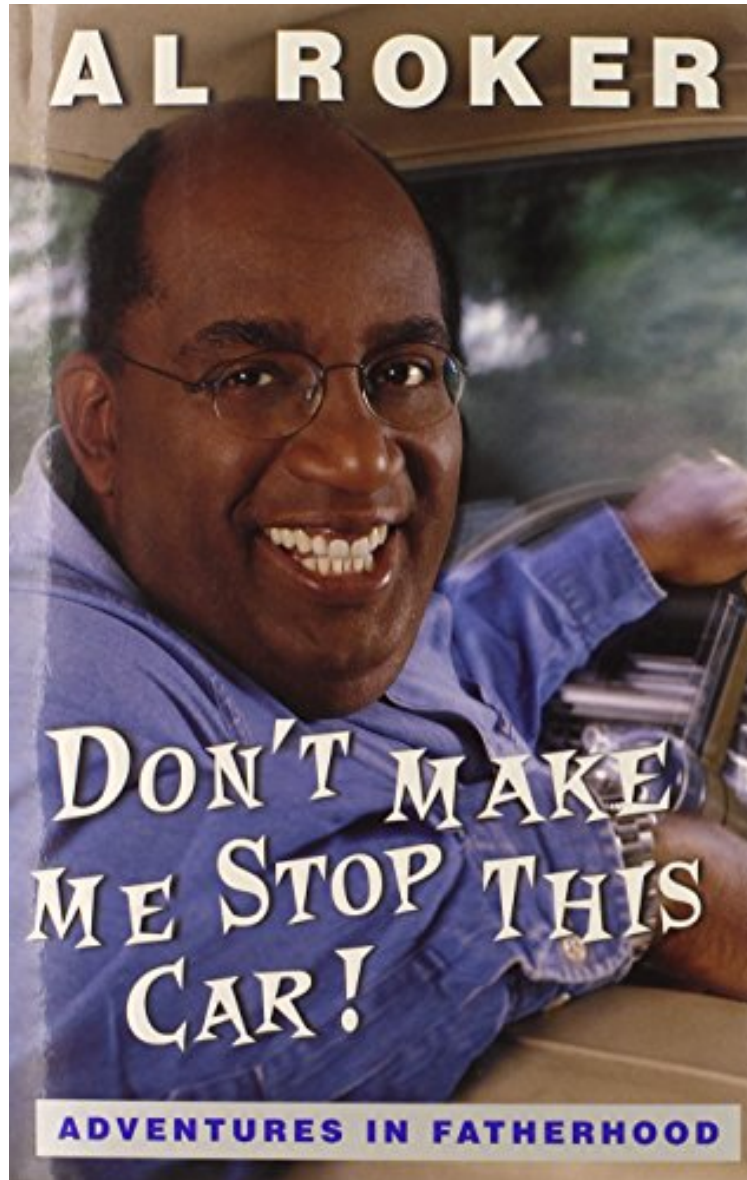


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## Don't Make Me Stop This Car!: Adventures in Fatherhood

*Al Roker*

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**Al Roker : Don't Make Me Stop This Car!: Adventures in Fatherhood** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Don't Make Me Stop This Car!: Adventures in Fatherhood:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good readBy Sherry BooneGood entertainment. We loved that the author read for the audiobook.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ChispaBy GEThis is a cute book and worth the read. It has lots of very familiar stories that I think most can relate to and presented by the author in a real

story telling type manner. 20 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Always liked you Al..now I think I love you! By A Customer The most enjoyable read I've had in a long time! I always respected and enjoyed Al as our local weatherman on the local NBC news - this the THE man you always trusted to tell you the REAL weather..well after reading the book..this is the man you're going to trust telling you about REAL life too. The candor he expresses with regard to the medical profession.. the arbitrary nature of health insurance..adoption..divorce..marriage..racism are but a few topics covered in this book. It enlightened me..it made me laugh and cry..but more than that..it made me want the book to never end. This is more than a "celebrity fluff" book. Run..don't walk and get this book..for yourself..and share it with anyone you love.

Drawing on his experiences as the father of two girls and his own childhood as the oldest of six children, the man whom the New York Post hails as the best-known and best-loved weatherman in the world presents his thoughts on parenting and on life in general. Photos illustrations. (Parenting)

.com Al Roker, the genial weatherman on NBC's top-rated Today show, has written a book that reads like a long chat over coffee. Light and involving, *Don't Make Me Stop This Car* talks frankly about fertility problems, parenting, divorce, adoption, and... 'toons. It turns out that Roker's a cartoon fanatic, and his own capable, funny drawings grace the back cover and chapter headings. In the first half of *Don't Make Me Stop This Car*, Roker and his wife, 20/20 correspondent Deborah Roberts, struggle to get pregnant. They conceive a child the old-fashioned way but lose it during the first trimester. Roker candidly discusses the causes of their impaired fertility: his low sperm count and his wife's plummeting progesterone levels. Key doctors are introduced (and, annoyingly, reintroduced) in the ensuing chapters before Leila is delivered via C-section in November 1998. Part two is a collection of essays on topics ranging in seriousness from Ricky Martin to racism. Roker's better with weightier subjects, such as the challenges and pleasures of adoption and foster care. And there are some compelling descriptions of his childhood that make you admire his salt-of-the-earth parents. At times the writing sounds as if Roker dictated and didn't spend much time editing. It's punctuated by exclamations that surely sound better on TV ("Yesss!" "Is this a great country, or what?" "Gotta go!"). But the informality grows less irritating as the book goes on. Ultimately, you're left with a sense of Roker as a middle-class hero--proud of his bus-driver dad but rich enough to buy fertility treatments and then decorate the baby's nursery with trinkets from the "statusphere." All in all, it's a sunny forecast for Mr. Roker's fatherhood book. --Kathi Inman Berens From Publishers Weekly TV weatherman Roker comes across as affable, humorously self-deprecating and immensely likable in this memoir of parenthood. His voice is warm and affectionate as he describes his two daughters, Courtney and Leila, and his years of talking into the camera give him an ease behind the microphone that makes him sound as if he is chatting personally with the listener. The material itself, however, is uneven. His struggles to become a father A once through infertility treatments, once through adoption A are truly compelling, and his reflections about his own father, a bus driver who raised several foster children in addition to his own, are sweet and poignant. But when Roker talks about his own experiences of being a father, he sounds like every other proud parent in the world. He was thrilled when he witnessed his daughters' first steps; he enjoys buying cute little-girl clothes from Baby Gap. Simultaneous release with the Scribner hardcover (Forecasts, June 19). (June) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The famous Today Show weatherman muses on his experiences as father of two daughters. The 49 brief chapters are neither thematically nor chronologically arranged, and though they show his self-effacing humor, they frequently ramble. While some readers might find it interesting (or perhaps disturbing) to learn the sordid details of Roker's low sperm count or a childhood spent "eating till you felt like you were going to burst," most of his observations about fatherhood are generic and hackneyed. The sharpest entry contrasts the fear-based disciplinary techniques of past generations (the title's "six little words worked for my father because we were afraid") with gentler contemporary practices like time-outs and coaching. Similar to Bill Cosby's *Fatherhood* (Berkeley, 1993), Roker's book offers nothing new or particularly useful. Although sincere, it is tediously lightweight and lacks the practicality of Adams Sullivan's revised *The Father's Almanac* (Doubleday, 1992). An optional purchase for public libraries. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.