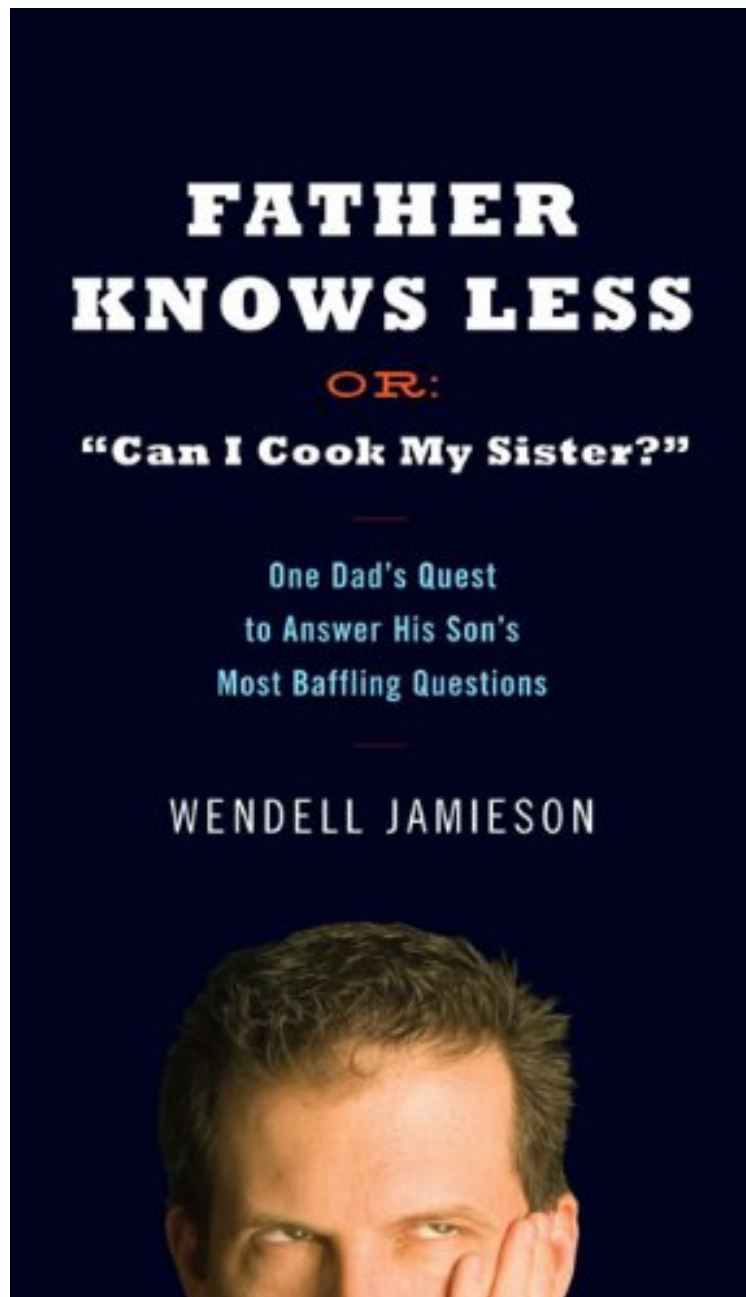


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## **Father Knows Less Or: "Can I Cook My Sister?": One Dad's Quest to Answer His Son's Most Baffling Questions**

*Wendell Jamieson*

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**Wendell Jamieson : Father Knows Less Or: "Can I Cook My Sister?": One Dad's Quest to Answer His Son's Most Baffling Questions** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Father Knows Less Or: "Can I Cook My Sister?": One Dad's Quest to Answer His Son's Most Baffling Questions:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Keep the Questions ComingBy M.A. De NeveI have saved a 2004 Mort Crim article from the Detroit Free Press. Crim's premise is that kids aren't afraid to ask important questions. He proved his point with letters a Sunday School class sent to god. God, are you really invisible or is it a trick? This author, Wendell Jamieson's premise is that kids ask all kinds of questions. He set out to find as many answers as possible. He collected questions from his own son, Dean and from the youngsters of friends and from other sources. Kids questions are not hard to find. Ask any parent. The answers are what makes this book interesting. Some answers showed great imagination. When a father was asked why the tooth fairy didn't show up with some money on Christmas Eve, he answered that it was because Santa ran over the tooth fairy. The answer was not very satisfying to the child, but it showed a father with a sense of humor, and I am sure it became a treasured memory. There are other imaginative answers; others are factual or thoughtful. Why did the Beatles split up. The obvious answer to many of us is Yoko Ono. Jamieson sent a query to John Lennon's widow. He wasn't expecting an answer, but one came. She said it was because the Beatles grew up. I love learning and I learned lots from this book. The whip was probably the first man made object to travel at the speed of sound, 760 miles an hour. The book includes information about trains and dinosaurs even what happens if an airplane flies into a volcano. Most answers come from experts. Jamieson's mother, a gold smith, even answered a question about happens to the shavings when gold objects are created. You don't have to be a parent or a teacher or a child to enjoy this book which includes interesting essays from the author between each set of questions. I believe there are no dumb questions, but not all answers are good ones. . One expert wrote that before the Civil War, 25 to 30 percent of Americans owned slaves. I don't believe the number was that high. So sometimes we all get the answers wrong. But let's keep asking.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Father Son Learn from Each OtherBy Walter J. Jamieson Jr.Bright father's equally bright son peppers him with questions from the age of three. Father, passing on the opportunity to make up goofy answers, gets serious, real answers from experts in each field for his son and friend's and neighbors' and others' children as well. There are a lot of bright, inquisitive kids out there, a lot of facinating answers and very amusing stories in between. As charming as "Marley and Me" but funnier, and ultimately more interesting because it's about humans.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerSo helpful book to anybody who are Dad like me

How a New York Times editor set out to answer the peculiarly marvelous questions of his precocious young son-and wound up on an unexpected journey of his own. Wendell Jamieson's son, Dean, has always had a penchant for . . . odd questions. "Dad," he asked, apropos of nothing, "what would hurt more-getting run over by a car, or getting stung by a jellyfish?" "Dad, why do policemen like donuts?" "What's it feel like to get stabbed?" "Does Mona Lisa wear shoes?" "Can I cook my sister?" Because "Dad" was a newspaperman, he decided to seek out answers-and got swept up in the hunt. He spoke to movie directors and ship captains and brain surgeons and stabbing victims and lottery winners and museum curators and politicians and judges and compulsive shoppers and mothers-in-law and magicians-even Yoko Ono and a dominatrix. But what began as a lark quickly grew into something larger. Blending a charming father-son journey with the surprising, sometimes hilarious questions and answers it spawned, Father Knows Less offers a heartwarming exploration of that childlike curiosity that lives within us all.

From Publishers WeeklyJamieson, city editor for the New York Times, whose seven-year-old son, Dean, has been in full-bore question mode for the past few years, decided that the best strategy for giving Dean the answers was also to give himself a challenge. He would get each answer from a real person who knows it by heart, whose very livelihood depends on the knowledge that Jamieson would present without sugarcoating or simplification. The result is a compendium of hilariously insightful questions from kids (age seven and under) with often insightfully hilarious answers from adults ranging from a doctor discussing the difference between somatic and neuropathic pain (What would hurt more: getting run over by a car or getting stung by a jellyfish?) to a dominatrix explaining Mach 1 air speed (If you don't hit anything with it, how does a whip make that noise?). Jamieson helpfully organizes the questions by theme into chapters, although his introductory anecdotes to each, while amusing, should have been drastically reduced to make room for more questions. Too bad this funny and fascinating book is coming out in September: it makes a perfect Father's Day gift for any dad whose child has ever asked, Why is the sky blue? or Why do we have eyebrows? or What does 'sexy' mean? (Sept.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistWhen Jamieson was a little boy, he had a lot of questions. He posed these to his parents as they occurred to him, and most times his folks did their best to satisfy his curiosity. But other times they were too busy or flummoxed, and they would make things upthing adults found funny but were confusing to a little

boy attempting to understand the world. As an adult, Jamieson became a journalist, and when his own son, Dean, reached the question-asking age, he decided to research the answers to the best of his ability. He went straight to the authorities on the subjects of Dean's inquiries (including celebs such as Yoko Ono and countless doctors and professors) and dutifully recorded their answers. Jamieson compiles the queries and responses in his small gem of a book, along with some personal essays on parenting. It is perfect for anyone young or old who ever wondered about such things as "Is a rainbow hot or cold?" or "Do nose hairs turn gray?" and wanted to know the answer the real ones. Eberle, Jerry "A tremendously funny book. And after reading it, I am (slightly) less terrified to face my son's questions about earwax, baby pigeons and life in general." ---A. J. Jacobs, author of *The Know-It-All*