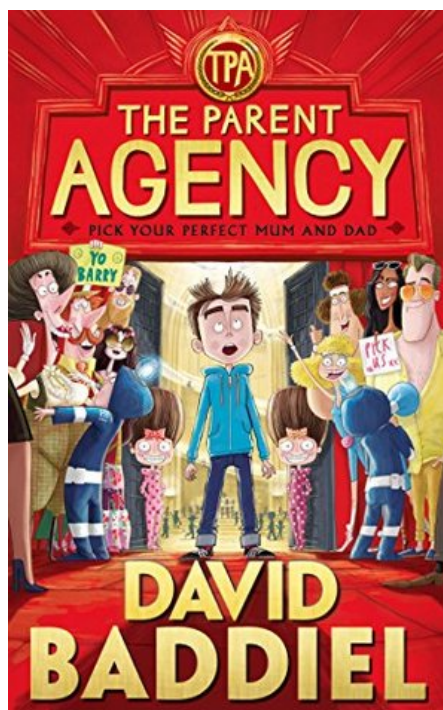




The Parent Agency

David Baddiel

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A brilliantly funny, gripping novel - and The bestselling hardback children's debut of 2014 - from a born storyteller, The Parent Agency is an epic wish-fulfilment adventure for every child – and for the child in everyone.

Barry said, a third time, “I wish I had better parents!” And then suddenly the entire room started to shake...

Barry Bennett hates being called Barry. In fact it's number 2 on the list of things he blames his parents for, along with 1) 'being boring' and 3) 'always being tired'.

But there is a world, not far from this one, where parents don't have children. That's far too random for something so big and important. In this world, children are allowed to choose their parents.

For Barry Bennett, this world seems like a dream come true. Only things turn out to be not quite that simple...

Illustrated by Roald Dahl Funny Prize winner, Jim Field.

The Parent Agency Details

Date : Published October 9th 2014 by HarperCollinsChildren'sBooks

ISBN :

Author : David Baddiel

Format : Kindle Edition 385 pages

Genre : Childrens, Middle Grade, Adventure, Humor, Funny, Fantasy, Family

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From Reader Review The Parent Agency for online ebook

Maria Espadinha says

Pais e Filhos - Esses Eternos Desconhecidos

Barry detesta chamar-se Barry e tem como irmãs um par de gémeas idênticas sonsas, que designa abreviadamente por GIS -- a G1 e a G2 , cuja simples existência detesta reconhecer!
E pior que tudo, desejava pais diferentes -- daqueles que organizam festas fabulosas, que comprem a capa do edredão do Lionel Messi, que são glamorosos, ricos, divertidos, famosos, ...
E seria tão bom se a mãe algum dia desistisse aquele lugar vitalício atrás da máquina de lavar loiça, onde a sua voz se mistura com um medley de pratos, tachos e panelas.

Enfim!... A intensidade do seu desejo foi tal, que o levou a uma Agência de Pais, a abarrotar de casais anafados, que o cercaram mal o viram, desatando numa gritaria infernal --- "escolhe-nos, escolhe-nos, escolhe-nos...", imploravam eles em altos berros!

Bem!... E tudo o mais é estória, que não irei contar!...

No cômputo geral, "Agência de Pais" é uma caricatura do relacionamento (ou da falta dele) entre pais e filhos.

Pais que teimam em não conhecer os filhos, que educam impondo a sua lei, estão a criar filhos carentes e revoltados.

O amor não flui entre desconhecidos, e a felicidade não acontece no amor ausente!

Tudo vai mal se pais e filhos não se conhecem!

Porém, havendo empenho, as soluções aparecem! ;)

"Agência de Pais" é um livro destinado a jovens muito jovens, que pode ser igualmente aproveitado por adultos --- embora divertido, ocupa-se dum tema sério.

Numa escrita leve e jocosa, é ideal para intercalar com outras leituras mais pesadas!

Sophia says

I liked the general idea behind this book and I liked the storyline. But the main character... ok, I get that 10 year olds have limited brainfunction, but if I had read this as a 9 -12 year old I would have found it sooooo akward. I really feel sorry for parents 4 and 5. He is really horrible! But I guess he might be written like that for a reason. so 3 stars.

Freckles says

"What would you like for lunch?"

"Hmm," said Barry. "Pizza?"

"Oh well, you've made a mistake there," said Secretary One smugly. "We only ever eat gluten-free, free-range, nut-free, free-from-E-numbers, salt-and-sugar-free food."

“Yes, our food is very, very free,” said Secretary Two. “Except, of course, it costs a lot of money.”

Lobo says

Be kell vallanom, hogy bár a történet kiváló és rengeteg ötlet van benne, nekem az elején nagyon nem tetszett Barry alakja. Nehéz volt vele szimpatizálni, s igazán reméltem, hogy jól megtanulja a leckét, hogy értékelni kell azt, ami van, jelen esetben a családját. De lehet, csak a túl szigorú szül? beszélt itt bel?lem. Amúgy szörnyen élveztem a regény humorát. Nem kikacsintós, vagyis nem megy kárára a történetnek, meg a korosztály-besorolásnak, de azért jókat lehet somolyogni a szül?típusokon, gazdagékon, híreséken, fittéken, lazáékon stb., mert nem egy jellemvonás vagy jelenet eléggé olyan, ami a feln?tteket figurázza ki és nekünk is szól, hogy néha bizony túlzásba tudunk esni és elfelejtjük, hogy mi a legfontosabb a családban: a szeretet. Kimondottan jópofa volt Youngdon és az ottani elnevezések, valamint a kiváló illusztrációk (Jim Field kezét dicséri) mellett feltétlenül ki kell emelni a fordítást is, ugyanis rendkívül szellemes magyar megoldások lettek találva az angol eredetiek helyére is.

Mivel a könyv gyors, rövid fejezetekre van osztva, igazán könnyen olvasható a célkorosztály számára is, ugyanakkor közös esti meséknek is megfelel pont a pörg?s felosztás és kalandok miatt.

Részletek: <http://olvasonaplo.net/olvasonaplo/20...>

Constantin Pi?tea says

Am g?sit în romanul lui David Baddiel un b?ie?el care nu-?i prea simpatizeaz? p?rin?ii. Are mai multe motive pentru asta, suficiente pentru o list?. El, Barry, a denumit lista „Lucruri pentru care îmi învinov??esc p?rin?ii”. Printre ele, faptul c? i-au spus cum i-au spus, Barry Bennett, dar ?i felul lor de-a fi: plictisitori, obosi?i, nici elegan?i, nici celebri, prea stric?i etc. Oricum ai lua-o, suficiente defecte pentru ca Barry s?-?i imagineze cum ar fi s? aib? al?i p?rin?i.

<http://constantinpiatea.ro/agentia-de...>

Kristina says

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Lola Patiño says

Definitely interesting!!!

15HartleyJ says

Overall I really enjoyed this book. Barry is just an ordinary boy (he loves Lionel Messi and James Bond) but bored with his ordinary family that he wishes he could swap for another. He is particularly fed up with his younger twin sisters. It is a funny story that often twists your mind as sometimes you are not quite sure what's going on! I found that, once I had started reading it, I didn't want to stop. I recommend this book to people below the age of 12 but overall I give it a 9 out of 10. This book was written by David Baddiel

Emma says

Review by Jack 9:6

The Parent Agency is a children's comedy book, which in my opinion is suitable for all ages. The author is a comedian but the book does not have many laugh-out-loud moments, mostly using more subtle humour. The story follows a normal boy named Barry, who hates his parents. When he screams, "I hate my parents!" after being sent to his room he is teleported to a world where children choose their parents. He trials five sets of parents, one per day.

Barry chooses each trial set of parents as the opposite to something he really hates about his own. So, he tries rich, famous, fit and not strict parents, as well as some where he is the favourite child. He, the parents or both are left dissatisfied after each day and as his tenth birthday (upon which something awful happens if he has not decided) looms he is still unsure.

My favourite character is TSE (The Sisterly/Secretary Entity) who are constantly annoyingly efficient, driving Barry insane. The way they always think exactly alike and interrupt each other is one of the funniest elements of the book. The part I like best is the time he spends with the celebrity couple, "Vlassorina", a singer (Morrisina – sponsored by Morrison's) and an actor (Vlad). Specifically, the end of his time with them when he humiliates them publicly – something they are not used to at all.

There are really very few problems with this book. Although it uses the infamous "and then I woke up" style ending, it is done very well and is not an issue. The novel could make more use of the parallel universe element in the parent agency world, by making the boss and Jake act more alike, PCs 890 and 891 behave more like Luke and Tajas, or by introducing some of Barry's trial parents in the real world. Also, as an older reader I found some language a little childish and the font size too big, although this is just me.

I would definitely read another book by this author and I have already recommended it to a lot of my friends. As I have said, I believe all ages can enjoy this book, although it is probably ideal for those at around Barry's age which is 9-10. There is absolutely no issue with the language used in this book as the worst word used is "bum". I would give the book 5/5 stars.

Katy Noyes says

4.5 stars.

Well done, David! After a slightly wobbly start for me (silly immature jokes and lists), I quickly saw that this was going to turn into an excellent wish-fulfilment adventure for young readers.

Like the 90s films *North* (Elijah Wood), Barry decides that he has rubbish parents and wishes he had different ones. He hates his name, he hates them being tired and poor, he hates his younger sisters. Now whether or not the following chapters are somehow real or a dream doesn't really matter. It's very funny and that writing is pretty convincing, as the voice of a not-quite-ten-year-old boy.

The world Baddiel sends Barry into is a scream, with every reference a nod to today's kids - Youngdon is populated by kids who can choose their parents, it's a lot of fun seeing Green Bogey Park and spotting famous names turned into slightly different ones.

Barry goes on his journey to find the best family he can, meeting a menagerie of weird and wonderful parents in this bizarre place who manage to take the mickey out of rich people, celebrity couples, hippies and fitness fanatics. Lots for parents to enjoy.

The illustrations are well spaced out, they don't try to make jokes from themselves as Williams often tries, and Baddiel's humour is also a little more subtle than his celebrity contemporary. He also has a handle on moving endings.

So it's a story that I've seen a couple of times before? Never mind, it's fresh in its ideas and not something that's been done to death. Barry is a great lead character, flawed but you can sympathise with his 'plight', a James Bond and football fan who's sick of his sisters ganging up on him and wearing cheap trainers. There's also sympathy for his parents and a good few mentions of their feelings.

Yep, liked this one. Thought I'd be putting it to one side during chapter one, but it saved itself in time.

Would be lots of fun for storytime in class or at home, or great for confident readers of 8/9 to 12.

Hope its not a one-off, Baddiel has talent.

Mehsi says

My 3-star rating has mostly to do with our main character. Other than that the book was really interesting and I like the idea of a Parent Agency.

Let's start with the main character. I just didn't like him. I found him whiny and pathetic. Never once thinking about his parents. They did their best for him and his siblings, but they just didn't have a lot of money and thus they had to say no to him. But yet he kept complaining and whining and acting all mean towards his sisters and his parents.

Luckily, he changes a bit throughout the book. Learning that having money, or fame or anything else he had on his list isn't everything. I was worried he would be happy and delighted to find a world where he can ask for any parent and that he would just forget all about his parents. Thankfully, this doesn't happen.

I really liked the various days/parents. They were all hilarious, though I wonder how they ever would get to be parents. Especially the rich and famous pairs were just a bit too much.

I loved the world that our main character lands in. I found it really interesting that there would be a world where kids pick their own parents. Where there is an agency that handles all the applications and that such an agency is run fully by kids.

I loved the little twist near the end. I didn't see that coming, so I was happily surprised.

All in all, I would still recommend the book, even though the main character might annoy you at times.

Review first posted at <http://twirlingbookprincess.com/>

Marie the Librarian says

It was times when it tried too hard to be funny and for me it was a bit predictable and easy to see what was going to happen. Its funny though and I think for sure that some kids will love it. Its just lacking something to make it a bit more complex, its all very straightforward in a way.

Jenny / Wondrous Reads says

3.5/5

Janie says

My twin boys (8yrs) declared this their favourite book of all time. We read it together at bedtime and every night they begged and pleaded for another chapter. A really enjoyable, funny and moreish read.

YABookReviews says

Title: The Parent Agency

Author: David Baddiel

Rating: 8/10

Would you like your parents? Do you wish you could choose your parents? Well, that is what Barry Bennet wanted, and he got it. Barry Bennet is a normal kid, who hates his parents. At first, this seems like a dream come true. But as he's about to find out that, choosing a new mum and dad isn't as easy as it sounds...

I loved this book, its funny, witty and has lots of heartwarming moments. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves futuristic books!

Will barry find the parents he wants?

Or is it all just a dream?

Read it to find out!

Happy Reading!

My blog: <http://bookreview2191.blogspot.co.uk/>

