



5 People Who Died During Sex: and 100 Other Terribly Tasteless Lists

Karl Shaw

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All in perfectly bad taste

Prepare to be amazed, appalled, disgusted, and hugely entertained by this compendium of indelicate oddities. Nothing is too inane, too insane, too bizarre, or too distasteful for this incredible, seemingly impossible, but absolutely true collection of facts from across the ages and around the world.

Did you know...

...that Pope Benedict XII was such a hardened boozier that he inspired the expression “drunk as a pope”? (From “10 Historic Drunks”)

...that as a special honeymoon treat, Prince Charles read Princess Diana passages from the works of Carl Jung and Laurens van der Post? (From “History’s 10 Least Romantic Honeymoons”)

...that the best-dressed gentlemen in medieval England exposed their genitals below a short-fitting tunic? (From “History’s 10 Greatest Fashion Mistakes”)

...that Alfred Hitchcock suffered from ovophobia—fear of eggs? (From “10 Phobias of the Famous”)

...that King Louis XIV only took three baths in his lifetime, each of them under protest? (From “10 Great Unwashed”)

...that in 1930, Sears customers became enraged when the catalog was first printed on glossy, non-absorbent paper? (From “12 Magical Moments in Toilet Paper History”)

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From Reader Review 5 People Who Died During Sex: and 100 Other Terribly Tasteless Lists for online ebook

Bill Porter says

As per the title, tasteless and also a touch tacky. I would have preferred a shorter list with even more individual tacky detail.

Jessica says

The most bizarre book of lists. I found it to be very entertaining.

Stan says

A great book to read on a long airplane flight, actually a series of short artical about the weird and unusual.

Jessica says

I would not say that fact checking was high on the list of priorities in writing this book. There are many, many errors which are easily found with a quick perusal of wikipedia. This is not to say that there aren't errors on Wikipedia, but there seems to have been some willful ignoring of evidence when the rumor was more salacious.

For instance, explorer James Cook was indeed killed on a voyage. But he was not, as the book claimed "served at a Hawaiian buffet". To quote the wikipedia page: (warning, gross!)

"The esteem in which he was nevertheless held by the Hawaiians resulted in his body being retained by their chiefs and elders. Following the practice of the time, Cook's body underwent funerary rituals similar to those reserved for the chiefs and highest elders of the society. The body was disemboweled, baked to facilitate removal of the flesh, and the bones were carefully cleaned for preservation as religious icons in a fashion somewhat reminiscent of the treatment of European saints in the Middle Ages. Some of Cook's remains, disclosing some corroborating evidence to this effect, were eventually returned to the British for a formal burial at sea following an appeal by the crew."

I didn't have to work hard to turn up not only the Wiki, but dozens of academic sources for the same information. And really, this story is shocking on its own, though I suppose it doesn't have the shock value of cannibalism.

Yes, yes, I'm getting awfully worked up about a book with the above title. But the fact checking is just lazy, and as it is I spend too much of my life correcting the people who believe these stories without question.

I would not recommend this book at all. Even as a light book of lists it fails.

Melanie says

Some funny facts in the book were just not that amusing to me, however, the information about past rulers was amazing. The ammount of research Shaw put into the royalty sections must have been extremely extensive! I walked away from the book still laughing about their crazy, eccentric behavior. It makes you wonder if it isn't inevitable for people of great power to either be or turn somewhat crazy!

Dionna Johnson says

Outstanding, very interesting and completely hilarious.

Diego says

Lots of mistakes. Lots.

SoManyBooks SoLittleTime says

A very interesting compendium of anecdotes, all told with jocular levity. Quite funny.

However, there were a couple of "facts" I ran across that I knew to be untrue, which sort of dropped the bottom out of my faith in how factual the *rest* of the list items were.

Madeline Henry says

I love lists, but this wasn't the best list book so ʘ_(_?)_ʘ/

Kelly says

3.5 stars for interesting, funny nonsense to spout out in the lunch room!

Sara says

This could have been a great book if the author bothered to fact-check. There are numerous stories included that if you know the history behind them, would know they are rumors or completely false. Just stay away from this book.

Cassandra says

Saw it on the library shelves and picked it up, literally took about 30 minutes to read so it was fast but funny. I don't know how much of it is actually true but if half is correct then I'm not shocked that the weirdest people in our world are those in the upper class who have too much time and money on their hands.

Pamela(AllHoney) says

Lists of different, totally useless and mostly tasteless trivia. For those people sitting on the toilet with nothing better to do than to pick up a book and flip through the pages to learn a much of senseless facts.

Like I said, a great bathroom read.

Jeremy says

My father-in-law, Tom, gave this book to me. Yep. That alone should tell you how cool he is. Very cool. Anyway, it was sort of meant as payment for kidnapping my wife and children over Spring Break and ferreting them up to Utah to see a new grand baby. It is one of those classic lists books. Very funny. I kept it in the bathroom--is there a better place for a book of lists? It reminds me of that classic line in "Big Chill" wherein it is argued that the length of each article in People Magazine is timed for the length of the average bowel movement. I would put any book of lists in this same category. It is laugh-out-loud funny. Don't ask to borrow my copy--it has found a permanent home in the bathroom, of course.

Steph says

I love fun facts, but I found 3 mistakes and wrong dates and I'm sure if I knew more ancient history I would find more. I love the subject matter but it leads me to doubt the vailidity of the whole book.
