

Gina Barreca:

Information about Gina's books:



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Babes In Boyland: A Personal History of the Ivy League:

“With chapters as short as a couple of paragraphs, the memoir is able to steer free of the torments of early adulthood by interjecting humor, like the note-perfect recountings of over-heard conversations or appropriate sophomore poetry. Sometimes wrenching, always witty, Barreca leaves the reader grateful for a Dartmouth experience that could produce a memoir as distinctive as this.”— *Feminist Collections*

“*Babes in Boyland* is a warm, wise, and funny account of the author’s experiences at Dartmouth College in the early years of coeducation.... Like Barbara Streisand in *Funny Girl*, young Barreca’s self-deprecating humor (“I looked pretty fetching in a sleazy barmaid way”), her intelligence and her willingness to march onward against daunting odds ensure her social and academic success.” — *The Journal of American Culture*

“The author is a terrific writer, so it’s easy to appreciate her keen insights delivered in well-turned phrases. Her vivid writing brings her story to life and makes her insight about a famous institution, during a fascinating transitional period, enjoyable. In one sense, this is a story of someone who attended college in an unfamiliar, even inhospitable environment. Her experience speaks to the qualities needed to survive and succeed in uncomfortable circumstances.” — *National Association for College Admission Counseling*

“Barreca is wonderful at the quick, funny, and deadly accurate turn of phrase... any one who was ever a freshman remembers the intimidating and humbling feeling of being overwhelmed by all you do not know. I laughed out loud when Barreca’s roommate confided her embarrassment when, after hearing someone in class speak of Milton’s *felix culpa* in Eden, could only think that *felix culpa* meant ‘the cat is to blame’ (37). Yet, despite any stumbling blocks, four years later Barreca graduated feeling more confident, introspective, intellectual, feminist, and secure.” — *History of Education Quarterly*

“In just a few sentences, Barreca can reflect on that experience, show the lesson, and make a reader smile.” — *Executive Times, Hopkins and Company, LLC*

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I’m With Stupid: One Man. One Woman. 10,000 Years of Misunderstanding:

“If I were to recommend one book this summer to lighten up all the book-club lists in America, to counter-balance all the piffle that’s been written about gender, this would be it.” — *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

“[The writers] explore the vast, often treacherous landscape that separates men and women, and they do it beautifully.” — *The Tampa Tribune*

“Gene and Gina achieve a pleasingly balanced repartee of playfulness, crudeness and something approximating affection for one another...which is to say, great book, we wholeheartedly endorse it!” — *San Jose Mercury News*

“[The] checklist of “Signs Your Spouse Might be Cheating on You” itself justifies the outlay of the whole book.” — *The Washington Post*

“You will find [*I’m With Stupid*] funny enough to torment your spouse by chasing her around the house reading passages out loud to her, whether she wishes to hear them or not, until she screams, “STOP, I WANT TO READ IT TO MYSELF.” — *Austin-American Statesman*

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Sweet Revenge: The Wicked Delights of Getting Even:

“Takes Readers on a tour through the mine-laden landscape of revenge.... Barreca writes with intelligence and wit...” — *Los Angeles Times Book Review*

“A clear-eyed master of the appropriate.... Expect to be amused and enlightened.” — *Dallas Morning News*

“Barreca constructs a highly entertaining and loopy pathology of revenge.” — *Hartford Courant*

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Perfect Husbands (and Other Fairy Tales):

“Feminist humor maven Regina Barreca takes on marriage with her characteristic wit and wisdom, demystifying the institution’s roles and expectations clearly and usefully.” — *Ms. Magazine*

“Barreca is an academic who respects the impact of pop culture and a feminist with a great sense of humor.... To what end? A finer distinction between the promise of romance and the rewards of reality.” — *Dallas Morning News*

“Smart and Funny.” — *People*

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They Used to Call Me Snow White... But I Drifted: Women’s Strategic Use of Humor:

“An impassioned, wily, and often hilarious argument for women to unleash their sense of humor on the world.” — *The Chicago Tribune*

“Barreca is a sharp analyst of women’s humor...observant, witty, acerbic, and knowledgeable.” — *Los Angeles Times*

“Shuttles fluidly between Ivory Tower scholarship and real world experience...her text mixes personal reminiscence with good counsel...” — *The Christian Science Monitor*

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A Sitdown with the Sopranos, edited by Regina Barreca:

“Look, I’m half-Italian. Tony Soprano stands in front of the opened refrigerator, dropping sheets of prosciutto into his mouth, and I love him like a brother. Then he orders someone whacked and he’s about as lovable as Gotti. So I’m all over the place in Americans on the subject of The Sopranos and I trust Barreca to deliver the goods. Why? Because she knows humor, pathos, and marinara.” — Wally Lamb, author of *She’s Come Undone* and *I Know This Much is True*

“In its daring intellectuality, *A Sitdown With the Sopranos* is as gripping as the TV show itself. All of the essays are unfailingly strong and the book’s shattering of so many dumb and hurtful conceptions about Italian Americans and their culture will alter American consciousness for good, and for the good.” — Frank Lentricchia, Katherine Everett Gilbert Professor of Literature at Duke University and author of *Lucchesi and The Whale*

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Additional Praise for Gina Barreca:

Maureen Corrigan, reporting for N.P.R., recommended *Don’t Tell Mama!* as one of “the best books of 2002.” She says, “As that cheeky title suggests, this is a boisterous and frequently moving collection ...” —*Fresh Air*, N.P.R.

“Gina Barreca can be as funny as Rita Rudner and as witty as George Eliot.” —*Connecticut Magazine*

“I’ll go back to Regina Barreca’s book [*Too Much of a Good Thing is Wonderful*] whenever I need a fun chat with a warm and upbeat old friend.”

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