



Happy-Go-Lucky

Author: David Sedaris

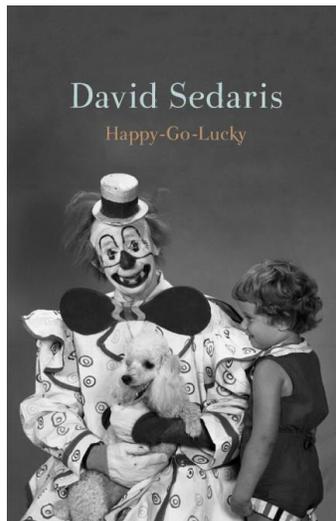
Publisher: First published by Little Brown and Company in 2022 (272 pages)

Happy-Go-Lucky written by David Sedaris is a collection of 18 different essays. Most of these essays were already published in The New Yorker and that's how I got the familiarity with his name. I must admit, however, that I never got to read anyone of his essays before.

Sedaris covers a variety of topics in this book; from gun safety lessons to interactions with family members, learning French, telling jokes, and dealing with his father's passing. Some of the essays recall events that happened many years ago, while others focus on more recent pandemic times. There isn't generally much connection between essays, and really it seems like they could be read in any order.

His anecdotal stories, reminiscing about his life and family, will simply touch the heart of every reader. He has the capacity to speak about the unspeakable, and he makes it tolerable and funny. He allows the reader to laugh at ideas that are not funny at first, the pandemic, dying, and lying, and as he explores those topics. He makes even the most difficult ideas to discuss,

palatable. Even his simplest stories have secondary subtle inferences that take us deeper into ideas about the way we live and interact.



Sedaris' writing style is a combination of conversational, matter-of-fact, and witty. He examines his relationship with Hugh, his partner of decades, with his sisters and his friends, and then with his father and mother, and the reader can't help but be reminded of their own similar moments of joy or despair with their friends and family.

It is an enjoyable read as his essays are windows into his thoughts as he lives his life; often dealing with issues that many people will be familiar with, but likely from a different perspective than most people have. Overall, I liked the book; although I didn't feel anything extraordinary about it. -

Reviewed by Musafir