



Let's Bring Back: An Encyclopedia of Forgotten- Yet-Delightful, Chic, Useful, Curious, and Otherwise Commendable Things from Times Gone By

Lesley M.M. Blume

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The Huffington Post's "Let's Bring Back..." columnist, Lesley M. M. Blume, invites you to consider whatever happened to cuckoo clocks? Or bed curtains? Why do we have so many "friends" but have done away with the much more useful word "acquaintance"? All of these things, plus hot toddies, riddles, proverbs, corsets, calling cards, and many more, are due for a revival. Throughout this whimsical, beautifully illustrated encyclopedia of nostalgia, Blume breathes new life into the elegant, mysterious, and delightful trappings of bygone eras, honoring the timeless tradition of artful living along the way. Inspired by her much loved column of the same name and featuring entries from famous icons of style and culture, *Let's Bring Back* leads readers to rediscover the things that entertained, awed, beautified, satiated, and fascinated in eras past.

Let's Bring Back: An Encyclopedia of Forgotten-Yet-Delightful, Chic, Useful, Curious, and Otherwise Commendable Things from Times Gone By Details

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From Reader Review Let's Bring Back: An Encyclopedia of Forgotten-Yet-Delightful, Chic, Useful, Curious, and Otherwise Commendable Things from Times Gone By for online ebook

Joni Patterson says

Chosen as my "tea-time reading material", I worked through this book front to back and found entertainment on every page. There were some listings that I could view nostalgically (such as music boxes, malteds, bookplates, or punch bowls) but mostly this encyclopedia gave me the joy of cluing me in on things of whimsy that I hadn't even thought of or known before. And now that I have discovered them, I give a hearty echoing vote of "Yes, let's bring (them) back!" Also, Blume's writing alone is witty and charming to the point that I would request that SHE come back with more for me to read and delight in.

Brian says

This is a fun quick book. It is about stuff that is no longer considered modern or is in danger of not being considered modern. It is arranged alphabetically and contains people, places, words, and objects. There were a huge amount of things I had never heard of, and a few I didn't care about, but overall, I enjoyed this book.

Lisa Vegan says

Looking at the entries one by one, some are very interesting. Reading this book cover to cover is a chore. It's weird too because I'm not sure of the best readership for this book. Some of the items and activities actually still exist. (Girl Scout cookies, heavy weight boxing, etc.) Some I remember from childhood (white gloves, middies, etc.) (that was kind of fun) and some are older than that, though many can be found today in some little part of the world. (gaslit streetlamps, and many others) Some of the blurbs are amusing and/or informative, but there is no real organization other than an alphabetical list. I'd have loved sections showing when & where in history these items and people existed. I thought I might find this book a lot of fun, but only certain entries were for me. It's not a great book for research or for writers (due to its simple list format) and for so many of the listed things I had not one iota of interest in them. Most of the blurbs were fun though. So, for me star wise it's between it was okay and I liked it. 2 ½ stars. I'm rounding down though because reading it wasn't that enjoyable an experience. I kept borrowing it from the library and having to return it and taking it out again because I didn't want to give up since I'd invested time in the reading of it. I feel like a curmudgeon as it may be others' cups of tea more than it was mine.

Paul says

Let's bring back more books like these...

Elizabeth says

I should have written this review much closer to finishing Let's Bring Back – sometime in July – as I would have been able to share more delightful specifics. The book is a celebration of nostalgia, of the manners and customs of a better time.

One aspect of the book that I loved was the broad definition of 'a better time'. In skimming the book together, Mom and I both found aspects of our childhoods – hers from the 50s, mine from the 80s. My grandma, born in 1918, could have done the same. There are remembrances of early 20th century cultural figures – and entries advocating for the return of naps. There are recipes for drinks, and bon mots such as the following list of quotes attributed to Edith Head:

"You can have anything you want in life if you dress for it."

"The cardinal sin is not being badly dressed, but wearing the right thing in the wrong place."

"Your dresses should be tight enough to show you're a woman and loose enough to prove you're a lady."

"Clothes not only can make the woman; they can make her several different women."

"I say sacrifice style any day for becomingness."

It was thanks to this book that I knew exactly what a remarkable find I'd made when I found a pair of Elsa Schiaparelli stockings in a lot of six pairs for \$12. And thanks to this book, I have yet another argument in support of my favorite color scheme: brown and pink and cream, the colors of Neapolitan ice cream: "Strawberry, vanilla, and chocolate side by side: This combination of pink, white, and brown should be made into the flag of some languorous, pleasure-oriented country."

A languorous, pleasure-oriented country. I like that. Let's bring that back as well.

Tarissa says

A refreshing volume that provides the reader with an abundance of useful, fun, and witty wisdom from times gone by. I giggled so many times... found many new (old) favorite things... and was overall fascinated by Lesley M.M. Blume's knowledge of history.

The cons: The only reason I can't give this book 5 stars (no matter how much I wish I could!), is because of the author's lack of discretion. Foul language and inappropriate topics did ruin the book for me, and made it impossible to share with my friends. It's a pity that such a jewel of a book cannot be better relished in.

However, I did discover awesome tidbits among the pages of "Let's Bring Back". So many great people of historical significance become lost in time somewhere; so many buildings and wonderful places in the world that have been destroyed somehow. The world will never see them again, but only through the pages of a book like this.

Quizzing glasses... radio dramas... milk baths... Castle houses (not actually castles)... whispering chairs... cutting gardens... fern-hunting parties... fly-in movie theaters... walk-in fireplaces...

Let's bring them all back.

Relyn says

Oh, I love this author. Not just her skills with the pen. Not just her writing. I love *her*. At least, I love her

public persona. Click here and watch this really cool video for the book. It's wonderful.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kg9Hbf...>

I vote Lesley M.M. Blume as the living author I'd most like to meet. OK, she ties with Sherman Alexie.

Natasha says

I was recently sorting through my books and consolidating bookshelves when I happened across this in a stack. I'm surprised I kept it after my feelings about it. I read this book years ago. Nearly a decade ago, actually, and I still remember the one entry that infuriated me so much that it spurred me to write this review.

WET NURSES: Breastfeeding one's own children is seriously in fashion today; still, it would be nice to have the option. Imagine: a happily breast-fed child, and you get your pretty small breasts back. It's the best of all worlds.

Best of both worlds for *whom*, Lesley Blume? What a trash take that drips with privilege and contempt for others. Wonderful job reducing a situation that historically pits privilege against poverty down to a socially acceptable bra size.

As for the rest of this book, I found it tedious to get through. The "people" entries are particularly bewildering, as were the entries about items that are still readily available. It's almost as if the author could not decide if this is a history book with notable contributions from humans, or a book about things and just said, "whatever." The content doesn't jive with the title or subtitle.

Could not throw this in the bin fast enough.

Two stars for the cover, though. I can tell the designer put some work into this book, at least.

Rose Ann says

I loved this! I need to pick it up in Hardcover. It is one of those books I will go back to and enjoy over and over.

If you are nostalgic, love history, and things gone by, then you will love this book.

I had so much fun looking up many terms, buildings, people, etc.

And quite a few things here that gave me a jolt of memories from my childhood. (Paper dolls, movie projectors, L'EGGS pantyhose eggs, etc).

I picked this up from Barnes and Noble when it was a Nook deal. I want a hard copy for my shelf!

It is written in encyclopedia format.

Lots of old recipes included as well!

I have bookmarked, and highlighted so many items. (Thank goodness I DO have it in ebook format...can you imagine all the post-its?)

Jessica says

Excellent walk down "Nostalgia Lane", but quite a lot of these once popular or commonplace items should fall back into fashion. And more than a few of them (terms and words in particular) I myself use. My favorite is the word "wipersnapper". It is so much fun to say and usually fits the obnoxious child / young adult / person I am forced to work with or associate with, to a tea.

"Old" doesn't mean useless! "New" doesn't mean better!

But this "new" book, full of "old" things is a fun read.

MW says

Simply put: I loved this book. I was also delighted to find out that most people fancied that these ideas and social norms of yesteryear make a come back and for the sake of today's society, I hope they do! Thank you, Ms. Blume for making us realize that we do have the ability to exude civility even in modern times.

Leanne O says

I picked this up totally judging it by the cover (the thing you aren't supposed to do) but was pleasantly surprised anyway. It's set up in a dictionary style sort of way with different descriptions of items/ideas/people/places that should be "brought back" into modern times. I'm a sucker for nostalgia/vintage/retro memorabilia and this book honors all of that. Let's bring back double features, playing cards, courtship, vanity tables, and picnics in graveyards!

This book gives a brief history on old traditions long forgotten and some already known but pushed on the back-burner. It's a fun read and a good inspiration for some new things to do or different things to seek out next time you are at a yard sale or antique store.

Marissa says

Considering that I am known among my friends for drinking GIMLETS, writing with a FOUNTAIN PEN, and carrying a PARASOL on sunny summer days, it's not surprising that I enjoyed Lesley M. M. Blume's *Let's Bring Back*. Based on her popular Huffington Post column, it's an eclectic compendium of items, foods, phrases, and even qualities (ELEGANCE) that she'd like to see more of in the modern world.

Many of Blume's *Let's Bring Back* choices would be both easy and fun to revive (PENNY LOAFERS, ROCKING CHAIRS); a few are included for sheer outlandishness ("CHARIOTS: the ultimate status vehicle, especially when drawn by lions or elephants"); some have vanished from the earth and will never be seen again (THE FOX THEATER in San Francisco... sob!). Some of the entries feature historical trivia and straightforward arguments for why we should bring these things back; others are wryly amusing one-liners ("BUTLERS: they provide the household with an air of refinement, so you don't have to").

The nostalgia on display here mostly centers around Victorian quaintness (THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS) and early-20th-century glamour (SATIN PAJAMAS). Bold and stylish women like BANKHEAD, TALLULAH and VREELAND, DIANA get plenty of shout-outs. While Blume frequently bemoans how casual and sloppy modern life can be, it's also clear that she's grateful to be a 21st-century

woman who can drink cocktails, wear trousers (preferably WIDE-LEGGED ones), and indulge her VICES ("I'd rather be Scarlett O'Hara than Melanie Wilkes any day of the week"). It's about bringing some sophistication and thoughtfulness into your everyday life, not about turning the clock back wholesale.

Organized alphabetically, *Let's Bring Back* is the kind of book that it's easy to dip into and out of -- ideal for keeping on your bedside table and reading a bit of every night before you go to sleep. (Perhaps it will bring you glamorous dreams.) And because it's all about nostalgia and things that stand the test of time, it won't go out of style any time soon.

Camille says

This delightful encyclopedia is a wonderful collection of things from bygone times which the author, Lesley Blume believes we should bring back.

The entries range from Ambrosia to Mae West to Bing Crosby to Corsets to Doorbell Pulls to Opera Capes and beyond.

As a quick disclaimer, there is some adult language included in the book. It's few and far between, but included nonetheless, so this book is not for children.

While I must admit I am too young to have grown up with most everything in this book, a part of me has always felt that I was born into the wrong time period.

While most entries may be before my time, they are things I am (for the most part) familiar with nonetheless.

I really think this is a fantastic collection of things we have slowly lost over time that were wonderful.

Plus, the fact that Bing Crosby was included sold me immediately. If he wasn't already dead, I would marry that man! White Christmas, after all, is my holiday tradition every year!

But, back to the book.

I brought it home for Thanksgiving and found that my mom, her fiancé and I spent hours talking about the various things in the encyclopedia. We had such great conversations about each of the ideas within the book, and the conversation was filled with laughter and was quite entertaining.

I have to say that it was a much better way to spend family time together than if we had mindlessly watched tv together instead.

All-in-all, this delightful book is a great conversation piece and a cute, quaint, quick read.

I highly recommend you purchasing a copy for yourself or someone you love.

I am grateful to FSB Media for sending me a review copy. I am not required to write a positive review, but rather an honest one.

James says

Like the other Let's Bring Back book I've read and reviewed here, this is fun and informative. I got both to use as references in writing fiction. However, this is a great book to sit and browse through. One interesting note: this book is apparently in fairly high demand - I ordered it online, only to get an email from the bookstore apologizing that they'd sold their last copy and refunding my money. Six times!

Recommended, if you're the kind of reader who finds things like those turn-of-the-20th-century Sears catalogues fascinating, and who could think they aren't?
