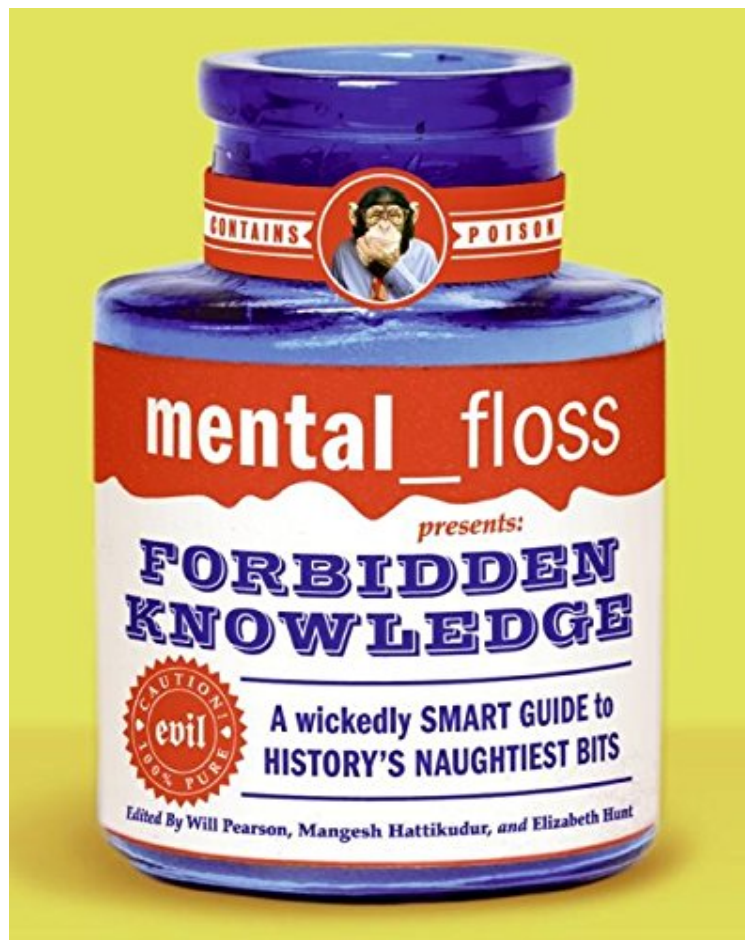


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## mental floss presents Forbidden Knowledge: A Wickedly Smart Guide to History's Naughtiest Bits

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#171564 in Books Mental Floss Editors 2005-11-01 2005-11-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x .80 x 7.38l, 1.18 #File Name: 006078475X320 pagesMental Floss Presents Forbidden Knowledge A Wickedly Smart Guide to History s Naughtiest Bits | File size: 61.Mb

**Editors of Mental Floss : mental floss presents Forbidden Knowledge: A Wickedly Smart Guide to History's Naughtiest Bits** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised mental floss presents Forbidden Knowledge: A Wickedly Smart Guide to History's Naughtiest Bits:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My Favorite in the Mentall Floss Series....By Keith AI have a number of books in the Mental Floss Series. This is, by far my favorite of the series. The book is broken down into categories and within each category, the information it shares are provided anecdotally. The format lends itself well for being digested in numerous short readings. So, it is a fantastic "bathroom book". Not a "trivia book", per se, but filled with lots of interesting information on a wide variety of topics. Recommended.-AuthorAmerican Pub Trivia0 of

0 people found the following review helpful. Great for both history and trivia connoisseurs  
By Ashley Sanders I love trivia in all of its forms, Metal Floss Presents: Forbidden Knowledge has enabled that addiction. It takes you through the seven deadly sins (Pride, Greed, Lust, Sloth, Anger, Envy, and Gluttony) and takes you on a journey through history with lists of the most interesting moments that fall under each of those categories. If you already have a thirst for trivia or if you love history, this book is definitely up your alley.  
18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Wickedly Smart Indeed...  
By Rachel B. Mental\_Floss Presents Forbidden Knowledge: A Wickedly Smart Guide to History's Naughtiest Bits. Wow, what a great book. This is a must have for history buffs (especially the ones who think they already know everything there is to know about history) and trivia mavens alike. Ever wondered which President was the laziest? Thought Madame Curie was as pure as the driven snow? Called Meat Loaf anything besides 'international superstar'? Forbidden Knowledge will take care of that for you. Never let anyone say "History isn't interesting!"  
Downside to this book: While some will be impressed with your knowledge of band frontmen who sold their souls to the devil and rulers who died of syphilis, some will find it just annoying. Don't let that keep you from reading it, just consider covering your mouth with duct tape for a few days afterwards.

Think of anything bad, from art heists to Genghis Kahn, and it's likely to be included in this wickedly smart and humorous guide to the seedy underbelly of basically everything. The brainiac team at "mental\_floss", creators of the hit magazine and last year's Condensed Knowledge, have scoured the darkest, dirtiest corners of history and the globe to gather this ultimate collection of the bad stuff you're not supposed to know and you certainly never learned in school. Organized by theme, with chapters for each of the seven deadly sins, the book includes feuds, plagiarists, hoaxes, lies, schemes, scandals, evil dictators, mob bosses, acts of revenge, angry queens, cannibals and much more, all organized into bite-sized albeit foul-tasting lists (i.e. "The Fascist Style Guide: Five Dictator Grooming Tips", "Four Biblical Girls Gone Wild" and "Three Delicious Animals We Charbroiled Into Extinction."). It's the perfect way to add some spice to a dull conversation and proves that learning can be not only easy, but exquisitely sinful.

From Publishers Weekly  
Concept trumps execution in this hit and (mostly) miss compendium of "the worst history has to offer." Editor Hunt and Mental Floss cofounders Pearson and Hattikudur (Condensed Knowledge) group their material into chapters based on the seven deadlies and purport to present "every bawdy story and dirty secret your history teacher wanted to tell you, but couldn't for fear of losing his or her job." More often than not, the "dirty secrets" are recounted in matter-of-fact prose, peppered with uninspired juvenile humor ("sometimes you have to get a head to get ahead" when introducing leaders who killed family members, or exclaiming "Eeeeeuuuw!" in response to sibling marriages among the ancient Egyptians), but the book makes a passable bathroom read. When compared to other recent works of historic satire, (John Stewart's America: A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction or The Onion's Our Dumb Century) this collection, with its dependency on camp humor, fails to satisfy. Readers seeking lighter fare may find the book appealing, but those in search of intelligent satire will do better to look elsewhere.  
Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. A lot like that professor of yours who peppered his tests with raunchy jokes: it makes learning fun. (Newsweek)  
A delightfully eccentric and eclectic new magazine. (Washington Post)  
Part scholarly journal, part Spy magazine protg. (Charlotte Observer)  
For the discerning intellect, Mental Floss cleans out the cobwebs. (Chicago Tribune)  
The titans of trivia. (Newsweek)  
About the Author  
Will Pearson and Mangesh Hattikudur met as first year students at Duke University. Ignoring the lures of law school and investment banking, the pair co-founded mental\_floss and have been grinning ever since. Maggie Koerth-Baker is a freelance journalist and a former assistant editor at mental\_floss magazine, where she consistently astounded Will and Mangesh with her amazingness.