



Uncle John's Strange History

Bathroom Readers' Institute

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The fifth book in the popular Uncle John's Briefs series contains the strangest short history articles from over 30 Bathroom Readers—along with 50 all-new pages. From the 20th century to the Old West, from the Age of Enlightenment to the Dark Ages, from ancient cultures all the way back to the dawn of time, *Strange History* is overflowing with mysterious artifacts, macabre legends, kooky inventions, reality-challenged rulers, boneheaded blunders, and mind-blowing facts. Read about...

- *The curse of Macbeth
- *Stupid history: Hollywood style
- *The secret LSD experiments of the 1960s
- *In search of the lost "Cloud People" of Peru
- *The Swedish queen who declared war on fleas
- *Unearthing the past with the Outhouse Detectives
- *The Apollo astronaut who swears he saw a UFO
- *How to brew a batch of 5,000-year-old beer
- *The brutal bloodbaths at Rome's Coliseum
- *Ghostly soup from ancient China
- *The bathroom of the 1970s

And much, much more!

Uncle John's Strange History Details

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From Reader Review Uncle John's Strange History for online ebook

Erin says

A good book for when you have some extra time but don't want to get too into what you're reading. However, I wouldn't run out and buy one for your history report, I tried to look up a few of the facts just because they sounded fake and couldn't find any research supporting them. For instance, while Japanese women did blacken their teeth historically, I found no proof that Italian woman colored theirs. Also, while the Serial killer John Wayne did live in Waterloo, Iowa for a while he was born in Illinois. So there's still only one famous John Wayne *from* Iowa. An interesting read, but all facts should be taken with a grain of salt.

This book was given to me by NetGalley.

Tara says

This book will peak the interest almost every child with its witty facts and funny historic references. Most stories are less than a page long, which make it a great read for kids. This book is filled with funny words, humorous stories and crazy historical facts. Kids will enjoy the content and parents will love that they are reading and learning something too.

Carrie Mansfield says

Even though I read a digital copy of this book, this is one of those books that begs to be bought in paperback version and placed either on a coffee table, or for those so inclined, in the bathroom. Perfect for picking up and reading a few pages at a time, this is a nice little way to get a fix of the odds and ends of history that are both entertaining but also often glossed over in more mainstream history titles.

My only real gripe is that I'd love a works cited page for the more odd ball stories - some because I'd like to read more about it, and others because they're just so out there that I wonder where they even sourced the information.

Overall the book knows what it is and does it well. Some of it will feel familiar to trivia buffs and history nerds, but there's still enough "new" stories that if this title catches your eye that I can easily recommend it.

Montzalee Wittmann says

Strange History by Bathroom Readers' Institute is a fun book of odd facts and quotes. Some of those quotes are quite good and some of those quotes are so dumb but are suppose to be from "smart" people. Make you really wonder! There is such a variety of history trivia that I can't begin to name the categories but there is something for everyone. This isn't a book to read at one sitting but to read bit by bit.

My favorite is the 1930's Slang, so here is a sentence using the '30s slang for you. "Don't be a crumb, I don't care if you're a dead hoofer. Grab your sweet pattotie, jump in your Bouncing Betty and it will be juicy.

Don't stop for a grounder!"

Now that you read that, grab the book and see what it says! I received this book for a honest review from NetGalley and it in no way effected my review or rating.

Christine says

I am fairly convinced that I now know where the writers on “Jeopardy” get some of their questions. I was flipping through the pages of this book during a commercial break while watching the game show and there it was! – The exact trivia tidbit that had just been a question on the show. Their secret is out now.

STRANGE HISTORY by The Bathroom Readers Institute

The folks at the Readers Institute have taken some of the most interesting historical facts and strange stories from their numerous previous books and compiled them in this book that is perfect for history trivia buffs. According to the blurb on the book there are also about 50 pages of previously unpublished stories.

Whether you have read the some of the stories before or all of them are brand new to you this book is a fun read. Do you want to know if Marco Polo really saw Unicorns, the story behind the curse on Shakespeare’s Macbeth or who really discovered the Rosetta Stone? This is the book that will give you all that and so much more.

I didn’t realize there was a Reader dedicated to Canadian facts and trivia nor one featuring scary stories ... they are definitely going to be added to my TBR.

I'd like to thank Printers Row Publishing Group and Netgalley for providing me with a review copy of this book at no charge

Heather says

This is a great book to pick up before bed. All the stories are about one page and are very quick reads, making this book very easy to pick up and put down without having to worry about losing the plot (cause there isn't one...).

As an avid non-fiction reader, I was activity looking for factual errors whilst reading this. I was very surprised that I didn't find any obvious errors or inaccuracies. There are some details, theories, and in-depth information left out, but when your aim is to fit stories on one page, that's understandable. I'm not saying you should take any information in this book as gospel, however. If you find something particularly interesting, always find more sources and check the facts for yourself. But I'd say that with ANY non-fiction book, not just this one. Always second guess. But all in all, I think fans of oddities, history, non-fiction, etc will really enjoy this one.

****I received this copy via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review****

Bunny says

Received via Netgalley in exchange for a fair review.

What a fun book chock full of completely useless trivia.

That may sound insulting, but a bit of useless trivia about me is that I'm fairly obsessed with useless trivia. The more, the better. This was historical trivia, royalty trivia, geographical and cultural trivia. I ate it all up.

I do think the book drags, a bit. There would be parts where I'd start to get bored, and walk away from it to try again later. But right around the time I was ready to give up, something random, insane and fabulous would come up, and I'd be sucked right back in.

I mean, FFS, a **dentist invented the electric chair**. Who doesn't need information like that in their lives?

There were so many facts that I didn't know, and even more that I didn't believe, and that I promptly had to google. I think my number one was Napoleon Bonaparte's penis. Like, why I did not know that his penis was sold after he died? Just...so random, and something someone like me would totally know about. But I didn't.

Spread throughout the book are "Botched history" quotes, contributions from people ranging from President Obama to Sarah Palin, mutilating historical facts. The book is worth it just for them. Or buy it so you can learn how to make your own shrunken head. Or to learn about the historical impact you can make by excavating the site of former outhouses.

Yes, really.

I've also got a few new "bucket list" items. I want to visit the ghost cat at the Lizzie Borden House. I need to go to the headless chicken festival.

Just a seriously fun book for anyone who, like me, is all about the weird, the strange, and the completely random.

Kid Disaster says

Great book to pick up in the bathroom! You can read one to two pages at a time about hundreds of different historical facts and oddities. I enjoyed the read and learned plenty of random facts.

I received a copy of this book through NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.

Sashi says

Excellent read to pass time and learn some pretty interesting stuff aswel. I do not want to give out the info but the things I learned about 41st president Bush is AMAZING and Un frekn believable

Tabatha Cooper says

I found this book enjoyable! I loved the random and strange information from history. There is a lot of information in this book I had never heard of. Like for example: Paper clothing from the 60's. My parents would have experienced this but I never heard of it. I liked the book layout as well. You can jump around in the book as needed. It would be great to share with children during reading times. At least most of it. I also love the cover!

San says

Interesting historic facts in no particular order - nice read for in between.

Mystereity Reviews says

I love books like this where every page is a something new waiting to be discovered. I found it hard to put the book down and even when I wasn't reading it, I was thinking about it. Inside, you can find historical facts encompassing everything from the longest unassisted solo cow flight in recorded history to historical facts about famous figures, to the treasures one can find digging up old privies (I fully expect Outhouse Detectives to be a series on the History Channel sometime in the near future.)

Strange History is a fascinating, entertaining and side-splitting read that will stay with you for a long time. At the very least, you'll never look at an Olympic torch relay the same way again.

Simona says

I've got this book from NetGalley in exchange of an honest review

This book was quite an entertaining read, however there were some "facts" that didn't sound like reality, so I tried to do my research and find more about them, however I didn't find any proof of them. That's why I would recommend to not look at this book and what's in it too seriously, or at least do your research first. However I still recommend this book for a mood lifter, because there were definitely some stories that made me smile.

It is a great book for coffee table or at a waiting room in doctors office, because you don't have to read it from start to finish in order to understand what it is about, all the stories are short and each of them talk about different topics.

Nicole says

I kindly received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

If you've ever read any other books in the *Uncle John's* series by the Bathroom Readers' Institute, you know exactly what to expect: a weird mash-up of really cool shit (pun intended) that will leave you go "huh" and

remembering weird facts that'll come in handy if you're ever on *Jeopardy*.

This book does exactly that. It contains a crazy collection of facts, stories, myths, quotes, and other assorted trivia that make you share the new, fun facts you just learned with your friends. It was a great read. However, this book isn't for everyone. I hate to say that if you shouldn't go into this book with high expectations, because you should. It is a well-written text filled with interesting information. However, don't expect a logical order to this book. Nor should you intend to find detailed information on each topic or a list of scholarly sources. That is not the purpose of this book. It's purpose is to entertain you with short, interesting nonfiction pieces, and the book does exactly that.

The only reason for my 4 star review is that this book was a pain in the ass (I'll stop with the puns now) to read on Matilda (my Nook). The formatting was extremely off and I often had to tap several times to get the page to "turn".

Formatting issues aside, going into this book with the "right" attitude is all you need to have a truly enjoyable experience learning about some of the weirder moments in history.

Carlissa says

I thought this would be a fun book full of strange trivia, but I was really bored by it.
