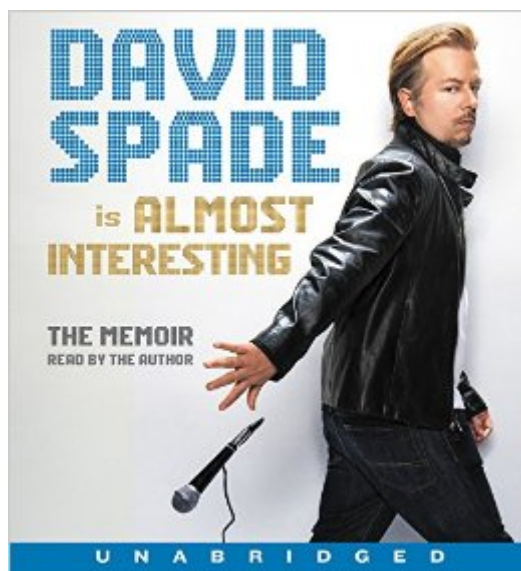


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Almost Interesting CD: The Memoir



Synopsis

A hilarious and biting memoir from the actor, comedian and *Saturday Night Live* alumni. 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 fourteen 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 Beverley 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 huge David Spade fan, I enjoyed the early chapters and stories about SNL/Tommy Boy and Chris Farley, but feel Spade petered out way too soon. Maybe he ran out of diary pages. I loved two of his TV shows *Don't Shoot Me* and *Rules of Engagement* (forget about *8 Simple Rules*) and there was ZERO coverage. His memoir ends after the infamous Skippy Attack in 2000. Pretty lame to

leave out the last 15 years, huh? Spade seems pretty funny in stand up, as I've seen on cable, but he must be running out of movie and tv roles and decided to cash in on some quick money through publication. Disappointing, to say the least. I'd wait for the library edition.

The story is fantastic (constant use of parentheses annoying enough to not be able to finish). I kid you not right in the middle of every paragraph (well maybe not quite the middle) there are inserted (insert meaning in the story not like a finger insert). The use of these unnecessary (some would argue) constant interruptions (in an otherwise great story) makes the book unreadable. I have given up (not in the sense of giving) trying to read the book. The editor should be fired. (just my opinion). If you think MY review is annoying, just wait until you attempt to read David Spade's book.

Quick read (or listen) and very funny. I listened to the audiobook, which I am guessing adds an additional element to the humor due to Spade's pro comedic delivery. Interesting behind-the-scenes SNL stuff, but even more weird and funny stories about the author's real life. The one about his first sexual experience made me spit out my drink with laughter. I always reflect on whether I like a celebrity more or less after reading a memoir. In this case, I was left liking David Spade more than I did previously.

Sure, I expected this to be laugh-out-loud funny, but who knew one of the year's most honest, engaging and fascinating celeb-memoirs would be David Spade's "Almost Interesting". I could not put it down. I blazed through it. Obviously and refreshingly NOT ghost-written, the book flows in such a way I could practically hear his voice in my mind as I read it, his funny asides and interjections a constant source of amusement throughout. His behind-the-scenes insights into the challenges of stand-up comedy, life on the road and his years in the trenches of "Saturday Night Live" are appreciated, as are memories of his friendship with Chris Farley. Being an Arizonan I also got a kick out of his Arizona youth in the slums of Scottsdale (still probably pretty nice compared to most poor kids' upbringings), running loose in the 1970s desert. His observations about Generation X and the pre-internet Instagram-less world are hilarious. I'd like to have read more about his film career, and TV series post-SNL (we were huge fans of "Just Shoot Me" and Spade's Dennis Finch character, which are barely mentioned here) but perhaps that will be in a subsequent sequel which I will gladly buy.

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