

Bad Days In History A Gleeefully Grim Chronicle Of

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Grand Centaur Station - Larry Frolick 2011-10-12
With the grim determination of an unrepentant rocker, Larry Frolick sets off on a 12,000-mile trek across Central Asia, brooding over the fate of its lost civilizations. From Kiev, Crimean Tartary, and Moscow, through the nomadic homelands of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tien-Shan, and finally into distant Mongolia and Siberia, he explores a continent on the brink of a meltdown, a strange world lit harshly by the red afterglow of the Soviet collapse. His vivid account opens the door to a crowd of unlikely strangers: Mafiosi flatheads, salt-mine campers, fractious archaeologists, a conceptual artist who uses fresh corpses in his window displays, the very last of three Romanov princesses, an inept Chinese secret agent, a relentless Uzbek glottal probologist, disgruntled e-mail swains - and above all, Larissa, the moody Eurasian beauty who "just stepped out of a novel in her impossibly pointy Italian shoes." With gleeful wit and a steely eye for detail, Frolick transports the reader to a world inhabited by a people burning with desire for something new to happen.

A Treasury of Foolishly Forgotten Americans - Michael Farquhar 2008-03-25
A lively, compulsively browsable collection of neglected notables-from the bestselling author of *A Treasury of Royal Scandals* "History," wrote Thomas Carlyle, "is the essence of innumerable biographies." Yet countless fascinating characters are relegated to a historical limbo. In *A Treasury of Foolishly Forgotten Americans*, Michael Farquhar has scoured the annals and rescued thirty of the most intriguing, unusual,

and yes, memorable Americans from obscurity. From the mother of Mother's Day to Paul Revere's rival rider, the Mayflower murderer to "America's Sherlock Holmes," these figures are more than historical runners-up-they're the spies, explorers, patriots, and martyrs without whom history as we know it would be very different indeed.

Bad Days in History - Michael Farquhar 2015
"Farquhar's ... entries draw from the full sweep of history to take readers through a complete year of misery, including tales of lost fortunes (like the would-be Apple investor who pulled out in 1977 and missed out on a \$30 billion-dollar windfall), romance gone wrong (like the 16th-century Shah who experimented with an early form of Viagra with empire-changing results), and truly bizarre moments (like the Great Molasses Flood of 1919)"--

Here is where - Andrew Carroll 2013
A fifty-state tour of lesser-known historical sites based on a campaign backed by "National Geographic" reveals the events that took place at near-forgotten locales.

A Treasury of Royal Scandals - Michael Farquhar 2001-05-01
From Nero's nagging mother (whom he found especially annoying after taking her as his lover) to Catherine's stable of studs (not of the equine variety), here is a wickedly delightful look at the most scandalous royal doings you never learned about in history class. Gleeful, naughty, sometimes perverted-like so many of the crowned heads themselves-A Treasury of Royal Scandals presents the best (the worst?) of royal

misbehavior through the ages. From ancient Rome to Edwardian England, from the lavish rooms of Versailles to the dankest corners of the Bastille, the great royals of Europe have excelled at savage parenting, deadly rivalry, pathological lust, and meeting death with the utmost indignity-or just very bad luck.

Behind the Palace Doors - Michael Farquhar
2011-03-01

Spanning 500 years of British history, a revealing look at the secret lives of some great (and not-so-great) Britons, courtesy of one of the world's most engaging royal historians Beleaguered by scandal, betrayed by faithless spouses, bedeviled by ambitious children, the kings and queens of Great Britain have been many things, but they have never been dull. Some sacrificed everything for love, while others met a cruel fate at the edge of an axman's blade. From the truth behind the supposed madness of King George to Queen Victoria's surprisingly daring taste in sculpture, Behind the Palace Doors ventures beyond the rumors to tell the unvarnished history of Britain's monarchs, highlighting the unique mix of tragedy, comedy, romance, heroism, and incompetence that has made the British throne a seat of such unparalleled fascination. Featuring:

- stories covering every monarch, from randy Henry VIII to reserved Elizabeth II
- historical myths debunked and surprising "Did you know . . . ?" anecdotes
- four family trees spanning every royal house, from the Tudors to the Windsors

When Hitler Took Cocaine and Lenin Lost His Brain - Giles Milton 2016-01-05

Originally published under the titles: When Hitler took cocaine and When Linin lost his brain.

On This Day in History Sh!t Went Down: Number 2 - James Fell 2022-09-27

SH!T HAPPENS. AGAIN. That famous photo of the Loch Ness Monster was faked as an act of revenge against The Daily Mail. Before "Scotty" saved the starship Enterprise a bunch of times, future actor James Doohan stormed the beaches at Normandy to help save the world from Nazis and he got shot to sh!t. Originally known as "Napalm Girl," Phan Thi Kim Phúc survived, escaped to Canada, and now helps child victims of war. The first pride parade was inspired by the New York Stonewall Riots, when the LGBT community fought back against police oppression. When Trump lost the 2020 election,

his lapdog lawyer Rudy Giuliani held a press conference at Four Seasons Landscaping, located between a crematorium and a porn store. In 17th-century Italy, when divorce was not at all a thing, hundreds of women married to abusive husbands employed Giulia Tofana to poison them. Inupiat woman Ada Blackjack, and her cat, survived in the remote Arctic for two years when all the men on the expedition died ... Sh!t goes down every single day of the year, year after year. Sometimes it's a battle that changes the course of history, other times it's a life-saving medical advancement. Bravery is counter-balanced with cowardice. Along with slavery, there is self-sacrifice. History is full of deeds both noble and despicable. Some were motivated by greed, others generosity. Many dedicated themselves to the art of killing, while others focused on curing. There have been grave mistakes and greatness, confrontation and cooperation. Early in the twentieth century Spanish philosopher George Santayana wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Yet history serves not just as warning, but encouragement. Humanity is not endless suck. There is inspiration to be found amidst the atrocities. WHEN SH!T GOES DOWN, WE GET BACK UP.

Scandalous Women - Elizabeth Kerri Mahon
2011-03-01

Throughout history women have caused wars, defied the rules, and brought men to their knees. The famous and the infamous, queens, divorcées, actresses, and outlaws have created a ruckus during their lifetimes-turning heads while making waves. Scandalous Women tells the stories of the risk takers who have flouted convention, beaten the odds, and determined the course of world events. *When Cleopatra (69 BC-30 BC) wasn't bathing in asses' milk, the last pharaoh of the Ptolemaic dynasty ruled Egypt and forged an important political alliance with Rome against her enemies-until her dalliance with Marc Antony turned the empire against her. *Emilie du Châtelet (1706-1748), a mathematician, physicist, author, and paramour of one of the greatest minds in France, Voltaire, shocked society with her unorthodox lifestyle and intellectual prowess-and became a leader in the study of theoretical physics in France at a time when the sciences were ruled by men. *Long

before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus, Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862-1928) fought to end discrimination and the terrible crime of lynching and helped found the NAACP, but became known as a difficult woman for her refusal to compromise and was largely lost in the annals of history. *Gertrude Bell (1868-1926) had a passion for archaeology and languages, and left her privileged world behind to become one of the foremost chroniclers of British imperialism in the Middle East, and one of the architects of the modern nation of Iraq.

The History of "Punch" - Marion Harry Spielmann 1895

Who Ate the First Oyster? - Cody Cassidy 2020-05-05

Who wore the first pants? Who painted the first masterpiece? Who first rode the horse? Who invented soap? This madcap adventure across ancient history uses everything from modern genetics to archaeology to uncover the geniuses behind these and other world-changing innovations. Who invented the wheel? Who told the first joke? Who drank the first beer? Who was the murderer in the first murder mystery, who was the first surgeon, who sparked the first fire--and most critically, who was the first to brave the slimy, pale oyster? In this book, writer Cody Cassidy digs deep into the latest research to uncover the untold stories of some of these incredible innovators (or participants in lucky accidents). With a sharp sense of humor and boundless enthusiasm for the wonders of our ancient ancestors, *Who Ate the First Oyster?* profiles the perpetrators of the greatest firsts and catastrophes of prehistory, using the lives of individuals to provide a glimpse into ancient cultures, show how and why these critical developments occurred, and educate us on a period of time that until recently we've known almost nothing about.

The Information - James Gleick 2011-03-01 From the bestselling author of the acclaimed *Chaos and Genius* comes a thoughtful and provocative exploration of the big ideas of the modern era: Information, communication, and information theory. Acclaimed science writer James Gleick presents an eye-opening vision of how our relationship to information has transformed the very nature of human

consciousness. A fascinating intellectual journey through the history of communication and information, from the language of Africa's talking drums to the invention of written alphabets; from the electronic transmission of code to the origins of information theory, into the new information age and the current deluge of news, tweets, images, and blogs. Along the way, Gleick profiles key innovators, including Charles Babbage, Ada Lovelace, Samuel Morse, and Claude Shannon, and reveals how our understanding of information is transforming not only how we look at the world, but how we live. A New York Times Notable Book A Los Angeles Times and Cleveland Plain Dealer Best Book of the Year Winner of the PEN/E. O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award *A Flag Worth Dying For* - Tim Marshall 2017-07-04

First published in Great Britain in 2016 by Elliott and Thompson Limited as: *Worth dying for: the power and politics of flags.*

Bad Days in History - Michael Farquhar 2015-04-21

National Geographic author Michael Farquhar uncovers an instance of bad luck, epic misfortune, and unadulterated mayhem tied to every day of the year. From Caligula's blood-soaked end to hotelier Steve Wynn's unfortunate run-in with a priceless Picasso, these 365 tales of misery include lost fortunes (like the would-be Apple investor who pulled out in 1977 and missed out on a \$30 billion-dollar windfall), romance gone wrong (like the 16th-century Shah who experimented with an early form of Viagra with empire-changing results), and truly bizarre moments (like the Great Molasses Flood of 1919). Think you're having a bad day? Trust us, it gets worse.

The Story Behind - Emily Prokop 2018-10-15 Surprising history of ordinary things Learn the fascinating history and trivia you never knew about things we use daily from the host of *The Story Behind* podcast. Everyday objects and major events in history: Every single thing that surrounds us has a story behind it. Many of us learn the history of humans and the major inventions that shaped our world. But what you may not have learned is the history of objects we surround ourselves with every day. You might not even know how the major events in history (World Wars, ancient civilizations, revolutions,

etc.) influenced the inventions of things we use today. The history and science behind the ordinary: From the creator of The Story Behind podcast comes this revelatory new book. The Story Behind will give insight into everyday objects we don't think much about when we use them. Topics covered in the podcast will be examined in more detail along with many new fascinating topics. Learn how lollipops got started in Ancient Egypt, how podcasts were invented, and why Comic Sans was created. Learn the torture device origins of certain exercise equipment and the espionage beginnings of certain musical instruments. Ordinary things from science to art, food to sports, customs to fashion, and more are explored. Readers will: •

Understand the wonders behind everyday objects
• Learn truly obscure history and fun facts that will change the way they see the world • Learn how major historic events still affect us today through seemingly mundane things • Become formidable trivia masters

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase - Joan Aiken
2014-08-27

Wicked wolves and a grim governess threaten Bonnie and her cousin Sylvia when Bonnie's parents leave Willoughby Chase for a sea voyage. Left in the care of the cruel Miss Slighcarp, the girls can hardly believe what is happening to their once happy home. The servants are dismissed, the furniture is sold, and Bonnie and Sylvia are sent to a prison-like orphan school. It seems as if the endless hours of drudgery will never cease. With the help of Simon the gooseboy and his flock, they escape. But how will they ever get Willoughby Chase free from the clutches of the evil Miss Slighcarp?

Tiny Blunders/Big Disasters - Jared Knott
2020-10-20

How often does it happen that a single tiny mistake causes an entire civilization to collapse? More often than you think! Readers of Jared Knott's book, *Tiny Blunders/Big Disasters*, will be amazed at the little things that changed history in a big way. Here are a few examples: A single document poorly designed by one single clerk in one single county changed the outcome of a presidential election and led directly to a major war. A soldier accidentally kicks a helmet off of the top of a wall and causes an empire to collapse. A small mechanical device several

inches long fails to function, which changes the outcome of WWII and leads to the death of millions of people. A man fails to gather his army in time to defend against an attack because of the temptation of opium and a young slave woman. And many more! Hypnotic and addictive, these well-researched, factual stories will keep you turning pages far past your bedtime. Human weakness at its very worst at critical moments. This book is the "Butterfly Effect" in human history reviewed.

Picture Puzzles For Dummies - Elizabeth J. Cardenas-Nelson 2009-08-25

Exercise your brain with hundreds of colorful, mind-blowing photo puzzles Sudoku, crosswords, word searches, and other brainteasers are wildly popular these days-not just because they're fun, but also because they stimulate the mind and keep it active and healthy. Now there's a new puzzle guide guaranteed to hone your powers of observation and perception. *Picture Puzzles For Dummies* features 100 full-color puzzles that use sight to enhance your brain capacity as well as keep you amused for hours! This portable guide features 100 fun and challenging photo puzzles Includes "spot the changes" puzzles, "cut-ups", "which one of these is not like the others", and a collection of bewildering "black and white" puzzles Visual puzzles have been proven to strengthen memory, attention span, and creativity, as well as amplify logic, vocabulary, and deduction skills. Whether you're completely new to puzzles or you're a puzzle fanatic, *Picture Puzzles For Dummies* is the perfect guide to keep you entertained.

The End and the Beginning - Hermynia Zur Mühlen 2010

First published in Germany in 1929, *The End and the Beginning* is a lively personal memoir of a vanished world and of a rebellious, high-spirited young woman's struggle to achieve independence. Born in 1883 into a distinguished and wealthy aristocratic family of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, Hermynia Zur Mühlen spent much of her childhood travelling in Europe and North Africa with her diplomat father. After five years on her German husband's estate in czarist Russia she broke with both her family and her husband and set out on a precarious career as a professional writer committed to socialism. Besides translating many leading contemporary

authors, notably Upton Sinclair, into German, she herself published an impressive number of politically engaged novels, detective stories, short stories, and children's fairy tales. Because of her outspoken opposition to National Socialism, she had to flee her native Austria in 1938 and seek refuge in England, where she died, virtually penniless, in 1951. This revised and corrected translation of Zur Muhlen's memoir - with extensive notes and an essay on the author by Lionel Gossman - will appeal especially to readers interested in women's history, the Central European aristocratic world that came to an end with the First World War, and the culture and politics of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

100 Mistakes that Changed History - Bill Fawcett 2010-10-05

Collected in one volume, here are backfires and blunders that collapsed empires, crashed economies, and altered the course of the world. From the Maginot Line to the Cuban Missile Crisis, history is filled with bad moves and not-so-bright ideas that snowballed into disasters and unintended consequences. This engrossing book looks at one hundred such tipping points. Japan bombs Pearl Harbor. The Caliphs of Baghdad spend themselves into bankruptcy. The Aztecs greet the Conquistadors with open arms. Mexico invites the Americans to Texas-and the Americans never leave. And the rest is history...

Among the Thugs - Bill Buford 2013-04-24

They have names like Barmy Bernie, Daft Donald, and Steamin' Sammy. They like lager (in huge quantities), the Queen, football clubs (especially Manchester United), and themselves. Their dislike encompasses the rest of the known universe, and England's soccer thugs express it in ways that range from mere vandalism to riots that terrorize entire cities. Now Bill Buford, editor of the prestigious journal *Granta*, enters this alternate society and records both its savageries and its sinister allure with the social imagination of a George Orwell and the raw personal engagement of a Hunter Thompson.

A Treasury of Great American Scandals -

Michael Farquhar 2003-07-01

Following on the heels of his national bestseller *A Treasury of Royal Scandals*, Michael Farquhar turns his attention to matters a little closer to home with *A Treasury of Great American*

Scandals. From the unhappy family relationships of prominent Americans to the feuds, smear campaigns, duels, and infamous sex scandals that have punctuated our history, we see our founding fathers and other American heroes in the course of their all-too-human events.

Ineffectual presidents, lazy generals, traitors; treacherous fathers, nagging mothers, ungrateful children, embarrassing siblings; and stories about insanity, death, and disturbing postmortems are all here, as are disagreeable marriages, vile habits, and, of course, sex: good sex, bad sex, and good-bad sex too. We can take comfort in the fact that we are no worse and no better than our forebears. But we do have better media coverage. Bonus educational material: A brief history of the United States, including scandals! The American Hall of Shame! A complete listing of presidential administrations!

An Uncommon History of Common Things - Bethanne Patrick 2015-09-16

Pop culture fans and trivia lovers will delight in National Geographic's highly browsable, freewheeling compendium of customs, notions and inventions that reflect human ingenuity throughout history. Dip into any page and discover extraordinary hidden details in the everyday that will inform, amuse, astonish, and surprise. From hand tools to holidays to weapons to washing machines, this book features hundreds of colorful illustrations, timelines, sidebars, and more as it explores just about every subject under the sun. Who knew that indoor plumbing has been around for 4,600 years, but punctuation, capital letters, and the handy spaces between written words only date back to the Dark Ages? Or that ancient soldiers baked a kind of pizza on their shields— when they weren't busy flying kites to frighten their foes?

[History's Greatest Lies](#) - William Weir 2009-01-01

The true stories behind historical events give readers a fascinating new look at our past. The revelations shock and amaze by exposing veiled motivations and convenient inaccuracies in well-documented actions by established leaders that often have a continuing effect on the world. Each of the fifteen chapters points out a myth that is held as a common truth in history and summarizes what we think we know. Then the author shreds the tale to academic ribbons using

the latest findings on each subject. Each true story sets the record straight, reveals timeless ulterior motives, introduces important personalities who successfully (and suspiciously) avoided responsibility in common history texts, and notes underlining issues that have continued relevance in the modern age. For instance, did Nero really fiddle as Rome burned? Did Paul Revere actually alert the militia that the British were coming? Did the Catholic Church imprison Galileo because his teachings conflicted with the Bible? Weir takes on all these myths and tells the reader what really happened.

How George Washington Fleeced the Nation

- Phil Mason 2010-09

Collects obscure trivia about historical figures, from President Lyndon Johnson's poor phone etiquette to Albert Einstein's habit of forgetting his shoes.

More Bad Days in History - Michael Farquhar 2021

Tales of unfortunate events and mishaps featuring significant historical figures.

A Walk Around the Block - Spike Carlsen 2020-10-20

"Carlsen sees a world of wonder hiding in plain sight and may just change how you look at the world around you." - TODAY Show A simple walk around the block set journalist Spike Carlsen, bestselling author of *A Splintered History of Wood*, off to investigate everything he could about everything we take for granted in our normal life—from manhole covers and recycling bins to bike lanes and stoplights. In this celebration of the seemingly mundane, Carlsen opens our eyes to the engineering marvels, human stories, and natural wonders right outside our front door. He guides us through the surprising allure of sewers, the intricacies of power plants, the extraordinary path of an everyday letter, and the genius of recycling centers—all the while revealing that this awesome world isn't just a spectator sport. Engaging as it is endearing, *A Walk Around the Block* will change the way you see things in your everyday life. Join Carlsen as he strolls through the trash museum of New York City, explores the quirky world of squirrels, pigeons, and roadkill, and shows us how understanding stoplights, bike lanes, and fine art of walking can add years to our lives. In the end, he brings a sense of wonder

into your average walk around the block, wherever you are. Guaranteed.

The History Teacher's Joke Book - Richard Di Giacomo 2014-12-31

These jokes help add a little excitement to your classes and help students to have fun with history. They include geography puns, corny history jokes, and famous student flubs. You'll have them rolling in the aisles!

On This Day in History - Dan Snow 2018-11-15

On which day was history's shortest war waged and won (in roughly 40 minutes)? How was Napoleon bested by a group of rabbits in 1807? Why did a dispute about beer in an Oxford pub lead to over 100 deaths and 470 years of penance? Why in 1752 did Britain go to bed on 2nd September and wake up on the 14th? How did a women's march in 1917 set off the Russian Revolution? *On This Day in History* brings to life a key event that happened on each day of the year. From the most important British battle that you've never heard of (20 May 685) to the first meeting of Lennon and McCartney (6 July 1957), and from why Julius Caesar should have been wary of the Ides of March (15 March 44BC) to the day Jeanne de Clisson became a pirate and single-handedly declared war on the King of France (2 August 1343), history is full of unlikely heroes and fascinating turning points. In this book Dan Snow shows us how each day offers a different and unexpected insight into our past. And story by gripping story, this year grows into a vivid, very human history of the world.

Scared Sh*tless - Cary McNeal 2012-09-04

You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll s#*t yourself! Back by popular demand, the mind-blowing follow-up to the bestselling *1,001 Facts That Will Scare the S#*t Out of You*. An all-new collection of entertaining and horrifying truths about us, our world, and why we're totally screwed. With more disturbing facts and fun new topics, including weird celebrities, boobs, the internet, clowns, serial killers, sexual fetishes, bacon, Elvis, things that will eat you, and more. From stupid dead people to halitosis caused by constipation to a singer whose music can get you killed in some Jamaican neighborhoods, it's all here—everything you need to know about the scary s#*t that surrounds all of us. FACT: Men are four times as likely as women to be struck by lightning. FACT: McDonald's McRib sandwich contains some of the

same ingredients used to manufacture gym mats and running shoes. FACT: Möbius syndrome is a rare neurological disorder that renders victims unable to move their faces. FACT: You can get an STD from a bikini wax.

A Less Boring History of the World - Dave Rear
2012-10-04

Refreshes the parts other history books can't reach... A bit ropy on the Renaissance? In the dark about the Enlightenment? Or, in fact, do you need a revision course on the entire history of the world and want to read a witty, irreverent, definitely not boring romp through everything that has ever happened on planet earth - from 15 billion years BC to the present day? Good. *A Less Boring History of the World* tells you everything you need to know from the Big Bang to Barack Obama, taking in the Byzantines, the Black Death, Bin Laden and the fall of bankers along the way, all boiled down to bite size chunks so that you can finally piece together all the different bits of history - and see how on earth we ended up in the mess we are today. *A Less Boring History* refreshes your memory and broadens your mind. And, if that's not enough, it will also make you laugh. A lot.

Napoleon's Hemorrhoids - Phil Mason 2013-03-28

This is a book about tiny events that had huge impacts. Some of these small events even changed the world. As you'll see here in *Napoleon's Hemorrhoids*, much of history turns out to be the consequences of small acts of fortune, accident or luck, good or bad. In the historical anecdote which lends its name to book, Napoleon's painful attack of hemorrhoids on the morning of the famous battle of Waterloo kept him from his usual practice of inspecting the battlefield. You'll learn that Marie Antoinette might have avoided execution if she hadn't changed her escape plan at the last minute and how Nixon's White House taping system which caused his downfall in the Watergate scandal was revealed by an aide accidentally. Along with history, this book also covers the fields of science, arts, sport and business. Each area is bursting with instances of major achievement coming from the smallest of beginnings. You'll also learn that one of the world's greatest nuclear scientists became a physicist only because he chose the wrong line while registering for his college classes. You'll discover

how *Gone with the Wind*, one of the most successful novels in publishing history, came about because Margaret Mitchell, laid up with an injury, had to give up her job and stay home. How Scooby Doo, the famous cartoon dog, got his name when chance when its creator heard Frank Sinatra singing the chorus for *Strangers in the Night* which contains the words 'Scooby-scooby-do' and how the Russians arrived late for at one early Olympics because they forgot they were on a different calendar and that Coca-Cola's most famous advertisement, launched in 1971 was inspired by an unplanned all night layover at an Irish airport.

We the Media - Dan Gillmor 2006-01-24

Looks at the emerging phenomenon of online journalism, including Weblogs, Internet chat groups, and email, and how anyone can produce news.

Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know - Karl Shaw
2017-04-13

The alarming history of the British, and European, aristocracy - from Argyll to Wellington and from Byron to Tolstoy, stories of madness, murder, misery, greed and profligacy. From Regency playhouses, to which young noblemen would go simply in order to insult someone to provoke a duel that might further their reputation, to the fashionable gambling clubs or 'hells' which were springing up around St James's in the mid-eighteenth century, the often bizarre doings of aristocrats. An eighteenth-century English gentleman was required to have what was known as 'bottom', a shipping metaphor that referred to stability. Taking part in a duel was a bold statement that you had bottom. William Petty, 2nd Earl of Shelburne certainly had bottom, if not a complete set of gonads following his duel with Colonel Fullarton, MP for Plympton. Both men missed with their first shots, but the colonel fired again and shot off Shelburne's right testicle. Despite being hit, Shelburne deliberately discharged his second shot in the air. When asked how he was, the injured Earl coolly observed his wound and said, 'I don't think Lady Shelburne will be the worse for it.' The cast of characters includes imperious, hard-drinking and highly volatile Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe, who is remembered today as much for his brilliant scientific career as his talent for getting involved in bizarre mishaps, such as his death as

a result of his burst bladder; the Marquess of Queensberry, a side-whiskered psychopath, who, on a luxury steamboat in Brazil, in a row with a fellow passenger over the difference between emus and ostriches, and knocked him out cold; and Thomas, 2nd Baron Lyttelton, a Georgian rake straight out of central casting, who ran up enormous gambling debts, fought duels, frequented brothels and succumbed to drug and alcohol addiction. Often, such rakes would be swiftly packed off on a Grand Tour in the hope that travel would bring about maturity. It seldom did.

Nightmare Alley - William Lindsay Gresham
2011-04-06

Soon to be a major motion picture from Academy Award-winning director Guillermo del Toro and starring Bradley Cooper, Cate Blanchett, Rooney Mara, and Toni Collette. *Nightmare Alley* begins with an extraordinary description of a carnival-show geek—alcoholic and abject and the object of the voyeuristic crowd’s gleeful disgust and derision—going about his work at a county fair. Young Stan Carlisle is working as a carny, and he wonders how a man could fall so low. There’s no way in hell, he vows, that anything like that will ever happen to him. And since Stan is clever and ambitious and not without a useful streak of ruthlessness, soon enough he’s going places. Onstage he plays the mentalist with a cute assistant (before long his harried wife), then he graduates to full-blown spiritualist, catering to the needs of the rich and gullible in their well-upholstered homes. It looks like the world is Stan’s for the taking. At least for now.

The Greatest Presidential Stories Never Told - Rick Beyer 2007-10-16

What most of us don't know about our presidents could fill a book—and this just happens to be that book! From the archives of The History Channel® comes a treasure trove of quirky presidential history that will truly astonish, bewilder, and stupefy. Like Abraham Lincoln's duel or Jimmy Carter's UFO sighting . . . and let's not forget about the president who went skinny-dipping in the Potomac every day! That's the kind of presidential history you'll find in *The Greatest Presidential Stories Never Told*: One hundred little-known stories to make you shake your head in wonder. If you want to find out how "Hail to the Chief" came to be the president's song, why the

Oval Office isn't square, which president saved the game of football, and why Washington, D.C., could have been named Hertburn, this is the book for you. Did You Know About: The custody battle that made George Washington an American? The counterfeiters who tried to steal Lincoln's body? The woman who brought down Andrew Jackson's cabinet? The man who was president for a day? You know what makes the presidents famous, but it's the stuff you don't know that makes them interesting. A feast of fascinating presidential tidbits awaits.

What the Fact?! - Gabe Henry 2018-09-04

Every day is strange if you know your history. This illustrated daily trivia almanac explores a bizarre moment through the ages for each day of the year, such as: The odiferous debut of Smell-o-Vision (January 12, 1960) The execution of Oliver Cromwell, more than two years after his death (January 30, 1661) The day the first pig actually flew (November 4, 1909) That time the United States ran out of toilet paper (December 19, 1973) Drawing on a range of subjects including politics, sports, the arts, pop culture, and more, each What the . . . fact offers daily or dip-in-and-out diversion, and an opportunity to learn something new and stranger every day.

The United States of Absurdity - Dave Anthony
2017-05-09

The creators of the podcast *The Dollop* present illustrated profiles of the weird, outrageous, NSFW, and downright absurd tales from American history that you weren't taught in school. *The United States of Absurdity* presents short, informative, and hilarious stories of the most outlandish (but true) people, events, and more from United States history. Comedians Dave Anthony and Gareth Reynolds cover the weird stories you didn't learn in history class, such as 10-Cent Beer Night, the Jackson Cheese, and the Kentucky Meat Shower, accompanied by full-page illustrations that bring each historical "milestone" to life in full-color.

Hoosiers and the American Story - Madison, James H. 2014-10-01

A supplemental textbook for middle and high school students, *Hoosiers and the American Story* provides intimate views of individuals and places in Indiana set within themes from American history. During the frontier days when Americans battled with and exiled native peoples from the

East, Indiana was on the leading edge of America's westward expansion. As waves of immigrants swept across the Appalachians and eastern waterways, Indiana became established as both a crossroads and as a vital part of Middle America. Indiana's stories illuminate the history of American agriculture, wars, industrialization, ethnic conflicts, technological improvements, political battles, transportation networks, economic shifts, social welfare initiatives, and more. In so doing, they elucidate large national issues so that students can relate personally to the ideas and events that comprise American history. At the same time, the stories shed light on what it means to be a Hoosier, today and in the past.

Secret Lives of the Tsars - Michael Farquhar
2014-07-08

"Michael Farquhar doesn't write about history the way, say, Doris Kearns Goodwin does. He writes about history the way Doris Kearns Goodwin's smart-ass, reprobate kid brother might. I, for one, prefer it."—Gene Weingarten, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and Washington Post columnist
Scandal! Intrigue! Cossacks! Here the world's most engaging royal historian chronicles the world's most fascinating imperial dynasty: the Romanovs, whose three-hundred-year reign was remarkable for its shocking violence, spectacular excess, and unimaginable venality. In this incredibly entertaining history, Michael Farquhar

collects the best, most captivating true tales of Romanov iniquity. We meet Catherine the Great, with her endless parade of virile young lovers (none of them of the equine variety); her unhinged son, Paul I, who ordered the bones of one of his mother's paramours dug out of its grave and tossed into a gorge; and Grigori Rasputin, the "Mad Monk," whose mesmeric domination of the last of the Romanov tsars helped lead to the monarchy's undoing. From Peter the Great's penchant for personally beheading his recalcitrant subjects (he kept the severed head of one of his mistresses pickled in alcohol) to Nicholas and Alexandra's brutal demise at the hands of the Bolsheviks, *Secret Lives of the Tsars* captures all the splendor and infamy that was Imperial Russia. Praise for *Secret Lives of the Tsars* "An accessible, exciting narrative . . . Highly recommended for generalists interested in Russian history and those who enjoy the seamier side of past lives."—Library Journal (starred review) "An excellent condensed version of Russian history . . . a fine tale of history and scandal . . . sure to please general readers and monarchy buffs alike."—Publishers Weekly "Tales from the nasty lives of global royalty . . . an easy-reading, lightweight history lesson."—Kirkus Reviews "Readers of this book may get a sense of why Russians are so tolerant of tyrants like Stalin and Putin. Given their history, it probably seems normal."—The Washington Post