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1,227 Quite Interesting Facts To Blow Your Socks Off



Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller From the creators of the hugely popular BBC quiz show QI and the best-selling Book of General Ignorance: 1,227 mind-bending facts. Did you know? Cows moo in regional accents. The international dialing code for Russia is 007. The water in the mouth of a blue whale weighs more than its body. Pants are responsible for twice as many accidents as chain saws. Saddam Hussein's bunker was designed by the grandson of the woman who built Hitler's bunker. Heroin was originally sold as cough medicine. 1,227 Quite Interesting Facts to Blow Your Socks Off is a trove of the strangest, funniest, and most improbable tidbits of knowledge—all painstakingly researched and distilled to a brilliant and shocking clarity.

Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1 edition (September 9, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393241033

ISBN-13: 978-0393241037

Product Dimensions: 4.7 x 1.1 x 7.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 142 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #235,078 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Science & Scientists #280 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Trivia #2290 in Books > Textbooks > Reference

Customer Reviews

"Entertaining...[e]licit[s] plenty of laughs." - Stevie Godson, New York Journal of Books
"Informative, astonishing and often hilarious." - Today.com
"Amusing fodder for trivia nuts." - Library Journal
"You can't NOT read books like this. They're addictive." - Maggie Galehouse, Houston Chronicle
"A treasure trove of factoids." - National Public Radio, Weekend Edition

John Lloyd is the creator of the BBC quiz panel show QI (Quite Interesting). He lives in Oxfordshire. John Mitchinson is the director of research for the BBC quiz panel show QI (Quite Interesting). He lives in Oxfordshire. James Harkin is senior researcher for QI and lives in London.

I don't know when I first came across the show QI but, ever since then, I've become quite interested in it. I've tracked down episodes on YouTube and have become totally taken in by its combination of humor and information. Stephen Fry is the perfect host for this, and the celebrity panelists make for plenty of wit and interest. It's a great show. Great shows, however, do not necessarily make for great books. I have numerous "books of facts" on my shelf. Most of them are useful as resources but not particularly interesting to read. This one, on the other hand, not only pulls together many bits of fascinating information but also presents it in a way that is surprisingly easy to read. There are four statements of fact on every page (except one) connected in obvious but odd ways leading to wide-ranging pieces of information. Take this from p. 124:

"Between 1948 and 1998, 20,362 Israelis were killed in wars and 20,852 were killed on the roads.//The American TV sex therapist Dr. Ruth Westheimer trained as an Israeli sniper.//Snipur is Icelandic for Eöclitoris. One of the disappointments I often have in books like this is that the facts are not interesting enough and often I already know too many of them from other sources. That was not true here. I knew some of the things from this book (like the bit about Dr. Ruth above) but the vast majority of it was new to me. And I really found most of them interesting, though I did tire of the definitions of odd words after a while. Still, that's splitting hairs. I read this book straight through over a couple days, reading parts of it aloud to my family as I came across things I thought they might enjoy. All of us got into it and enjoyed it. It's strange but true: a collection of interesting facts can bring a family together.

The pagination is non-existent on the Kindle version. The entire text proper (from the first fact to the last fact) appears to be a single continuous page. This makes reading a nightmare. Should you close the book and come back to it later you will find yourself back at the start, and will have to scroll through the text until you find your place. Bookmarks and searching don't work either. Opt for the paperback instead.

Might as well buy a dictionary, half the book is just definitions of words.

Twas a gift for a family member

This little book is filled with great trivia and is fascinating. Just open a page and enjoy learning some amazing things. It's delightful and a great present for a know-it-all wannabe.

An interesting read.

Some wonderful and insightful facts about the world we live in. Enough to annoy any friends/family/strangers with information that may (or probably won't) be important to your life. Lots of chuckles as well.

Interesting book.

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