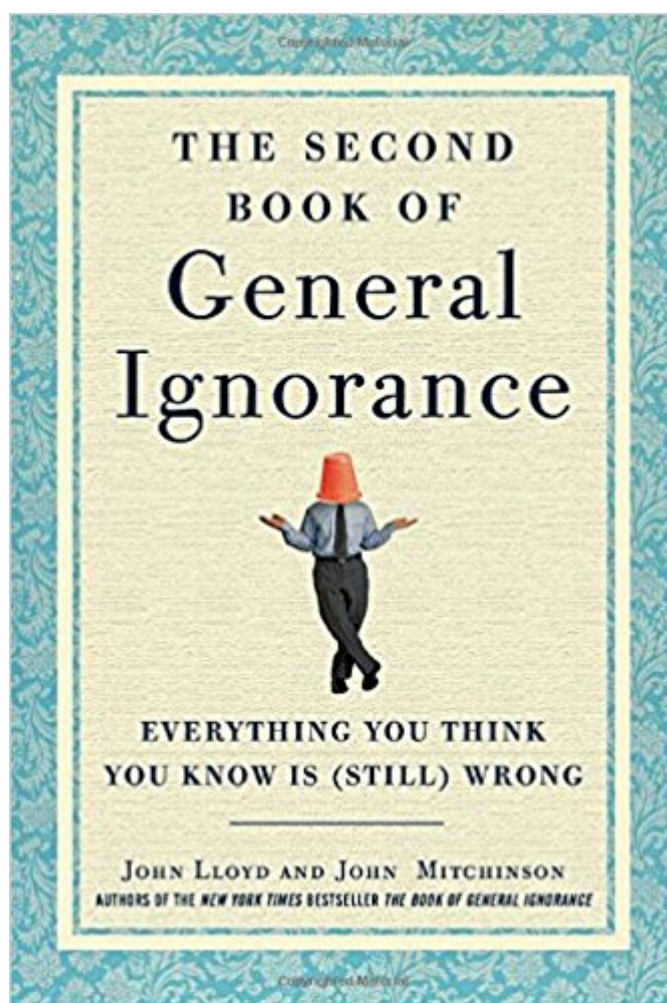The book was found

The Second Book Of General Ignorance: Everything You Think You Know Is (Still) Wrong

Synopsis

From the brains behind The Book of General Ignorance comes another wonderful collection of the most outrageous, fascinating, and mind-bending facts, taking on the hugely popular form of the first book in the internationally bestselling series.Ã Â The original Book of General Ignorance was published in 2006. It has since been translated into twenty-six languages and sold over 1.2 million copies. Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Now, just when you thought that it was safe to start showing off again, John Lloyd and John Mitchinson are back with another busload of mistakes and misunderstandings. Here is a new collection of simple, perfectly obvious questions you'll be quite certain you know the answers to. Whether it's history, science, sports, geography, literature, language, medicine, the classics, or common wisdom, you'll be astonished to discover that everything you thought you knew is still hopelessly wrong. Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â For example, do you know who made the first airplane flight? How many legs does an octopus have? How much water should you drink every day? What is the chance of tossing a coin and it landing on heads? What happens if you leave a tooth in a glass of Coke overnight? What is house dust mostly made from? What was the first dishwasher built to do? What color are oranges? Who in the world is most likely to kill you? Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Whatever your answers to the questions above, you can be sure that everything you think you know is wrong. The Second Book of General Ignorance is the essential text for everyone who knows they don't know everything, and an ideal stick with which to beat people who think they do.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Q&A with Authors John Lloyd & John Mitchinson   After two books, whatÃ¢â¬â¢s the one fact that stands out as your favorite? The one you find yourself still bringing up in dinner conversation? There are so many. And they change, depending on what one is researching, so often the Ã¢â¬ËœfavouriteÃ¢â¬â¢ is merely the most recent. The one we often come back to is that for the first 21 years after basketball was invented in 1891, it didnÃ¢â¬â¢t occur to anyone to cut a hole in the bottom of the basket. Until 1912, every time anyone scored, someone had to climb a ladder up to the basket or poke the ball out with a long pole. Then thereÃ¢â¬â¢s female mosquitoes being the only ones that bite you. Oh, and of course, the strange reproductive layout of the female kangarooÃ¢â¬Â¦ Stop us now! Do we think thereÃ¢â¬â¢s enough out there we still donÃ¢â¬â¢t know for a third book? A fourth? A tenth? Absolutely. The next books will be slightly different in format, but itÃ¢â¬â¢s an important part of our philosophy that absolutely anything is interesting if looked at long enough and int the right way. ItÃ¢â¬â¢s like the levels of magnification on a microscope. Each level brings a new world of detail. So what might appear to be unremarkable and ordinary Ã¢â¬â œ like water for example Ã¢â¬â œ turns out to be the weirdest stuff in the known universe, able to coexist in three different states simultaneously. So far there are 66 listed anomalies of water. So, we are pretty confident that we can fill as many books as our esteemed publishers are prepared to commission (hint, hintÃ¢â¬Â¦) If you had to choose, do you think the general reader is more interested in acquiring knowledge or in being able to tell others that theyÃ¢â¬â¢re wrong? I donÃ¢â¬â¢t think anybody likes being told theyÃ¢â¬â¢re wrong. What we aim to do is to say Ã¢â¬â œ Ã¢â¬Ëœhang on, thereÃ¢â¬â¢s a little more to it than thatÃ¢â¬â¢. Or even Ã¢â¬ËœœLook over here, thereÃ¢â¬â¢s some really great stuff nobodyÃ¢â¬â¢s noticedÃ¢â¬â¢. What drives us as a species is curiosity: we want to know how things work and we are remarkably generous in sharing what we find with others. When you find a great fact (or quote or one-liner), thereÃ¢â¬â¢s an overwhelming need to share it with the next ten people you meet. ItÃ¢â¬â¢s in that spirit that the books are written. Compare British vs. American ignoranceÃ¢â¬Â¦ There are obvious stereotypes Ã¢â¬â œ AmericanÃ¢â¬â¢s arenÃ¢â¬â¢t supposed to know or care about other countries Ã¢â¬â œ but we enjoy overturning those. In fact, weÃ¢â¬â¢ve always found Americans to be fantastically curious about the world around them Ã¢â¬â œ look at all the factual TV channels. And the Brits talk a good game Ã¢â¬â œ we always sound like we know stuff Ã¢â¬â œ but donÃ¢â¬â¢t be fooled. A recent poll about our Civil War found that ninety percent of Britons couldnÃ¢â¬â¢t name a single battle; eighty percent do not know which English King was executed by Parliament in 1649; and sixty-seven percent of schoolchildren have never heard of Oliver Cromwell. I donÃ¢â¬â¢t think weÃ¢â¬â¢d have sold

the book in 30 languages if ignorance weren't a universal phenomenon. Would you like to be an immortal jellyfish? On balance, no. They have very poor eyesight and no real brain. Plus their mouths and bottoms are interchangeable. I think being able to live forever under those grim conditions isn't so appealing. We both very much like the word 'polyp' though (it originally meant 'many-footed' in Greek but is used to describe the immature jellyfish). We could introduce our kids as 'a shoal of polyps' — a very satisfying sentence to pronounce. Do you ever get told you're wrong (especially by someone who quotes your book back at you)? Frequently. We do get stuff wrong. We said the Welsh had no word for 'blue' (they do — glas). We said the male kangaroo's member has a split ending: it doesn't. But this is all to the good. We never claim to be always right — that's the point: no one ever is. The books are meant to inspire the reader to find things out for themselves and add to their own pile of interest and wonder. Which John is the most ignorant? We get more ignorant the more we know. John M knows very little about embroidery. I mean — almost nothing. And John L — don't ask him about 17th Dutch porcelain. He's interested, don't get us wrong. He just hasn't had time to study the form. Neither of us fully understands the rules of American football; neither of us have ever been to Nauru (although we know there are no dry cleaners on the island because the former President used to airfreight his trousers to Melbourne, 2,500 miles away, to get them cleaned and pressed.) How do you two Johns work together so well? What's your process for coming up with questions/answers? We are very fortunate to have a small group of researchers who have complimentary areas of knowledge. They track down and source a huge percentage of our facts. John and I ask lots of questions and try to shape the basic research into something that entertains and informs simultaneously. QI isn't about lists of trivial facts, as we've said, it's about making connections. We're burrowers not grazers. What starts out as a simple observation - why do pigeons not fly away from an oncoming car until the last moment? - might lead to an investigation into how the brain processes visual information; the truth about carrots and night vision; the history of pigeons as a communication device; the Dickin Medal for Animal Bravery; how migratory animals navigate; the chemical constitution of bird dung; the design and ornamentation of medieval dovecotes… It's like making a lovely rich soup. We work well together because we love what we do. It's a relationship based on trust, humour, and friendship. Oh, and beer also helps. What do you hope readers will take away from the General Ignorance books? Hopefully the sense of the world being a much richer and wonderful place than it might at first appear. And that nobody knows

the whole truth.

John Lloyd is the producer of the hit British comedy shows Not the Nine OÃ¢â¬â„¢Clock News, Blackadder, and Spitting Image. He earned a lifetime achievement award from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.John Mitchinson has been both a bookseller and a publisher and looked after authors as diverse as Haruki Murakami, the Beatles, and a woman who knitted with dog hair. He and John Lloyd are in charge of research for the hit BBC showÃ Â QIÃ Â and have written many bestselling books, including such titles asÃ Â The Book of General Ignorance, 1,227 Quite Interesting Facts to Blow Your Socks Off,Ã Â andÃ Â 1,411 QI Facts to Knock You Sideways.

Anyone who follows my reviews knows by now that I am a fan of QI, the British ÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã Å"quiz showÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã Â• hosted by Stephen Fry. This is the third book drawn from the series that IÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã â„¢ve now read. Much like the first book of its name, this one doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã â„¢t quite have the pop of 1,227 Quite Interesting FactsÃƒÂ¢Ã â¬Ã Â¦but I did find myself enjoying this second volume much more. I think I approached it better this time. I only read a few questions at a time rather than trying to read too much at one sitting. I also like the sidebar blurbs better in this volume. This time, they are actual brief transcripts from the T.V. show which gives more of a sense of what makes QI so fun, and takes the reader mentally back to the show. In the end, these books are entertaining and informative, and I look forward to any others that might come along.

What more could you want? A book filled with ignorance! A nice read and the end of an intellectually challenging day!

as enjoyable as the first one, very very interesting

just as i thought :)

an interesting book.

love these books!

Interesting

I love the British quiz show QI and enjoy these books for all the interesting facts...the only thing I do miss is the humor that these facts are presented with on the show, however I can hear Stephen Fry's voice when I'm reading!!! If you enjoy interesting and obscure information, you will love these books! And I recommend that you watch the tv show if you are able to.

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