



# **The Dead Guy Interviews: Conversations with 45 of the Most Accomplished, Notorious, and Deceased Personalities in History**

*Michael A. Stusser*

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Unusual book

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## **From Reader Review The Dead Guy Interviews: Conversations with 45 of the Most Accomplished, Notorious, and Deceased Personalities in History for online ebook**

### **Betty says**

This was a most pleasant surprise! It was educational and entertaining. I do suggest spending the time it takes to enjoy this book!

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### **Wellington says**

Interesting premise. Guy magically interviews dead people. Somehow they all know English and sometimes, sometimes not know about current events. Not really sure some of them spoke perfect English and others came back talking in an accent.

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### **Caitlin says**

The Dead Guy Interviews: Conversations with 45 of the Most Accomplished, Notorious, and Deceased Personalities in History is an interesting look at some of history's famous people. A bit boring and silly at times, and as other reviewers said the writing to reflect accents etc. got annoying. But if you are bored and one some small interesting tid-bits of history go for it.

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### **Sue says**

Totally loved it! Many different famous and well-known people, "interviewed" one by one. Must have been difficult to wonder how these people would have responded; very good idea.

I didn't want to peek at who was next, pleasant surprise every couple of pages . . . like a present on Christmas morning.

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### **Kathy says**

I thought it was a good idea poorly executed. (Sorry.)

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### **Kim says**

The premise of this book is that the author "interviews" a number of famous people, now dead, about their lives as a pretext for summing up what made these people so famous, giving them a chance to clear up a few

misconceptions in the process. Each interview is about 2-3 pages, and the subjects range from all walks of life, from ancient history (Ghengis Kahn, Alexander the Great) to science (George Washington Carver, Albert Einstein) to literature (Emily Dickenson, Shakespeare) to politics (Winston Churchill, Abraham Lincoln), and even fashion (Coco Chanel). While the humor is bit silly at times, it makes a neat series of brief history lessons and would be great for teachers who want to give their students an entertaining introduction to these influential people as a jumping off point for further research. There are so many interviews in here that any reader is bound to find someone they may not have known much about. True devotees will no doubt find these character sketches too simplistic, but it's still a pretty fun read.

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### **Leslie Chew says**

The author should have "interviewed" half the subjects in more depth. After the first five, this was very predictable and repetitive. This is possibly a good vehicle for teaching history to a twelve-year-old, but didn't do much for me.

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### **Becky Soledad says**

An interesting concept interviews with famous dead people. As interesting as the concept is it's difficult to read straight through. I suggest having *The Dead Guy Interviews* on your night stand and reading random interviews when the fancy strikes. I would be interested to know how historically accurate the information is as I could see using bits and pieces to introduce different units or as part of instruction.

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### **Carrie says**

I found this book thanks to an ad in *Mental Floss* magazine, and I thought the concept was really interesting. Since reading this, I've seen similar books devoted to the idea that the author sits down and interviews a famous person from history.

This one was an easy read in the sense that it's another collection of vignettes that can be read one at a time, and you don't have to worry about how they all mesh together. Some of the historical personalities I didn't care for, and others had phonetic spellings to represent the person's accent (which I found annoying, and some times hard to read), but overall I thought it was really clever.

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### **Amanda says**

In theory, I would have loved this book.

However, it was terrible. Not even worth reading through to the end. Stusser pretty much lost all my respect when, in the Beethoven chapter, he wrote "It is said that Beethoven was the transitional figure between the classical and romantic eras of musical history - whatever the hell that mean." Really?! This is supposed to be an educational and informative book, and instead of, you know, trying to educate, the best you can do is put "whatever the hell that means?!" Ugh. Not worth reading any further.

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## Colin Birge says

A quick, light read by mentalfloss.com author Michael Stusser. The conceit is that Stusser is 'interviewing' historical figures, all of whom speak in an odd, self-aware modern American patter with occasional fake accents. The 'interviews' allow Stusser to give a quick verbal sketch of each character's life, plus lots of jokes.

The book is a weirdly heroic attempt to package up some history with humor, but it didn't quite work for me. As history, it barely scratches the surface. The jokes are fun but not laugh-out-loud material. The author had a chance to capture something of the character of each historical figure in their dialogue, but the arch, modern-ironic tone and Borscht Belt 'accents' made all the historical figures sound the same after awhile.

All that makes the book sound like a bad read, but it also takes the book way too seriously. This is a quick airplane flight or restroom break book, and on that level, it works just fine.

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## Glenn says

The format of the book is a one page biography type overview of the person, followed by a present day fictionalized interview between the dead person and the author, Michael Stusser. So you can pick this up, read a couple, come back to it later, read a couple more, etc, without losing your train of thought. The author was pretty inventive in writing the interviews and I actually learned some things by reading the bios. Overall, I enjoyed the book.

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## Giulia says

Ok, so I was tempted when I read the title of this book, because I was in the mood to read a lot of biographies (why not start with this?)... so I purchased it. The concept itself was pretty interesting but I didn't like the way it was done. There were just too many aspects that bothered me. First of all I bought this to learn more about certain historical figures, but the interviews oftentimes ask questions about things I haven't heard of before - it would have been nice, if some of the key questions would have been introduced beforehand... some names etc. I just couldn't follow the discussion anymore.

What also bothered me was the inconsistency. Some characters knew nothing about modern culture while others like Michelangelo knew about things (like cappuccino) which haven't existed in their times. I also didn't appreciate that they sometimes seemed out of character like e.g. Buddha who threatened to end the interview. I'm not quite sure, why some of the characters were chosen... but that's the author's decision and I'm not gonna criticize it, if I don't know the criteria he used to choose his subjects.

Anyway... what I actually did like were the little fun facts, which were mentioned throughout the interviews, and the illustrations, which were appealing.

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## Alyse says

It was a humorous way to discuss some of the important historical figures. It is written for a young adult audience, but I still learned from it. I have always had trouble remembering people and dates in history and

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the way the information was presented assisted me in being able to retain the information.

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### **Patrick says**

On the one hand, this is both funny and surprisingly instructive. On the other hand, I disliked how the interview subjects from foreign countries said "zem" and "ziss", and how Crazy Horse didn't use pronouns or articles. A few of these at a time go a long way.

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