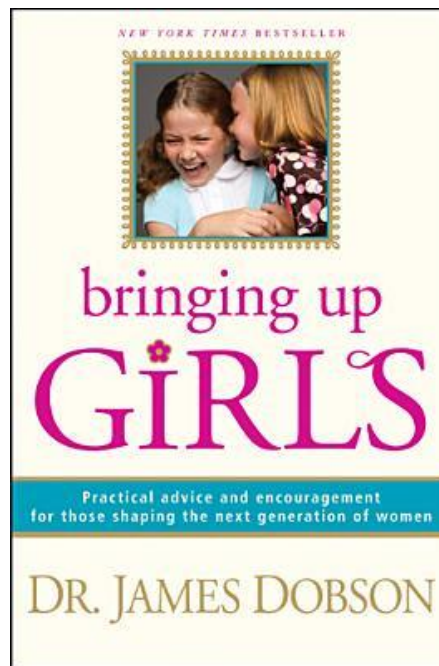




Bringing Up Girls: Practical Advice And Encouragement For Those Shaping The Next Generation Of Women

James C. Dobson

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This is the ultimate guide to raising our daughters right--from parenting authority and trusted family counselor Dr. James Dobson.

Peer pressure. Eating disorders. Decisions about love, romance, and sex. Academic demands. Life goals and how to achieve them. These are just some of the challenges that girls face today--and the age at which they encounter them is getting younger and younger. As a parent, how are you guiding your daughter on her journey to womanhood? Are you equipping her to make wise choices?

Whether she's still playing with dolls or in the midst of the often-turbulent teen years, is she truly secure in her identity as your valued and loved daughter? In the *New York Times* bestseller *Bringing Up Girls*, Dr. James Dobson will help you face the challenges of raising your daughters to become strong, healthy, and confident women who excel in life.

Bringing Up Girls: Practical Advice And Encouragement For Those Shaping The Next Generation Of Women Details

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Diane says

You know that question: If there is one person you could have coffee with - who would it be? My person would indubitably be Dr. James Dobson. I can't give Dobson enough praise for this highly insightful and brilliantly researched book. Childrearing is a daunting endeavor; however, with practical wisdom and a strong foundation in the Lord, it doesn't seem as overwhelming. I'm so very appreciative to Dobson for taking the time to write this book!

Sally Stanfill says

I loved this book. Some may consider it radical and caught in the olden days, but I think it is necessary and challenging and a call for us to take our role as parents seriously, recognizing the great privilege and responsibility that it is.

I pulled so many great things from this book and will be coming back to it as my daughter continues to get older.

Alycia Morales says

I have long respected Dr. Dobson for his wisdom and knowledge concerning the well-being of families. I've admired his writings and ministry since before I was ever married or had my own children. He is a resource I always turn to when concerned with any aspect of marriage, parenting or family matters.

Many years ago, I purchased Bringing Up Boys. I had two of my own and one step-son at the time. I now have three of my own, and my step-son is grown and on his own. I loved the book and the insight into the world of boys.

When I was offered the opportunity to review Bringing Up Girls, I couldn't pass it up. Out of the five children I am raising, I've been blessed with one girl. In the sea of testosterone we live in, I wondered if I could successfully bring her up.

In Bringing Up Girls, Dr. Dobson addresses how to raise a lady, how to protect her from the men and the influences of this world, how to teach her to respect herself and what true beauty is. His advice is sound and biblical, and it is something I will apply every day as I teach Hannah how to become a woman of God.

I appreciate that Dr. Dobson includes multiple chapters that discuss the importance of a father in a girl's life. Mothers are important in teaching a girl how to become a woman, but daddies are important in teaching a girl how a man should treat her when she becomes that woman. Fathers don't need to be absent to be "absent." Girls are protected when their daddy pays attention and provides the nurture and affection she needs, so I am grateful that this aspect is included in Dr. Dobson's book.

Another aspect I love about Bringing Up Girls is the fact that Dr. Dobson uses interviews and articles and

material from other resources. He doesn't just write the book himself; he includes the advice of others to reinforce what he advises. I love it when an author can recommend other resources, knowing that one person doesn't have all the answers. I appreciate this.

I highly recommend Bringing Up Girls for any parent who is leading a daughter into womanhood. It is a book that I will keep on my shelf until the day I can pass it on to one of my children as they raise their own daughters.

Don says

girls outperform boys, liberal assault on decency of girls, fundamental am I lovely do you see me, give validation love and be loved healthy self-confidence, differ brains with 15% more blood flow, manner of women reflect foundation of country per Adams, do not tolerate men's poor behavior, not popular with kids, thanks for loving and being there, divorce results in 4 years less, never make fun of, purity ball, tragic of beauty is not taken seriously and core is lack of dignity, porn not possible with love, boy teams build competition and solidarity w/o girls, daycare data supports less beneficial even detrimental before 4.5 and definitely not before 3, children as creatures of habit early on, strong willed children teach foolishness vs goodness to verify security with limits, reign in strong will define expectations accidents vs acknowledge willful forgiveness, love and affection influence, 60's and 70's as politically correct very poor and like Hitler pursued youth as it belongs to us, chastity is being truly in control of self, NIH stats more promiscuous has more problems more psychological issues, more happy vs depressed, 3xlikely to be depressed if sexually active including suicide boys8x, piercings as inward cry for help, play with fire will burn, gems given for each step leading to marriage, moral relativism as breakdown.

Linda says

I liked some of it. A lot of what I liked was quotes from other authors. I wish there was more meat, and not so much of "this is the world your girls are living in". I wanted more specific ideas on how to raise my daughters better than I already am. I didn't get a lot of that.

Sarah says

I've been wanting to read this book since it was released and now that I've read it I'm glad that I did. I'm not going to say that I agree with everything in this book – Dr. Dobson seems to think dating is the only way a girl is going to meet her future husband, but this is only going to lead to heartache and having different pieces of her heart being given away before she truly marries. There is a lot of good information in this book, and to me it doesn't matter if Dr. Dobson quotes other sources or not, the information needs to be given out and I know I personally don't have the time to read every, single book he mentions so having it condensed into one book is a huge and valuable time saver for me.

As a conservative Christian I do understand the importance of bringing up my girls to be pure, modest and chaste. This may seem old fashioned to the world at large, but so many girls are falling into depression, self mutilation, as well as heartache by giving their hearts to one boy after another, giving their bodies to boy

after boy and chasing them – girls have become the aggressors and Dr. Dobson points out exactly why this isn't good for girls and for boys. The importance of having a dad who is Christian and is there for them is stressed – dads shouldn't back off when their daughters are turning into young ladies – because they need them all the more. I appreciate the candidness of the answers Dr. Dobson gives to parents such as a sleep over with female friend when only the dad is home – he says of course that it's a bad idea. This is so true, my husband has seen first hand what a false accusation can do when a co-worker was accused by his step-daughter, one cannot take their reputation or their family's safety for granted.

Some of the writing is common sense, such as the rise of pedophilia, but it isn't done in a way that would scare the reader, in fact it just backed up everything I've already known, from studying social work, being involved in the mental health arena – most of what he said wasn't new to me but was still an eye opener. As a victim of bullying I know the damage that is done, both in private and public schools, there are some, like me, who overcame it and no longer let the victimization live on but there are others whose lives are ruined because of long term bullying that isn't stopped.

Overall, I think this is a good book and a must read for every mom and dad who are trying to bring up girls in a "unisex", "feministic", and "anti-feminine" culture. We have to know what we are up against so that our girls can grow into godly young ladies and eventually be women who go out to the serve the Lord but can do so with their confidence, hearts and purity intact. This book also affirmed in me why we home educate our children – it's not to hide them from the world but to make sure when they enter the world they do so with a firm foundation in the Lord. Home education isn't perfect and my oldest has already been exposed to girls who bully and intimidate, but thankfully she knows that we can talk and we can deal with it from a godly perspective. Again, while I don't agree with everything in this book, the majority of it was very worth the time it took to read it.

****Disclaimer:** I was provided a copy of this book from Tyndale House Publishing in exchange for posting my honest opinion, no other compensation was given.

Dana says

I wanted to like this book a lot. But it fell short of my expectations. I do like Dobson and have participated in some of his child development/ discipline/ instructing children studies. The strength of the book is in the data and information about the cultural landscape our daughters face and how they can and will be affected by media, promiscuity, etc, but there is not a great deal of practical advice. More like "keep your eyes open" parents.

I prayed that God would show me what to glean from this book, and I'd encourage all Christians to do the same when they read Christian literature. For me, I gleaned the most in realizing that hormones CAN and DO affect women, and their daughters. When my daughter is having a melt down, I have more compassion on her inability to "pull it together" because I have had moments like that, where my world seems to be falling apart while the reality is just a few dust bunnies and a sink full of dishes.

I'm sure God will show you what He needs to show you if you ask.

Kathleen says

This is a very comprehensive book on raising Christian girls in today's world. Dr. Dobson addresses many issues, including teaching girls to be ladies, purity, how to protect our daughters from technology, and the importance of both mother and father to a girl. He cites a lot of research, gives anecdotal evidence, and quotes from other sources to support his ideas. This book gave me a lot to think about and things for my husband and I to discuss, once he reads it, pertaining to our own girls. I really liked that this book is written from a Christian perspective and acknowledges that girls have an innate desire to know that they're beautiful and worth fighting for. So much in today's culture seems to focus on not addressing beauty and instead focuses on teaching girls that they are equal to boys and can/should do everything they do. I personally don't agree with this and Dr. Dobson gives a great explanation on how boys and girls are different neurologically. He devotes individual chapters to the relationship between mothers and daughters and fathers and daughters, citing the importance of each parent and offering suggestions for alternatives if one parent is absent. While a lot of the information in this book can leave a parent feeling worried and afraid for their daughter, he has an excellent discussion on what is great about girls, giving promising statistics and sharing how girls are beginning to understand that morality and modesty are important to them. I think this a book that should be read by anyone raising a girl. I highly recommend it.

Colene Hardy says

I'm a collector of parental literature. I love being a parent and I love the scientific method. There are answers to most of our problems in books, including those we run into with our babies. So I read multiple books and try multiple methods until I find something that works for me and for my daughters. This book, however, was God-awful (pun intended). Didn't finish it. So much of what he says annoys me. And his harping on sex, sex, sex is bothersome too. Super chauvinistic. I wish someone had told me how focused he is on religion and what an agenda he has. His constant harping on the "good old days" is such BS. Right Dobson, because it was better when women didn't have any choices and they couldn't vote. Don't get me wrong, I'm all for traditional values when it comes to manners and respecting adults; for doing chores, learning humility, kindness, charity, responsibility, moral strength and a host of other character traits. But this book doesn't seem to be a help to me in raising my girls to be any of those things. (okay maybe there's some stuff that was okay, but overall, I can safely say that I think this book is a waste of parents time.

Becky Giovagnoni says

I was very skeptical about this book from the start. I basically read it so I would be able to talk knowledgeably about why I disliked it. But what I discovered was that despite some major issues with Dr. Dobson's book, there are still a few parts that were so insightful I think they make it worth reading.

My main complaint about this book is that Dr. Dobson narrows down morality to whether or not a girl has premarital sex - if she does, she's immoral and if she doesn't she's moral. This, in my opinion, is ridiculous and is a major flaw with how many live out the evangelical Christian lifestyle. It focuses solely on external behavior and ignores the heart. Raising moral children is *not* about behavior management, but about guiding and influencing a child's heart. The behavior is just a reflection of where the heart is. Dobson's continuous

and obsessive focus on premarital sex completely drowned out any other point he might have tried to make.

Another complaint is that a large portion of this book (at least five different chapters or large portions of them) were merely reprinted articles or transcripts of his radio broadcast. It was like he took the easy route and just repurposed work he (or someone else) had already done. This surprised me.

And one other complaint is that the language he uses in this book makes him seem old and completely out of touch with today's culture. He uses the word "sexpot" several times in reference to what our daughters might become. He also equated body piercings and tattoos - even one time mentioning a nose ring - with cutting and mutilating the body.

However, that said, I found a lot of value in the parts where Dobson was speaking as a doctor and not an evangelical. He introduced me to the idea of "juvenile puberty" which completely explained my highly dramatic two and half year old. The information about what happens physiologically to children (both in and out of the womb) was fascinating. I also appreciated the emphasis and all the insights on how important a father is in raising a daughter.

Read this book with a large grain (or even a shaker full) of salt.

Mandy J. Hoffman says

MY REVIEW:

The title of this book pretty much sums up the overall point of this book - *bringing up Girls*. I, along with many other parents of girls, desire to know how best to raise our daughters, especially during those moments of drama, emotions, and crying that even us grown-up girls just don't "get".

Dr. Dobson presents the basic make-up of a girl both emotionally and physically which aids you in better understanding what girls are experiencing at the various stages they go through. Through out this book he has great insight as well as some practical direction that will help parents of girls. However, for as good as the advice may be, there is one component that really bothers me. Dr. Dobson uses self-esteem as the primary area to focus on in order to "cure" the problems our girls - young and old - face on a routine basis. In my personal opinion based on the lens of Scripture, our girls don't need more self-esteem, they need the love and esteem of Jesus Christ. While Dobson talks about the importance of faith, I feel that he misses the extent and power of the Word of God and the love of God to overcome the challenges our daughters face.

I greatly appreciate some of the concepts and thoughts Dr. Dobson shares, especially his concern for preparing your child for adolescents. But due to the amount of stuff I don't agree with, I can not recommend this book for reading. If you have all the time in the world to read then I might say "read it with great discernment", but if you do not have much time I think there are better parenting books to read that will give sound Biblical advice.

* * * * *

This review copy was provided Tyndale House Publishers, but the opinions expressed are purely my own.

Kathy says

An excellent resource - long awaited after his book "Bringing Up Boys." As expected, Dr. James Dobson discusses the parenting of girls from a strong Christian perspective. He discusses both the physical changes found in raising a daughter as well as the psychological changes (sometimes much like land mines) one must traverse. This book delves even into how best to confront the "mean girl" situations that inevitably arise. Further, he emphasizes the importance of the father-daughter relationship in the equation. A book of wisdom for the parents of girls.

Tiffany Cusick-Bristol says

Some people thought that Dr. Dobson's format was not the greatest. I kind of wonder if these people have ever read a self-help book before, because his format (advice, stats, personal stories, etc.) was common for this type of book. My favorite part was the technology section. Thanks to him I now know about more options to protect my daughters from inappropriate footage on TV and in movies. Where was this technology when Twilight came out? Because my step-daughter is obsessed with it and it is VERY inappropriate for her 10-year-old eyes. I also liked his appendix for additional resources, and will be buying some of the books he recommended. This book made me laugh, cry, and I pray I will put into practice what I learned.

Skylar Burris says

Despite its subtitle, this book has remarkably little practical advice to offer on raising girls and is considerably more discouraging than encouraging. "Bringing Up Girls" is primarily a social commentary on the decadence of modern society, the ill effects of feminism, and the challenges facing girls. As a social commentary, it profusely quotes other (often superior) social commentaries I have already read, including the writings of Wendy Shalit, Dr. Grossman, and Michelle Malkin. There is scarce original material in this book; Dr. Dobson's direct quotes sometimes run as long as three full pages, and occasionally he even quotes himself at length (inserting large blocks of text from other books or articles he has written). There are pages and pages of transcripts from radio broadcasts and discussions with teenage girls, which can become quite tedious.

What practical advice he does offer is primarily focused on self-esteem and a girl's need for affirmation of her physical beauty, as if a girl's sole concern is and always will be to attract boys. There is very little about a girl's need to have her intelligence or her talents praised, about academic concerns or challenges facing girls, about the intellectual education of girls in general, about helping girls to discern their vocations, about raising a girl, indeed, to have any deep personal interest beyond that of a girlfriend, wife, or mother. Not that the calling of a wife and mother isn't significant and honorable, and not that I haven't pursued those roles myself, but not every woman will become a wife, not every wife will become a mother, and not every wife and a mother will be solely a wife and a mother. There were times when, for me, Dobson's traditionalism (with which I am okay) seemed to cross over into chauvinism (with which I am not okay).

Perhaps it is only Dr. Dobson's frequently condescending tone (complemented by an excessive use of exclamation points) that leads me to think his views border on chauvinism. One early passage caused me to shake my head. Dr. Dobson is talking about how we need to teach our little girl manners, such as where to place silverware, to put a napkin in her lap, not to talk with her mouth full, and not to belch or pick her teeth at the table. He then says, "Although I am not an expert in teaching girls some of the social graces I have named (I learned a masculine version of the rules), I know them when I see them." So, dear Doctor, do tell, what precisely is the *masculine version* of not belching at the table? Do men place the napkin on their heads? I mean, I understand you do not think a boy would ever need to be taught where to place the

silverware, since he must always expect to have a woman in his life, whether wife or mother, to wait upon him, but surely the *masculine version* of not picking one's teeth at the dinner table cannot be too terribly different from the *feminine version* of not picking one's teeth at the dinner table?

Dr. Dobson does frequently site statistics to support his assertions, but if you are fairly well read on the topics he discusses, you may often note his very selective use of studies. There are also times when he offers no hard data at all to support his assertions. For example, he says sleepovers should be a thing of the past because pedophilia and molestation are so much more common today than they used to be. Yet he doesn't actually marshal any hard statistics to back this claim of rampant pedophilia. In fact, there was a substantial decline in child molestation cases in the 1990's. Instead of noting this positive news, however, Dr. Dobson trots out the old cliché that the world has changed and become more dangerous and that it just isn't as safe as it was when we were kids. Indeed, quite a bit of what he says in this book seems to feed the parental culture of fear that has contributed to the modern trend of helicopter parenting. There's a lot of doom and gloom about the state of society, but not as much practical advice as there is warning.

The evangelical preoccupation with sex shines through in this book. Don't get me wrong – I'm all for teaching my daughter the virtue of chastity and self-respect and the danger of dressing like a Bratz doll and getting fall-down drunk at a frat party. I'm not talking about that – I'm talking about this near-obsession with the potential danger of anything in any way related to sex.

Dobson moves from sex-related concern to sex-related concern in "Bringing Up Girls." He repeatedly expresses horror at the idea of a girl taking the initiative in a romantic relationship (i.e. asking a boy on a date or making it known that she is interested in him); he suggests that fathers are going to feel awkward because of their "involuntary attraction" to their "developed" adolescent daughters but that they ought to hug them plenty anyway; he insists that a mom not let her daughter's friend sleep over while only her husband is at home because even though "the motives" of her husband are "probably" honorable, "the potential for danger is just TOO great"; he rules out entirely the possibility of a teenage boy ever babysitting another child because "there is so much going on sexually within males at that age"; and he describes puberty as a time of constant and overwhelming hormonal crisis with "additional dangers for early maturing girls".

At least he doesn't seem nearly as concerned that you might do something that contributes to turning your daughter into a lesbian as he was that your parenting failures might turn your son gay in "Bringing up Boys." In "Bringing up Girls," he's less concerned about the threat of homosexuality and more concerned that you might turn your daughter into a heterosexual young woman who doesn't wait patiently and silently by the phone.

Despite being an evangelical Christian in charge of a Christian organization, Dr. Dobson inserts Christianity toward the end of his book almost as an afterthought. He seems far more concerned with promoting social and moral conservatism than with promoting the Gospel. (I am reminded of what C.S. Lewis had to say about people using the Gospel as a means to some other end.)

Dobson does make some good points, such as that fathers should affirm their girls and be a regularly involved part of their lives, that it's not good for girls, psychologically speaking, to be treated like (and to see other girls treated like) a hunk of meat, and that one should keep an eye on their kids' use of technology (the best chapter of the book, which was not written by Dobson at all, but by another member of Focus on the Family). Of course, I'm not sure I needed to read an entire book by Dr. Dobson to be made aware of any of these things, all of which are discussed extensively elsewhere. There are some sections in this book I do think dads should read because of their insight into the challenges girls (specficially) face and their encouragement to fathers to be deeply involved in the lives of their girls.

Christina says

Bah.... If you want to be terrified of our hypersexualized culture and what it means for girls, read this book. I felt like most of the book focused on what's between girls legs, than what was in her head and heart. If you missed sex-ed and need to be reacquainted with hormones and what happens during puberty, read this.

There were some good messages in here about the importance of a strong, loving, affectionate father - the impact he has on a developing girl. A good reminder for me on the importance of filtering movies, internet content...

I kept hoping it would get better. It didnt.

Beatrice says

I Loved the book!!!! I can't believe the low ratings on this excellent book! If you are a Christian parent trying to raise your kids with Christian values then you'd definitely want to grab a cup of coffee and enjoy reading it! We try to raise our daughter from a Christian perspective and this book is a must read full of information and practical ideas for the Christian parents. I read it twice already to refresh my memory and our girl is only 9 still :) We have Dr. James Dobson's other book "Bringing Up Boys" as well and it is an excellent read. We can't say enough about both books!

Tima says

The premise for this book is explained in the title. It's a book about raising your daughter in a changing world. The world around us is becoming more addicting and dangerous for our daughters and this book is supposed to show us how to navigate through this.

Let me start off by saying that I'm a fan of Dr. Dobson and enjoyed his book Bringing Up Boys. This book, however, is incredibly long and filled with facts and data about our society and its depravity. Some of the information seems pretty dated even though the copyright in my book says 2010. This book just couldn't hold my attention. I don't think a review should be written unless the book is read so I plowed through. It was very tedious reading for me. It was heavily slanted in favor of the dad as far as instruction goes. As a mother I felt I was reading a book meant for my husband. There just didn't seem to be anything that I could walk away with and use. It was mostly scaring me about how bad our world was and how easily my daughter could be harmed and damaged for life.

I received this book free of charge Tyndale from in exchange for my honest review.

Janet says

Bringing Up Girls by Dr. James C. Dobson

I wish this book had been written decades ago with my oldest daughter. Since then, I have had four more daughters. Recently, I have become a single mom, just divorced, and it scares the heck outta me that my girls

have lost their father figure. Bringing Up Girls has many chapters about the father and daughter relationship such as discussing the importance of why dads matter in their daughters life. With my recent divorce it has frightened me that my girls no longer have a good male role model. Yes, mom's do matter--and I must admit that I feel the burden of being the best mom in the world because of their father's shortcomings.

Recommendation:

I highly recommend Bringing Up Girls by Dr. James C. Dobson for counselors, fathers, mothers and grandparents. If you are going to read one book this year, give a book this year as a gift, or in need an idea for a subject in a class, use this book. It will open your eyes very deeply by sharing how relationships between mother and daughter, father and daughter is vital for your daughters growth into adulthood.

Thanks to Tyndale House Publishers for providing this book for free.

Pastoralmusings says

James Dobson has certainly written a helpful book. Bringing Up Girls brings together the best of research concerning trends that affect girls today as well as timeless truth about the need for parent to be, well, parents to their girls.

As a father I was especially interested to read what Dobson had to say about the role of fathers in the raising of their girls. I was not disappointed, but was challenged to be a better father because of this book. Dads, we are needed in our homes and we are needed by our daughters.

Dobson points out that girls are different from boys (sadly, we need to be reminded of that in our day) and have unique needs. He then points out to us how to respond to those needs.

One thing that I appreciate is how Dobson brings in the relevant issues of today's media saturation and the dangers of online media. At the same time he makes this something that will not necessarily be dated when the media changes. In all of these things Dobson reminds parents to be proactive, involved, firm, and loving as they deal with their daughters.

One thing that stood out to me was that Dobson emphasized the need of girls to feel beautiful. They need affirmation from their mothers and their fathers. This is indeed important. I can see that in my own five year old daughter. While we must affirm their own unique beauty, fathers must also care enough to set boundaries so that their daughters will have the security of being cared for, protected, and loved.

So very many positive things could be said about this book. I shall simply conclude by recommending it to those who have daughters. It is helpful and needful.

Thanks to Tyndale for this review copy. It was provided freely with no expectation of a positive review.

Heidi says

I wanted to like this book more than I did. I'm not a huge Dobson fan, for various reasons, but he's at his best when he sticks to child development issues. That is, after all, where he is educated and has his professional experience. The book is the strongest when it is giving the physiological background for why girls behave the way they do at different ages, and some of the tips on how to help your daughter through difficult transitions are very useful. It is, in a way, written more for dads than moms, probably because dads may not realize their importance in the life of their daughters and may think they are only there to show their boys how to be manly.

My complaints with the book are the endless amount of time he spends talking about the dangers of sexual immorality in girls. We get it. I also got it 4 chapters ago when you started discussing it, and you're still discussing it now. Chances are if a person picks up a book by Dobson they probably already lean to the right anyway. His points are absolutely valid, and I completely agree, but my time in reading is precious - move on. I also didn't like the verbatim transcripts of group discussions he's had with teenagers, because when you're reading it on a page rather than hearing the emotion in a discussion you lose the power of it, and the good doctor comes across as patronizing.

That all sounds really picky - this book is worth reading as a reminder of the importance of being involved with our daughter's lives, but you probably could skim some of it when it gets repetitive.
