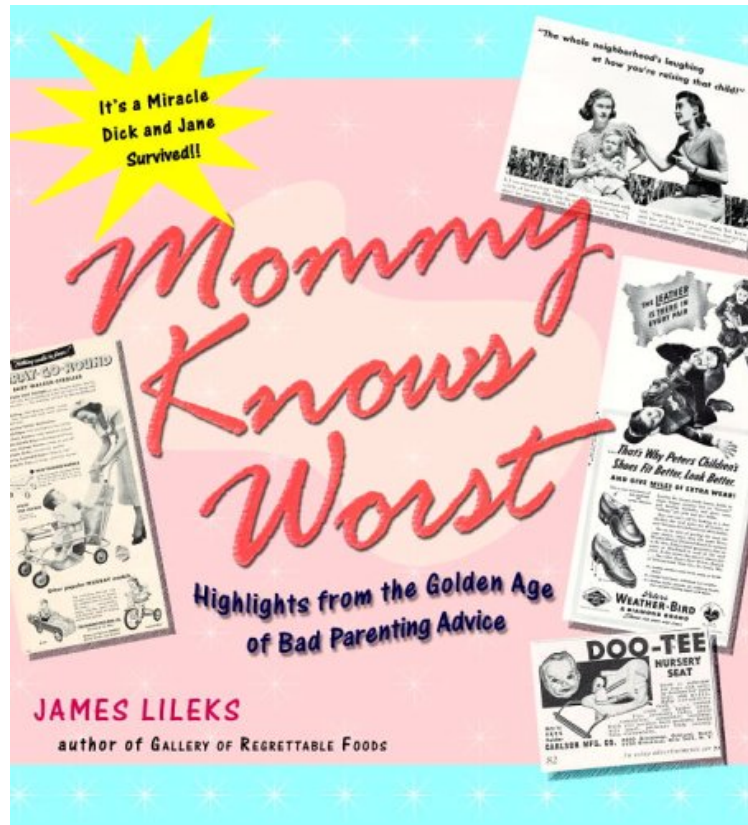


(Read now) Mommy Knows Worst: Highlights from the Golden Age of Bad Parenting Advice

Mommy Knows Worst: Highlights from the Golden Age of Bad Parenting Advice

James Lileks

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James Lileks : Mommy Knows Worst: Highlights from the Golden Age of Bad Parenting Advice before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mommy Knows Worst: Highlights from the Golden Age of Bad Parenting Advice:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Knucklehead "Experts" By James Lileks I had a mother who really had no maternal instincts at all. Even so, she was more adept at parenting than the knucklehead "experts" James Lileks collects between these covers. If you are a parent, you have (or had) at least one dogeared parenting manual lying around the house. The responsibility for a new life is often quite frightening so expert advice is called for. Reading the "advice" in this book makes one wonder how previous generations ever managed to live long enough to reproduce! Lileks is in his usual fine form with side-splitting commentary, other worldly vintage images and impudent sass. Recommended for established parents of every variety. By turns amusing and horrifying, it will make you appreciate your own parents more. If yours has a sense of humor, this book is the perfect Mother's Day gift! 39 of 40 people found the following review helpful. You'll laugh until you cry By Mary Jane Martin I am 45 years old and recently told my kids that in my day, infants didn't have car seats or booster seats (or even seat belts!) They asked in

disbelief, where did you go in the car? I said, Nana and Pop just laid me on the floor of the car. This book proved to my kids that I was telling the truth about the dangers kids and babies lived through back then--and all the jaw-droppingly unbelievably bad advice mothers were given. My 12-year-old son loved the product that allowed parents in apartments to get fresh air and sunshine for an infant by hanging the baby out the window in some sort of box contraption. My 16-year-old daughter is reading it from cover to cover and getting a bigger kick out of it than I did. It was a nice day in Missouri here today, and I had the doors and windows open. I was laughing so hard while I read this book in one sitting (I could not wait to see what was next--oh, spanking children with hairbrushes for not having had a bowel movement that day, that'll teach 'em!) I was surprised the neighbors didn't call someone from the looney bin to pick me up. This book is a scream, literally! 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Short, but Fabulous By A. Reid Humor columnist James Lileks is the author of one of the funniest websites I know, where he focuses a keen satirical eye on the recent past. This offering looks at parenting of the early 20th century (up to late-mid), drawing primarily from advertisements, informative tracts and magazine articles. It is side-splittingly funny stuff. Sometimes it's funny on its own merits, but sometimes just because Lilek's presents it that way. The "Care of Milk" instructions he reproduces, for instance, are more interesting as a curiosity in our supermarket age than actually amusing. Nevertheless, I can't recommend this highly enough. It's a quick read--it took me a matter of hours--but a rewarding one, and it's even more fun to share.

Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater! Ahhhh, the 1940s and '50s . . . a time when parents everywhere strove for the American Dream—manicured lawns, a shiny car in the driveway, and perfect children playing in the yard. Raising kids was simpler back then, or was it? In *Mommy Knows Worst*, you'll be treated to a visual feast of past parenting neuroses—as well as insight into why concerned moms and dads were driven to buy “delicious” baby laxatives, douse their baby in oil and put him in the sun, and strap Junior into a car seat that bore a strange resemblance to scrap metal. If you're a baby boomer who lived through this childhood torture, well, we're sorry. But if humor really is the best medicine (rather than bicarbonate of curd and mustard plaster, as was previously recommended for childhood ailments), then *Mommy Knows Worst* is cheaper than therapy. Photographs, advertisements, magazine articles, and government-issue parenting guides, which seemed so helpful in their day, are given a whole new slant by the master of the genre, James Lileks. *Mommy Knows Worst* is a rollicking tribute to old-fashioned parenting that gives us a whole new reason not to forget our past—it's hilarious!

.com From the author of *The Gallery of Regrettable Food* comes a horrifying-yet-hysterical book dedicated to the expert parenting advice from previous generations. Each glossy page includes vintage print ads and photos accompanied by James Lilek's mean comments. But then, what other response is possible, when faced with cough syrup advertisement with a happy child exclaiming, "A cough syrup good enough to eat with ice cream"! General categories include "Clothing and Accessories" (including a pattern to make a headband that binds protruding ears to babies' heads), "Bowels" (featuring an ad with the text, "If he spansks me again, I'm going to run away from home"), and "The Good Old Days", which offers several detailed options for creating a home delivery center. In every chapter, Lilek's comments are the equivalent of cracks from your most sarcastic friend. For any new parent who's tired of modern advice books, or expecting parents in need of a touch of humor amidst the stress of pregnancy, look no further. Every page has a laugh, and every page will remind the reader that sooner or later, almost all parenting advice will end up having the same worth as what's included here. Jill Lightner About the Author James Lileks is a columnist for the *Star-Tribune* in Minneapolis. He is the author of *The Gallery of Regrettable Food* and *Interior Desecrations*. His website, lileks.com, is among the most popular humor sites on the Internet.