Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim

Love It

Whether by nature or by nurture, Ma and Pa Sedaris certainly knew something about raising funny kids. Amy Sedaris has built a cult following for her Comedy Central character Jerri Blank, and David, the more famous of the two siblings, continues to spin his personal history into comedic gold. A good chunk of the material in Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim debuted in other media outlets, such as The New Yorker, but Sedariss brilliantly written essays deserve repeat reads. Based on the authors descriptions, nearly every member of his family is funny, although some (like sister Tiffany, perhaps) in a tragic way. In The Change in Me, Sedaris remembers that his mother was good at imitating people when it helped drive home her point. High-voiced, lovably plain-spoken brother Paul (aka The Rooster, Silly P) has long been a favorite character for Sedaris readers, though Pauls story takes on a serious note when his wife has a difficult pregnancy. The author doesnt shy away from embarrassing moments in his own life, either, including a childhood poker game that strays into strange, psychological territory. Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim provides more evidence that he is a great humorist, memoirist, and raconteur, and readers are lucky to have the opportunity to know him (and his clan) so well. His funny family feels like our own. Perhaps they are luckier still not to know him personally. --Leah Weathersby

My Personal Review:
I chose this audio book to listen to in the car on a long road trip and was very satisfied. Although I have never read Sedaris work before I have heard his essays on NPR and this audio book lived up to my expectations. As other reviewers have mentioned, Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim is a collection of essays about the Sedaris family that range from touching to absolutely hilarious. They are not meant to form one continuous story and this actually works quite well in the audio book format because you can easily listen to the book over multiple car rides or workouts without feeling like you have to rewind in order to understand the story.

While these stories are entertaining and captivating in their own right they are exponentially more interesting when read by Sedaris. His well timed dry delivery paired with the different voices he does for each character made for a very engaging read. My boyfriend and I were laughing so
much at the different stories that the book did a great job of making the
time pass and keeping us entertained on an otherwise dull car ride.

This book really highlighted for me that Sedaris not just a talented
wordsmith but also great at bringing energy and enthusiasm to his work. I
would highly recommend this audio book and am planning on checking out
more of Sedaris work as a result.

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