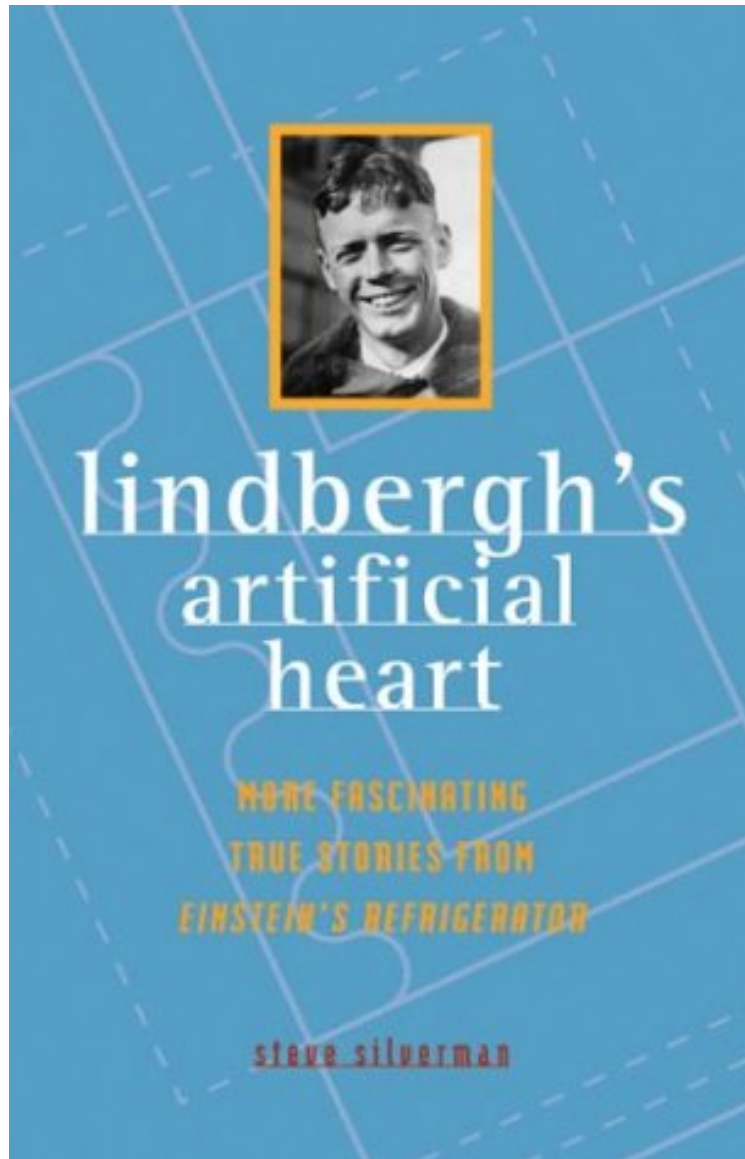


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Lindbergh's Artificial Heart: More Fascinating True Stories From Einstein's Refrigerator

Steve Silverman

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Steve Silverman : Lindbergh's Artificial Heart: More Fascinating True Stories From Einstein's Refrigerator before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lindbergh's Artificial Heart: More Fascinating True Stories From Einstein's Refrigerator:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Andrew Turik for my daughter, had to purchase for

school. i didnt read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy rich9750Unique stories about trivia.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy RudedogVery interesting tidbits. Fascinating indeed!

Several years ago, a New York high school teacher began using the Internet to post strange-but-true history and science factoids for his students to read. What began as an interesting Web site for students at Chatham High School soon became an internationally recognized page that garnered numerous awards, including Yahoo's Site of the Week. In 2001, some of the stories were assembled into *Einstein's Refrigerator*, which has been translated into Korean and Chinese. Now comes silliness squared with *Lindbergh's Artificial Heart*, author Steve Silverman's second collection of offbeat and often hilarious stories that offer a fascinating side of history that's not usually taught in school.

- o Lindbergh's artificial heart: Few people know it, but the famous aviator spent considerable time working on an artificial heart.
- o Exploding whale: What did the Oregon Department of Transportation do with a dead whale that washed up on one of its beaches? Suffice it to say their decision to blow it up was quite the blubber blunder.
- o Nose picking: Delve into the humorous findings of a study of this bad habit conducted by one of our institutions of higher learning.
- o The fastest charcoal lighter ever: Using liquid oxygen at your family barbecue may speed up the cooking, but it does have its drawbacks . . . such as the fact that it vaporizes your grill.

Carefully researched and frequently laugh-out-loud funny, the entertaining and educational stories within this book's 192 pages-many never before shared on-line or otherwise-will delight students and teachers alike.

From Publishers WeeklyHigh school teacher Silverman, who created a Web site for his students that gained widespread popularity, returns with a second volume (after *Einstein's Refrigerator*) of strange-but-true tales. With humor (sometimes clearly informed by experience: "you should never, ever, mention the name Uranus in a high school classroom!"), he relates how the astronomer Sir John Herschel, in 1835, discovered signs of life on the moon; how Joshua L. Cohen gave away the invention that led to the creation of the battery-powered flashlight and the Eveready Corporation (he then went on to invent the Lionel train); and how, for his own science classes, Silverman makes a pickle to light up like a lightbulb by "electrocuting" it. ("Don't try this one at home," he warns). Science fans and trivia buffs alike will find lots of strange, entertaining anecdotes here in short, bite-size chunks. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library JournalAdult/High School-Trivia connoisseurs will enjoy these true but tall-sounding tales that are a cross between Ripley's *Believe It or Not* and Paul Harvey's *the Rest of the Story* (Bantam, 1984). The five sections have intriguing titles: "Uh, Oh!"; "The Creative Mind at Work"; "Hard to Believe"; "It All Comes with Being Human"; and "Hmmm," and include stories about hearsay phenomena, inventions and inventors, and human nature. Including famous personalities, as evidenced from the book's title, and more obscure history makers, this is fun recreational reading. The bulging bibliography also gives fuel for would-be inventors and teachers or students who need a nugget for a report or a nudge to explore.

Karen Sokol, Fairfax County Public Schools, VA
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About the AuthorSteve Silverman is a science teacher at Chatham High School, near Albany, N.Y. He currently teaches physics, earth science, and computer science. Most of the stories found in his two books, *Einstein's Refrigerator* and *Lindbergh's Artificial Heart*, are stories he first shared in his classroom or with friends via e-mail. In addition to teaching, Steve runs a pet business with his brother that has the largest on-line selection of hermit crab supplies in the world. He lives in Chatham, N.Y.