

A Bit of a Do By David Nobbs ' When Ted Simcock maker of toasting forks in a small Yorkshire town tries to avoid the inevitable with beautiful dentist's wife Liz Rodenhurst his anguished attempt fails utterly with huge consequences for both their families. From one awkward 'do' to the next via a dentists' dinner dance and the Crowning of Miss Frozen Chicken (UK) the fall-out touches everyone but none more than Liz's husband Laurence and Ted's wife Rita the unexpected heroine of this tale. Charting the relationship of newlyweds Paul and Jenny along with the infamous coupling of their respective parents Ted and Liz this book will have you cringing crying and laughing out loud. A Bit of a Do

## DAVID NOBBS A BIT OF A DO



The sequel to Fair Do's and just as laugh out loud great! David Nobbs When the earnest Paul and Jenny marry - their wedding being the first do of the title - the worlds of their very different parents collide with consequences that are hilarious and tragic at the same time. It commences with Paul and Jenny's wedding when it becomes clear that Ted (father of the groom) is having an affair with Liz (mother of the bride): and it's all downhill from there. Even I didn't want to carry on attending these parties (figuratively speaking) but somehow I got so far through the whole debacle that I just decided to see it through to the end. The main characters are unlikeable and even though nobody really wins in the novel (except possibly Rita) there doesn't seem to be any sense of justice or satisfaction for the reader or any of the characters.

From the author of the Reginald Perrin series comes a classic tale of two families one posher than the other set in a Yorkshire town, I didn't like many of the characters but managed to sympathise with them none the less. I've only just found out that this was turned into a television series with David Jason as Ted Simcock which to me seems a perfect piece of casting. Was living together without being married or having a child too soon after marriage really a big deal in the 80s? Apparently. David Nobbs Once I'd finished Reggie I just had to read this too: A bit of head hopping going on in this one but again beautifully crafted and very funny, Didn't have as much luck finding this on DVD as Reggie so definitely one for the Christmas list, His Second from Last in the Sack Race had me in stitches: The Reginald Perrin series is possibly my all time favourite comedy series, However every writer has an off moment and this in my opinion was written in one of them. The premise is as follows: the events of the novel take place during a series of do's celebrations and family parties. The same characters from two families attend the parties with their friends and relations: The parties become (much like real family parties) increasingly painful to attend for all of those involved (and I include myself as the reader in that category), Marriages breakdown relationships form and then suddenly break up pregnancies occur, New characters are introduced on top of the old ones (who aren't that prepossessing), The new characters fail to add any sparkle to the old characters, I limped on until the final party and as glad to see the back of the lot of them. The brand of comedy that Nobbs does best - the use of catchphrases and innuendo which define the characters - really doesn't work in this novel: They just become repetitive and boring; whereas they really worked in Reggie Perrin, As with all of Nobbs's work there is some very fine writing in this novel although less so than usual. 'I'm the groom's father. You're the bride's mother. It's their wedding day. I suspect that may tell you all you need to know. David Nobbs Awesomely funny.

Excellent characters and absurd situations that work well. Beautifully described too. The characters absolutely alive on the page. David Nobbs I love David Nobbs's work. It's just not up to his usual form. I think there's a sequel to this. I won't be reading it. Life's too short to attend any more tragic family parties. David Nobbs tickety boo David Nobbs.