



The Interesting Bits: The History You Might Have Missed

Justin Pollard

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Interesting Bits: The History You Might Have Missed

Justin Pollard

The Interesting Bits: The History You Might Have Missed Justin Pollard

For some unknown reason the most interesting bits of history are kept out of lessons and away from syllabuses. Now, 'The Interesting Bits' rights this wrong. It is a treasure trove of those surprising, eccentric, chaotic, baffling asides that don't fit neatly into history's official narrative.

The Interesting Bits: The History You Might Have Missed Details

Date : Published October 4th 2007 by John Murray Publishers

ISBN : 9780719524202

Author : Justin Pollard

Format : Hardcover 297 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction

 [Download The Interesting Bits: The History You Might Have Missed ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Interesting Bits: The History You Might Have Miss ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Interesting Bits: The History You Might Have Missed Justin Pollard

From Reader Review The Interesting Bits: The History You Might Have Missed for online ebook

Mary says

I found this book surprisingly dull

Chiara says

History is not simply the extension of the present back into the past; it is a very strange and very different country. Nor does history have a grand direction, although many history books imply that it does. History wanders around, often drunk, frequently bumping into things and ususally eschewing anything that might look like progress for another sustained period in full reverse.

The history I did have missed was the most interesting and amusing!

Lee Penney says

I subscribe to a newsletter called Now I Know, which sends a daily factoid. This book is essentially like taking several years' worth of those and packing them into one publication (you can actually buy a Now I Know book too).

Filled with anecdotes about the weird minutia of history, grouped together into vaguely related topic categories, the book attempts to capture the everyday oddities, rather than the world-changing events normally documented.

In most cases, the tidbits were fairly interesting, but they were equally banal enough that it was obvious as to why they haven't made it into more general books on history.

There's so many of them too. It took me so long to read this (I started in 2012) because I started to tune out halfway through, it became like listening to someone wittering on, the words just washing over me. When I came back to it, I wondered why I had stopped, but it quickly became a slog again.

It would have been better to pick a few of the choicest stories per section and looked at them in more detail, rather than trying to cram in as much as possible. Or perhaps a different delivery method would have been better (a daily newsletter, perhaps?).

Incidentally, Pollard is a writer on the TV show QI, and I did notice several of the anecdotes have come up in the series.

It's not a bad book, just not very engaging as a straight read. I was only reading a couple at a time too (before bed). If you find yourself stuck on tube platforms or wherever for five minutes at a time, then this would be perfect (on a Kindle or smartphone, for example, for convenience).

Richard says

History is often presented either as a dry list of people and dates or as a web of interconnectedness and 'cause and effect' beyond the comprehension of anyone without a degree in the subject.

But it can, and should be so much more according to the author of this book. Each entry is an answer to a question which might be posed in an episode of *QI*, and the answers are rarely more than a page or two in length.

Examples include 'Which English Kings exploded?' and 'Which Pope was accused of piracy?'

An enjoyable exploration of alternative history focusing on the amusing rather than the geo-political.

Donna Brown says

I believe there are roughly three types of books: The book you can't bear to put down after a few pages; the book you can't bear to keep reading after a few pages and the book you can pick up or put down as the mood takes you. This is an intriguing combination of the first and third. It was easy to slip in and out of but somewhat compelling at the same time. Whilst I wasn't to read it for hours at a time, I did find myself picking it up whenever I had a spare few moments. It kept drawing me back.

That's the beauty of the book for me. Waiting for a bus? Find out 'What was unusual about St Solange's head?'. A few quiet minutes before the kids get home? Find out 'What new name was given the river Pissa?'. It's a time-filler book for me. The title 'The Interesting Bits' is quite fitting because in the midst of mundane tasks (waiting the bath to fill, the pasta to boil etc) I can read a page or two and make it less tedious.

You don't need to be a history buff. The book is well-written in that it doesn't take itself too seriously (what do you expect from one of the writers of '*QI*') and yet appears to have been well researched. It provides some facts but not too many to put you to sleep. And it's a book that many people will enjoy. I can already think of three people who might enjoy a copy for Christmas.

It has a good mix of 'bits', covering a wide range of time periods and locations.

Its only downfall is the size. It isn't quite pocket sized and it took a bit of rearranging to get it into my handbag every day. But that said, it is no worse than many other books and to make it any smaller would mean cutting content or making the font tiny. Therefore, I can well forgive the size in favour of the rest of the design and the content.

Kate says

I picked this book up randomly in London. Is it trite to say it's interesting? It really was. It's not life-changing, it's just fun and funny history.

Karky says

Pollard has a few books that are collections of anecdotal tidbits from history. They're usually a great deal of fun, but I'm afraid I spoiled this one a bit by re-reading a few of his funnier retellings beforehand, like the one about the pickled knight. Anyway, this collection is still enjoyable, but only the saint related stories made me chuckle aloud.

Will Bell says

This is a fun book but the extreme brevity of the articles is kind of in line with the QI series. Some great stuff and a few laugh out loud moments, but the beauty of the written format is that you have more space, and the author doesn't take the opportunity to expound or elucidate further. still, not a bad read.

Michael Martin says

Good, but best read in small bits.
The illustrations are charming.

Daniel Kukwa says

A pleasant enough book, with an easy-to-read style...but nothing earth-shattering.
