But it drops that thread after he's made it as an SNL cast member. It doesn't tell the story of what prompted him

to leave SNL, or his movie career (except for *Tommy Boy*), or his experience on sitcoms. Instead, the last 1/3 of the book morphs into more of a George Carlin "Brain Droppings" type thing -- little observational essays on miscellaneous topics ranging from doing cocaine to his thoughts on dating tricks that women pull. I would have been really interested to hear why he made the jump from SNL when he did (given how hard his climb there was) and whether he's happy or not with his sitcom and movie work. The guy writes so well and so honestly about his career that I certainly could have read a lot more of it. But still, this is an entertaining read and I'd recommend it for anyone who likes a fun, self-aware memoir.

Growing up loving/idolizing Farley, Spade, Sandler, and Rock on SNL, I knew I had to read this book. If you're like me and can recite *Tommy Boy*, line-by-line, this book's for you. Spade's sense of humor translates very well (no ghostwriter, just Spade). If you're not a fan of his dry, somewhat silly, sense of humor, this book isn't for you as much of its charm is how Spade manages to deliver his trademark humor throughout. I loved hearing about his years on SNL, and the inner-workings of that machine, including the intense schedules, politics with guest hosts and cast members and writers, etc. The majority of the book is his early life growing up in Arizona, starting in stand-up comedy, getting his start in LA, and SNL. It's almost like this is part one because so much is seemingly left out. While I loved the Chris Farley/*Tommy Boy*/*Black Sheep* chapters (check out the book, *The Chris Farley Show*, if you want an excellent read), I knew he wouldn't get too deep into that. Spade was deeply affected by Chris's death and I respect that he wants to keep private moments private. Also, it would have brought the book down too much to dwell. I was very surprised there weren't any chapters devoted to his tv shows like *8 Simple Rules...*, *Just Shoot Me*, or *Rules of Engagement*. I also wanted to know more about his daughter. Other than a brief mention in the acknowledgements, there was nothing. We hear about how he loses his virginity, does too much coke (such a randomly-placed chapter, by the way), Twitter and Instagram shenanigans, and dating how-to's, yet no mention of her. There aren't any great revelations made, though he's lived a very colorful life and worked hard to obtain his level of fame. I found myself laughing out loud several times. Check out this book for a good laugh and several good stories, including the "deets" on the infamous Eddie Murphy "sitch".

As a Gen Xer going to college during much of David Spade's SNL stint and loving the entire cast and every sketch during those early 90's, I became a fan of his a long time ago. I love his standup, so funny to watch. This book is not written by a professional writer which makes this better...he

writes this book like he's doing standup which works perfectly for his story and his personality. As was mentioned previously a million times, I hope he comes out with another book picking up where he left off and talking more about the rest of his professional life (and personal). Dennis Finch is one of the best TV characters of the last few decades....would love to read more about that. This book gives a really fascinating insider's look at how the SNL sausage was made during that time. I have read several books by comedians but this one gets more personal than other's I've read. After you read this, you come to the understanding that he was a regular schlub, just like the rest of us, who worked his butt off to get where he is...and he must be a really charming guy.

Lots of interesting and comical situations. The sacrifices and hard work he has done shows why he has the success he has. While he doesn't have what most would consider a great writing style, I got quite a few laughs out of it. He seems to be honest and straightforward because his prose is self-deprecating yet doesn't have to be. The ending was weird, though. He stops somewhat abruptly and we miss out on his current events. The book primarily covers his childhood, his early stand-up, SNL, and Tommy Boy with Chris Farley. After that, not so much. The ending oddly detailed several bits of advice about relationships, which, I have to admit, was somewhat educational, surprisingly funny, and shamefully accurate. Don't expect the whole book to be an autobiography and don't expect the book to cover his life up to the publish date of the book. Still a great read that earns 5 stars.

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