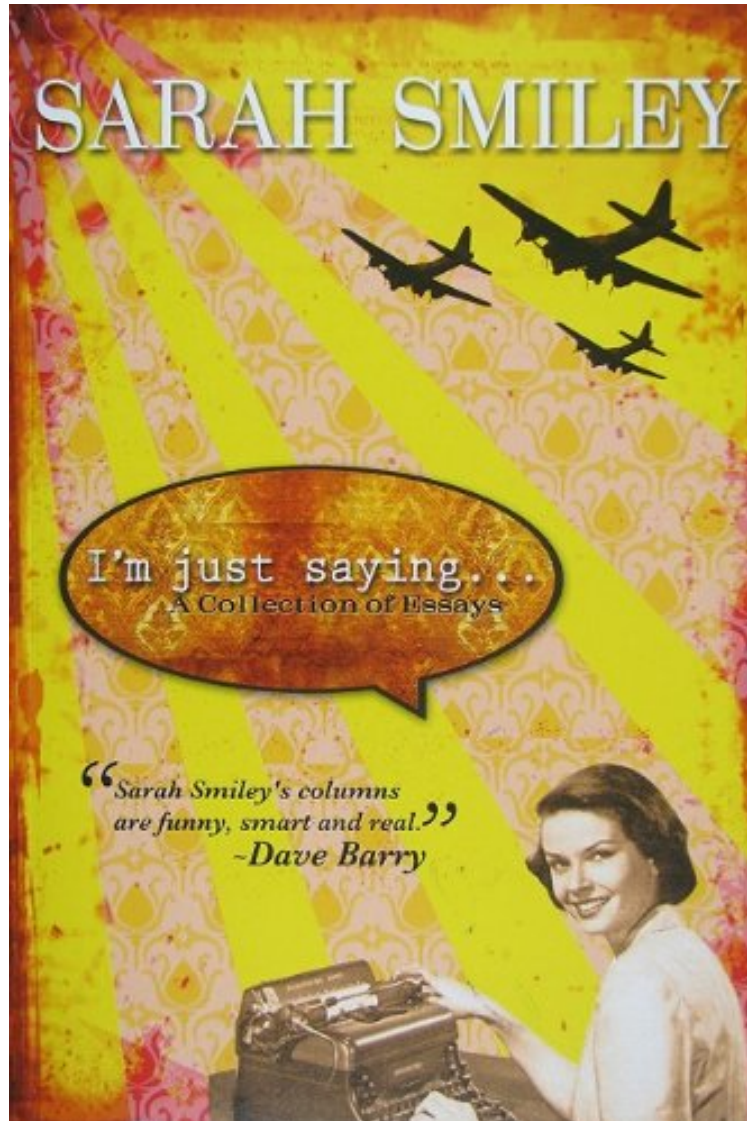


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I'm Just Saying

Sarah Smiley

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Sarah Smiley : I'm Just Saying before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I'm Just Saying:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great bookBy Sailor JaneI've read both of her books since I'm a Female in the Navy and try to connect with other women. I wonder what it's like to be on the other side of the fence so to speak, and have come to the conclusion that women are women, no matter what role they play in the military. She reminds me of my dear friend and fellow blogger Snarky Navy Wife. Except Snarky has a darker nerdier edge to her. Read the book, it'll make you laugh, cry, say awww, and sometimes annoy you. Frankly I'd call it the stupid book

since I hated reading it sometimes because it reminded me of a lot of things I missed about my Sailor across the continent. The parts about the kids kinda annoyed me since I can't even live with my SO because of the choices I made to enlist, much less reproduce as I pleased. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love Love Love Sarah Smiley!!! By Melissa A. Reum I enjoy reading Sarah's articles in the Jax Air base paper so I love this book!!! It's filled with the best of her writings. It is funny to see how military lives intersect so much... we all deal with things in the same manner... think in the same manner as well!!! Great insight to anyone who wonders what it's like to be a military spouse with PCS moves, deployments, etc. Can't get enough of her writing!!! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This review is long overdue! By Leah I read "I'm Just Saying" more than a few months back and truly intended to write this review as soon as I finished it. Life got away from me, as did my original thoughts on the book, but my opinion of it has not changed and I'm ready to get it back from my friend so I can read it again! While I had lukewarm feelings about Sarah Smiley's first book "Going Overboard", I was really pleased with this one. I thoroughly enjoyed the essay style of the book, touching on all sorts of topics affecting a military wife. It was light, humorous, candid, and, in my opinion, true to life. Sarah shares her experiences and opinions in a way that's hard to take offense to. There were many laugh-out-loud moments and a few that brought tears to my eyes, having had similar experiences myself. As a military wife, I've come to believe that you can't take life too seriously. Sometimes you have to laugh just so you don't cry. I get overwhelmed sometimes at what Navy life has in store for my family's future, but hearing other wives' stories, like Sarah's, helps me to know I can be just as strong. I appreciate Sarah Smiley for her passion, honesty, and love of her family and her life, and I thank her for sharing it with us in such an entertaining way!

Learn the military's phonetic alphabet if you wish, but I prefer to irritate my husband by making up my own instead... this is only slightly less efficient but much more Fabio-Underpants-Naked. - Sarah Smiley in I'm Just Saying... For nearly five years, Sarah Smiley has been entertaining readers of her syndicated newspaper column "Shore Duty" with tales of being a military wife and mother of three young boys. Now Smiley's best work is gathered in one collection. The 288-page paperback book includes forewords by Carol Leifer (former writer for "Saturday Night Live" and "Seinfeld," the basis for the character Elaine on "Seinfeld," and screenwriter for Paramount Television's proposed adaptation of Smiley's columns for a half-hour sitcom) and Ward Carroll (author, former Navy pilot, and current managing editor of Military.com). With commentary on everything from husbands who leave their lunch on top of their car to Amish Friendship Bread and why children are always bumping heads, Smiley's writing will "put a grin on your face," says Time Bete, Director of the Erma Bombeck Writer's Workshop. "Even those with no connection to the military will relate," writes Bernie Grimm, Fox News Analyst.

Book : I'm Just Saying Military.com - Tom Miller Sep 23, 2008 I'm Just Saying: A Collection of Essays, by Sarah Smiley. Ballinger Publishing \$14.95 (287p) ISBN 978-0-9791103-1-3 I'm just saying . . . that in some respects Navy wife, columnist, and author Sarah Smiley (Going Overboard: The Misadventures of a Military Wife) is the military-wife version of Everywoman. Ms. Smiley, a tee-ball Mom to three young sons, shops at Target and Home Depot, hosts birthday parties at Chick-fil-A, packs up and moves every three years or so, endures long deployments, and generally provides the ballast that keeps the Smiley boat afloat a reality that she shares with tens of thousands of military wives. That she does all this with grace and empathy helps explain her popularity among military wives and many husbands as well. (Her syndicated column from which these essays are taken reaches two million readers weekly.) The essays are arranged topically and cover ;Marriage,;Children, and The Military; the typical trifecta of a military wife's existence. While the tone of individual essays varies from playful to earnest, the collection as a whole is funny, wise, and as authentic as home-made apple pie. Ms. Smiley's husband, Dustin, is a career Navy pilot, and by all appearances, a darn good sport. How many husbands especially one immersed in a warrior culture would want the world to know that they are deathly afraid of baby dolls? Not that Dustin doesn't deserve it. This is the same man, for example, who gave his wife a Home Depot gift card for Christmas! And, who actually said that the most tired he could recall being was when the author a.k.a. his wife was in labor. Ouch! Ms. Smiley is most eloquent when writing about the joys and challenges of parenthood challenges that are multiplied for military couples who contend with frequent deployments and missed moments, birthdays, Christmases, tee-ball games, and illnesses. Yes, illnesses. Ms. Smiley wisely notes that many service members would trade all the missed anniversaries and birthdays just to be home when their children are sick. As for the military her home for most of her life (as the daughter of a Navy fighter pilot and the wife of a Navy helicopter pilot) Ms. Smiley is fair and balanced. She is unstinting in her praise for, and defense of, military families. Yet, she's not afraid to take the military to task for its shortcomings especially its bureaucratic culture. Aware that many of her readers are civilians, Ms. Smiley is an outspoken advocate for military families. She is quick to counter unfair criticism of the military, and she chafes at public indifference. She also tries to help often-clueless civilians interact with military families. In an essay on What Not to Say, she notes, for example, that civilian wives should never, ever complain that their husband will be away on business all weekend. As for the faceless bureaucracy that ultimately controls her life, Ms. Smiley can be devastatingly witty. Writing about base decals the stickers that must be obtained (by waiting in line) and displayed on vehicles she imagines one bureaucrat saying to

another: Military wives aren't wasting enough time on base. Let's make them register their vehicles now, too. No matter that the cars are already registered with the state. As for the dreaded personnel officer who controls her family's fate, Smiley wryly notes that they have always been gracious enough to grant us all of our wishes and desires that suit Uncle Sam. And, in that vein, she notes even more wryly that you know you're a military wife when ;you've had the same husband for five years, but haven't seen him in three. Reading Sarah Smiley is like having morning coffee with your family --Military.com - Tom MillerAbout the AuthorMilitary wife, author of Dinner With The Smiley's and Going Overboard. Nationally syndicated columnist Sarah Smiley has been featured in Parade Magazine,The New York Times Magazine and Newsweek, and on ABC's Nightline, CNN, CBS's The Early Show, Fox News and MSNBC. Most known for her accounts of raising three boys, Sarah's military writing embodies the non-traditional aspects of military wives and brings to life an area long avoided by others in the military community.