



Raising the Perfect Child Through Guilt and Manipulation

Elizabeth Beckwith

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Popular actress and stand-up comedienne Elizabeth Beckwith gives us the parenting guide to end all parenting guides: *Raising the Perfect Child through Guilt and Manipulation*. A frequent guest on *The Late, Late Show* and one of seven comics featured in the *Time* magazine article, “Funny: The Next Generation,” Beckwith now puts forth a hilarious new parenting philosophy that would shock Dr. Spock and traumatize T. Berry Brazelton. *Raising the Perfect Child through Guilt and Manipulation* is a riotously irreverent take on contemporary child rearing.

Raising the Perfect Child Through Guilt and Manipulation Details

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Author : Elizabeth Beckwith

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From Reader Review Raising the Perfect Child Through Guilt and Manipulation for online ebook

Bethany says

Out loud laughs while reading!

Melissa says

I thought the book would be a humorous take on parenting, but instead it was a genuine parenting book. Don't get me wrong, I laughed my way through it, but I came out of it with some parenting advice I actually took to heart.

Jenifer Rosenberg says

I picked this book up on a whim because I thought the title was amusing. little did I know that it would present very sound, well-thought advice on parenting wrapped in an enjoyably fun-to-read package. I love Beckwith's style and humor, and her insight is amazing! I don't just recommend this book to people who have children, either. If you do have kids, or are planning to have kids, or are thinking of getting married: this book is awesome. Additionally, if none of the above categories apply to you, but you were born in the seventies, have any obsessive tendencies, or have nieces and nephews: read this book! I also have to mention that, if you are a fan of Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum series, you will really enjoy Beckwith's stories about growing up. In short, I highly recommend this book!

Kelly says

Dear Mommy Mafia,

Before you go getting your knickers in a bunch and start the crusade to take down Ms. Beckwith, let me first tell you: this is NOT an actual tutorial.

This is essentially a memoir of the author's life growing up, the way in which her family raised her - their values, discipline and priorities - and how much she loves them for it and hopes to be able to follow in their footsteps for her own children. Of course, as the author is also a comedienne, it's freaking hilarious!

Also, for the record, I was not only proud to be reading it, but flashed it to my kids with a raised eyebrow and a menacing laugh. If you're smart and can squeeze it in before little Timmy receives yet another award for "participation", I would suggest you do the same.

Best Wishes!

P.S.

Those stickers outlining just exactly how many people/animals and what genders are in your family is just setting yourself up for possible traumatic trouble (maybe next time don't alert the potential pedophile driving behind you that you have a pre-teen girl who likes cheerleading in the family). Plus, it's annoying.

Turi says

Yes, this is meant to be a "humor" title. At least mostly. 70% humorous? Actually, the percentage is probably pretty flexible. Elizabeth Beckwith takes us on a ride through parenting that rides the edge between crazy, funny, and uncomfortably true. Wait. Can there be an edge between three things? Anyway. Fun stuff.

Tiffany says

Hilarious! Very much tongue-in-cheek parenting advice from a comedian. I was entertained, and admittedly, she does actually have a good amount of solid parenting advice in there!

Madeleine says

This is honestly one of the better parenting guides I've read, and I'm not just saying that because, according to Beckwith's description of the philosophy, i appear to be the product of guilt and manipulation. Hilarious delivery aside, and the book is, at times, really hilarious, Beckwith's emphasis on earning your kids respect by not being "an a**hole" and cultivating shared family culture makes a lot of intuitive sense. Really good and really funny, especially for parents who take parenting seriously, but not themselves.

Emily Hazewinkel says

Hoping for a few laughs along the way....hoping my kids don't think this is how things are going to roll around here...:)

Ok..now that I am done I can say that I liked this book and found myself laughing many times. I knew instantly that the authors mother was a Northern so many of the topics discussed felt like coming home! After about Chapter 8 it did start to drag but I loved that she ended the book with some sweet and yes funny things about her grandmother. If you are looking for a light, funny read then try this book. Maybe you'll even try and few of her suggestions...heck, we all have done some of these--who are we kidding!!!!

Amanda Gayle Reed says

I chose this book for its title. Somehow, I just knew it would be a laugh riot. I knew absolutely nothing about Elizabeth Beckwith and am not familiar with her comedy, so it took me a couple of chapters to really "get" her voice. She sort of came off as being condescending and sarcastic, but after the first chapter or two, her

personality began to shine forth and there were some serious laugh-out-loud moments (and since I was reading this on vacation, those moments always came while surrounded by total strangers). By the end of the book I was telling my sister about it and saying, "Finally! A book about how we were raised and why it isn't so bad!" I was a little surprised when I hopped over here to Goodreads and starting reading through some of the reviews... I mean... people DO realize this is a comedian writing a humor book, right? Don't read this looking for actual parenting skills, but don't be surprised if this book allows you to take all those "serious" parenting books with a grain salt from now on. After all, we were all raised by imperfect parents and we're okay... I think... so how bad can it really be if you read last year's top parenting book rather than this year's?

Allison says

I give a humour book one star for every belly laugh I have. I wish there were more stars.

Being a product of a hybrid WASPy/Catholic upbringing, I could relate to a lot of the tongue-in-cheek "advice" being presented and to the "Up Close and Personal" stories. Seriously, laughed out loud. Scared the bejeezus out of the cats.

My only advice (totally unsolicited, and, you're welcome): don't read this for parenting tips. I'm sure one can gleam some of that from the stories, but mostly, don't. Except the last piece of advice on not being asshole parent. Listen to that.

Rachel says

I'm giving this book two stars as a parenting book, but as a comedy I'd give it three or four.

This caught my eye because the older I get, the more I think my own parents' brilliant style of raising kids involved more guilt than my sister or I realized at the time, maybe even more than my parents meant to employ. And my parents were (and are) practically perfect - I mean, just look at me now, heh... - so perhaps guilt has its place in parenting.

As does snark.

Beckwith's advice covers plenty of topics but could probably be summed up in a general two-step process: 1) Make sure you kids know what assholes act like by pointing out assholes when you see them; and 2) Make sure your kids understand that the worst thing in the world is to become an asshole. The author also couches this tactic as indoctrinating your children with an us/them mentality: "us" is the family, and we do things a certain way; "them" are the assholes.

Even without kids, it's worth a read for the laughs.

Liz says

I downloaded this on a whim, thinking it would be much funnier. I truly despite parenting books and thought this would be more of a spoof on them and it could be just that, but I suspect that Beckwith is a better stand-

up comedian than writer. I actually agree with some of her advice and appreciate the profane way she presents it.

I am reading it on a Nook and a lot of the formatting does it no favors either so I am willing to concede that I am missing some of the pleasure of the book.

Shelly Burch says

The first thing I want to mention is that this book should not necessarily be taken as a parenting how-to guide. Unless the advice really fits your personal parenting values. However, this book is a necessity for all parents who just need a good laugh - and that's all parents. When you raise children, you need to take a break from all the work, worries and stress that parenting entails. Then read this book, laugh out loud, and wish you could do and say all the things that Elizabeth recommends in her book. It's written with advice and personal anecdotes from her childhood that she believes are useful tools to raise happy and healthy children.

Don't let the idea of guilt and manipulation scare you away from reading this book. Yes, it's full of guilt and manipulation tactics that I admit I've thought about but have never used. Now I feel emboldened with the knowledge that these tactics can work. I've encountered many of the parents and their children that Elizabeth writes about in her book, especially the playground bully and moms who sexualize their daughters by dressing them like party girls. Admit it, we've all seen this.

The author sometimes spends a little too long on her personal experiences growing up in Las Vegas but I'm sure it was to add pages to the book, and very specific examples of how her parents style of raising their kids makes the case for guilt and manipulation to work. Her experiences in growing up in Las Vegas were often different than my Midwestern upbringing, but I enjoyed her advice just the same. I didn't just enjoy it - I laughed hard at many of her anecdotes and observations. Okay, I will raise nerds (because nerds rule!) but I'm not really going to work at raising my kids this way, though sometimes I wish I had the courage, or had Tony the Ant on speed dial.

Karen says

So apparently I was raised with the guilt and manipulation parenting philosophy and didn't even realize it. I, like Beckwith, always had the innate fear that my parents could sense any wrong-doing that I was even contemplating from miles, even states, away. The guilt and fear were instilled in me from an early age. It's also the parenting philosophy I use myself, though I never would have termed it quite this way! Though this is first and foremost a humor book, the parenting advice makes perfect sense to me. Interspersed throughout the book, Beckwith includes stories of her own upbringing and wacky extended family, explaining exactly how the "guilt" and "manipulation" were put into practice. Quick, funny read. BTW, my favorite chapter? "Don't be Afraid to Raise a Nerd"

Davenport Public Library says

If you're not a fan of traditional parenting books (or even if you are) you might want to check out Elizabeth Beckwith's *Raising the Perfect Child Through Guilt and Manipulation*. This book is laugh-out-loud funny

and with chapters such as “How to Scare the Crap out of Your Child (in a Positive Way)”, and “Mind Control: Why it’s a Good Thing” Elizabeth Beckwith offers a new spin on the traditional parenting books.

Despite the title, Ms. Beckwith has some pretty sound advice to offer. For example, “speak loudly and disparagingly of people who do bad things”. See a guy speed through a parking lot? Make sure you tell your kid what a moron that guy is, and that that’s how people die. As Ms. Beckwith says “it’s always good to sprinkle the fear of death into these lessons whenever possible”.

This method lets you pepper lessons into daily life rather than having sit-down conversations about topics such as drugs or smoking. See a scantily-clad woman on the street? Make sure you mention that she looks like a hooker. This not only shows your daughter that it’s not ok with you to dress this way, but it also sends the message to your son that this is NOT the kind of girl you bring home.

Each lesson is illustrated with colorful stories from the author’s own childhood. So whether you’re looking for parenting advice or just want a great memoir to read *Raising the Perfect Child through Guilt and Manipulation* is definitely worth checking out, as long as you don’t mind a little colorful language.
