



The Book of Useless Information

Noel Botham

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What you may so cavalierly call useless information could prove invaluable to someone else. Then again, maybe not. But to The Useless Information Society, any fact that passes its gasp-inducing, not-a-lot-of-people-know-that test merits inclusion in this fascinating but ultimately useless book... Did you know (or do you care)...

- That fish scales are used to make lipstick?
- Why organized crime accounts for ten percent of the United States's annual income?
- The name of the first CD pressed in the United States?
- The last year that can be written upside-down or right side-up and appear the same?
- The shortest performance ever nominated for an Oscar(R)?
- How much Elvis weighed at the time of his death?
- What the suits in a deck of cards represent?
- How many Quarter Pounders can be made from one cow?
- How interesting useless information can be?

The Book of Useless Information answers these teasers and is packed with facts and figures that will captivate you--and anyone who shares your joy in the pursuit of pointless knowledge.

The Book of Useless Information Details

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From Reader Review The Book of Useless Information for online ebook

Steve Scott says

This should be titled "The Useless Book Of Often Inaccurate Information". If you do a quick Google search of some of the "facts" stated herein you'll find some of them anything but factual.

Squirrels can't get rabies? Nope. Any mammal can, according to the CDC. Squirrels don't often contract it, but they could.

Mozart wrote "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" when he was five? Nope. When he was 25 he composed a number of variations on the already existing and very popular tune.

Attila the Hun was a dwarf? Nope. He was short, as many steppe horseman of his age were...but not a dwarf.

There are no records of non-rabid wolf attacks on humans? Nope! There is a fairly large list of attacks on humans throughout history.

Kamuela Searle was killed on the set by an elephant during the filming of "Tarzan"? Nope. He had an accident, finished the film, went on to make one more film with Cecio B. DeMille, and then retired from acting. He died of cancer three years later.

A can of Diet Coke will float and a can of regular Coke will sink? Let me go to the fridge and try that in the sink. Nope!

The origin of the word "news" comes from newspapers stories taking stories from everywhere, North, East, West and South...and using the first letter of each direction to derive "news"? Nope. It's a totally false and bogus etymology. "News" is plural of "new". It was derived from the Middle English "newes", and parallels the German "neues" and the French "nouvelle". This is probably the silliest thing I found in this book.

There is no such thing as a blue food, and even blueberries are purple? Nope. Arguably there is blue corn. True or not he stole that line from comedian George Carlin.

There are true facts in the book (and facts can be either true or false), but without taking the time a person can't know what is fact and what is bogus. I think it's safe to say that a significant percentage of the facts presented are bogus. I get the impression the author just cruised the net for whatever he could find that was interesting and stuck into this book. He didn't check for accuracy at all.

The problem I have with books like this is that people often cite such stuff...no matter how silly. I read books like this because I want to be entertained and illumined with truth...not B.S.

I almost hate to put it on my non-fiction shelf. It can't be trusted. The only reason I finished it was I wanted to blast it apart.

Nicole says

I was excited to get my hands on this book. However, I was disappointed because the facts are poorly

researched. I thought this book would inspire many unique essay topics for my college classes, but upon some simple research I found that most "facts" I wanted to find more information on turned out to be false.

Sam says

Noel Botham's The Book of Useless Information, mesmerized my mind but giving me facts I found out and I didn't need to find out. Did you know that 2 out of 5 guys admit that they don't say I love you to their wife. You get filled with wonderful knowledge about facts from U.S. Presidents to Egyptians from 500 B.C. You may know some facts and yet you may be dumbfounded about learning a new fact. I recommend this book for the fact of you will become a more knowledgeable person full of useless information by reading this book

Mike Da Silva says

This is the type of book that was made for bathrooms. You can pick it up, flip it open to any page, and read away. Full of interesting little tidbits you never needed to know.

Niki says

Essentially just random facts about random things. Totally insane and amazing stuff in here, I read snippets all the time and bore people with my new facts. I have bought this book for a few people already and I'm always getting emails from them with great facts they found.

Example: In Saskatchewan, it is illegal to frown at a cow.

Waynes World was shot in 2 weeks.

And I'm forgetting all my facts already. Time for another re-read!

Jaelyn says

I loved this book, but let's be honest, I love all things random. Fill 300 pages with useless information, and you have one very happy reader. The reason this book is not five stars is that Botham spent too long on the animal kingdom. I much rather would learn that Tommy Lee Jones and Al Gore were freshman roommates at Harvard or Louisa May Alcott hated children. She only wrote Little Women because her publisher asked her to. On that note, I better go get out Trivial Pursuit because at least one of the useless facts I just put in my brain has to be an answer to a question... Happy reading!

Michael Meyerhofer says

I usually love this kind of "odd fact" book, but "The Ultimate Book of Useless Information" is nothing short of a train wreck. I noticed right away that even for a book of random facts, the sections are poorly written with almost no continuity or interesting detail. More importantly, though, it takes only a few minutes to spot errors that are so glaringly obvious, one wonders just what kind of rock this alleged author crawled out from.

For example, the author states that if the ice caps melted, the oceans would not rise! Why? According to the author, because water takes up the same amount of space whether it's frozen or not--never mind that the ice caps are ABOVE the ocean, not inside it!! Apparently, Noel has never dropped too many ice cubes into a full glass before! This kind of idiocy is unforgivable--not just for a professional author, but for an editor and publishing house as well.

Conor Warren says

A lot of the stuff in this book wasn't true upon further checking. I could tolerate a couple of mistakes. . .but this book just makes a lot of mistakes; it can also be very misleading.

Not trustworthy. What is the point of trivia if the shit you are saying isn't true?

Bill Bennett says

a fun read, but probably not all that accurate. The author said it all with his last entry "97% of all statistics are made up". Keep it in the bathroom to fill the time, it'll humor you.

Madeline says

Fantastic bathroom reading. Here, have some random facts:

Every time Beethoven sat down to compose music, he poured ice water over his head.

Eosophobia is the fear of dawn.

Coca-Cola was originally green.

Nutmeg is extremely poisonous if injected intravenously.

The average woman consumes six pounds of lipstick in her lifetime.

Charles de Gaulle's final words were "It hurts."

The national anthem of Greece has 158 verses.

If a statue of a person on a horse depicts the horse with both front legs in the air, the person died in battle; if the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle; if the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

The Taj Mahal was scheduled to be torn down in the 1830s.

Sister Boom-Boom was a transvestite nun who ran for mayor of San Francisco in 1982. He/she received more than twenty thousand votes.

The youngest pope was eleven years old.

The tip of a bullwhip moves so fast it breaks the sound barrier; the crack of the whip is actually a tiny sonic boom.

A female ferret will die if it goes into heat and cannot find a mate.

A donkey will sink in quicksand, but a mule won't.

Kim says

This book is full of random, silly, cute, odd, useless, interesting and funny little facts.

I'll spare you all from summing up a few but I do recommend reading it. It's one of those ideal 'I have a few moments to kill' books.

Cute!

Carson The Great says

Funny! Learn things you never though you needed to no, and probably don't. Back Cover:

Did you know...

That fish scales are used to make lipstick?

Why organized crime accounts for 10 percent of the U.S.'s income?

The name of the first CD in the U.S.?

The last year that can be written upside down or right side up and look the same... and much, much, more!

Greg says

I love trivia but I simply couldn't keep reading this book only 89 pages in.

At first I found the book enjoyable, and used the trivia as a jumping off point for further research. But the research usually revealed a whole other side to the story. For example, the book says David Rice Atchison was President of the US for one day. Some of the circumstances around that day are extraordinary, but he was never sworn in or officially assigned President.

I got upset when I read the infamous "Nova in Mexico" myth. This is a popular urban legend, but completely a legend nonetheless. (<http://www.snopes.com/business/misxla...>) I was very cynical at this point, and found another urban legend just a few pages later: <http://www.snopes.com/cokelore/green.asp>.

This book is poorly researched, which sadly takes all the fun out of it for me.

Laura says

As a connoisseur of useless fact books, this one is unimpressive. Some facts within the book contradict other facts within the same book, for instance, on page 249, it states "the penguin is the only bird that can swim, but not fly." However, on page 244, it is stated that "the emu...can't fly, but it can swim." Compared to the ultimate (my choice of descriptor - not referring to the specific book) Uncle John's Bathroom Readers, Mental Floss and the newer Armchair Readers, the Useless Information book doesn't fly.

I was relieved to read this review from Amazon, recently:

5.0 out of 5 stars Absolutely hilarious!!, December 21, 2008

By Drew the Nerd "You don't know me. Just keep ... (Somewhere near Dallas, TX) - See all my reviews

This review is from: The Book of Useless Information (Paperback)

First of all, do not trust any reviews by anyone who states they did not read the whole book. This is basically a 286 page long April Fools joke and those who gave it a bad rating without reading the whole thing are just the suckers who fell for it.

DO NOT buy this if you are looking for a serious book of facts. DO buy it if you want to prank a friend.

The very last fact in this book sheds some light on the whole book. I will not ruin the ending by telling you what it is, though.....

April Fools!

Cathie says

Funny, interesting book full of, well, useless information! Some of the facts are really interesting, some not so, some of it I already knew (yeah, I already had my own reservoir of useless knowledge) and some left me shaking my head going "no way", "you can't be serious?!", or some other like statement. I shared tidbits of this book with whoever would listen and it started some really interesting and a few bizarre conversations. Useless information is good for conversation fodder.

I don't know if all the information is true but it certainly makes you wonder and think.

If you approach this book expecting serious things that will help make you sound intelligent or appear smart you will probably be very disappointed. On the other hand if you love to laugh while you read and don't take anything too seriously then this book is probably right up your alley.
