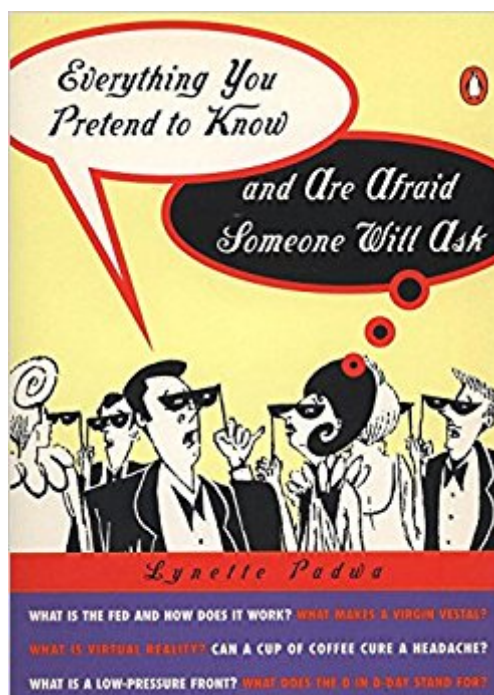


The book was found

Everything You Pretend To Know And Are Afraid Someone Will Ask



Synopsis

You can fool some of the people all of the time—but wouldn't you rather really know what you're talking about? Why are conservatives on the "right" and liberals on the "left"? What is an archetype? Most people drop these and other cultural references in conversation all the time without really knowing much about them. But with this witty, information-packed book, you can quickly bone up on the actual facts behind the multitude of data, events, and words that come at you each day—and that you've been casually bandying about without really understanding. Here are invaluable explanations of a wide range of topics that are assumed to be common knowledge, from deciphering newspeak (What is a spin doctor?) to psychobabble (What's the difference between the ego and the id?) to cyberlingo (What is cyberlingo?); from the supposedly obvious (What makes cholesterol good or bad?) to the deceptively simple (What is a formula race car?). Perfect as a quick reference tool, for browsing, or simply for sharing impressive, newfound knowledge with family and friends, this handbook will endow you with genuine cultural literacy in just a few hours of fun-filled reading.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lynette Padwa is the author of *Everything You Pretend to Know and Are Afraid Someone Will Ask* and the coauthor of several other books. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and son.

I like fun books like this but this specific title was a pain to read and most of the topics discussed were way too broad to cover in such a small amount of space. There is no way you can read a

section on "The Enlightenment," or "The Monroe Doctrine" and really hold a conversation about it. For example, imagine this; you are not a doctor and a doctor explains a certain disease to you. You might memorize what he is saying to you but you could never explain that concept to another doctor because you don't know everything about this disease and how it affects your body. That's kinda like what you get in this book. You get facts that are not in context. Books like this are great for quick facts only. I found Section 2, 3, and 4 to be a hard read because the subject matter was too broad to get the big picture. Chapter 9 on computers is outdated. The only parts I liked were a few topics discussed in section 1 and 8. I also want to add that I found some of the topics discussed here to be things that "I don't even care about." The book is titled "Things you pretend to know..." How many of you pretend to know about "Flotsam and Jetsam" or what "Ipso Facto" means? I didn't really understand the target audience for this book. If you are trying to rub elbows with the intellectual, you will be fooling nobody with this book. I was disappointed with this title and I do not recommend it. You will not become smarter just by reading this. I promise you that you will read the section on the middle ages and you won't remember it in 10 minutes. There were only a few facts in here that were interesting and they are not worth the price or the real estate on my bookshelf. I give it two stars for effort.

This book is great! Well written, based on real academic material that is made easy to read and relate to. The range of topics is quite exciting, there is always something that was not on your list to learn but, apparently, is very interesting and useful. Thanks to mentioning the original sources, it's easy to elaborate on a subject of interest.

I generally love books of miscellany and odd facts - However, This book is not only full of material any 12 year old should know but is one of the worst written such books I have ever read. Not an iota of interesting material. I finished it in 30 minutes.

I was excited about listening to this CD after I read the reviews and the description of this audio book. It was not at all what I expected. It was a woman reading words followed by a story about the meaning and a definition. It was very boring. I listened to about an hour while I was doing housework. I would not recommend for listening in the car for it might put you to sleep.

I had fun reading this. The topics are cool and the book is easy to read. It's written in little snippets so it's good for my short attention span. I'd recommend it for anyone who likes the Q&A book series

from the New Scientist or stuff like Mental Floss.

Read excerpts to hubby on 5 hour drive to Thanksgiving dinner. We both learned things and it made the drive more fun. Most info is timeless so the 1996 publishing date doesn't really matter

This book is very entertaining, but after I received it I was disappointed to find that it is actually 12 years old. If you aren't old enough to have a good handle on 1996 and what was happening then and what didn't exist yet, you will have trouble with a lot of the things in this book. Things about computer and other technology are often not relevant, as you may expect. However, there are many other things you will appreciate, such as finally learning the difference between a magnate, a mogul and a czar. I would recommend the book to people who were not in elementary school or earlier during the 90s and were alert enough to remember the cultural and business environment at that time.

Cute little book!

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