



The World's Worst: A Guide to the Most Disgusting, Hideous, Inept, and Dangerous People, Places, and Things on Earth

Mark Frauenfelder

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Bookstore shelves are lined with tomes dedicated to the finest things that life has to offer. This is all well and good, but the real entertainment is to be found not in the cream of the crop, but at the bottom of the barrel. *The World's Worst* is a celebration/indictment of nearly 50 infamous and little-known exemplars of the awful. In thoroughly researched, scathingly funny essays, author Mark Frauenfelder avoids the obvious and digs deep to tell the fascinating tales of the worst people, places, and things on Earth for the reader's amusement and edification. Half of the entries are also mischievously illustrated by the author. Addictively readable, and sure to appeal to fans of the popular *Worst-Case Scenario* and *Darwin Awards* series, *The World's Worst* is hilariously unafraid to wallow in the mire. Selected Horrible Highlights:

Most Unappealing Fetish

Most Disgusting Coffee Drink

Most Horrific Self-Help Technique

Least Adorable Pet

Saddest Fate for an Island Nation

Worst Molasses Related Disaster

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Date : Published May 5th 2005 by Chronicle Books

ISBN : 9780811846066

Author : Mark Frauenfelder

Format : Paperback 176 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Humor, Reference, Trivia, Adventure



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From Reader Review The World's Worst: A Guide to the Most Disgusting, Hideous, Inept, and Dangerous People, Places, and Things on Earth for online ebook

Jim says

This is just one of those repulsed but I cannot look away kind of books. I mean who isn't fascinated by the worst celebrity suicides, and a bunch of other slightly disgustingly similar categories. Perhaps you all have better taste than I but I found it an engaging little book for about an hour.

Kirsti says

Satisfyingly appalling.

Author is cofounder of BoingBoing.

Iris Robinson says

One of the most random, entertaining books I've read! So addicting.

Audrey says

As it says, some of the stuff is pretty gross. As in too disgusting to read. But it is a quick, easy read and it has some interesting stuff.

Jennn says

Although I already knew some of the stories and examples, I found Frauenfelder's comments to be sharp and entertaining (e.g. "After all, Stonehenge is only about 3,500 years old and experts can't figure out whether it's a big sundial or a monument to the vagina").

All stories are very short articles that intrigued me, but only made me more curious, which I suppose isn't an entirely bad thing.

My favourite stories were about Hiroo Onoda, the Great Boston Flood, the demise of Nauru, the lamest former dictator, and the one about Harold Von Braunhut.

I might get this book if there was a good deal on it. It kept me pretty entertained.

Eva says

I think a precocious middle schooler or high schooler who appreciates the weird or morbid might like this book. To me, it was a big too cute and "yeah I knew that."

Timothy Boyd says

If you just enjoy learning about gross things then this is a good book for you. A quick read, something to take your mind of the world for a few minutes at a time. Recommended

Jennifer says

I read this in two days. Then, my acupuncturist started reading it during my appointment and got hooked on it. Shocking and interesting. Eye-opening and a guilty pleasure, to say the least.

Leena says

A quick little read with tolerable snark levels. I was already familiar with a lot of these stories but the author's style is smooth and entertaining. The exception: some of the stories featured animal cruelty and were hard to get through.

Jack says

A silly little bathroom book. Fun, but most of it consists of things I've heard about elsewhere. Frauenfelder doesn't really bring anything new to these 2-3 page descriptions of nasty stuff.

Dave says

Nothing too original or exciting in this collection. I've heard over half of them before, from kopi luwak to the conman who sold the Eiffel Tower. Didn't think durian really warranted an entry either.

Cale says

There are some truly horrible things in this book - ranging from horrific foods to frighteningly evil people, all told in fairly quick vignettes. Some you don't want to read while near food. The style is dry, with some

humor and some description that goes a little bit further than really necessary to make the point. It's not deep but it's a quick read.

Killstorm says

Meh.

Tracey says

Wanted something light to read after the last few longer books, so I picked this up & read it in a few quick sessions. Each "World's Worst" topic is presented in 1-2 pages, with a 1 page title and usually another page for an illustration... not a lot of meat in this little book. I was already somewhat familiar with at least half of the topics covered (such as corpse flowers, Jocelyn Wildenstein & casu marzu), but hoped to learn a few new things along the way.

IMHO, Frauenfelder's source cites were few & far between (no bibliography or credits at the back) and he repeats the UL-ish story of a candiru fish swimming up a stream of urine to burrow into a young boy's penis, so that casts a bit of doubt in my mind as to the thoroughness of his research. On the other hand, he provides an explanation for Ms. Wildenstein's plastic surgery - she wants to resemble a jungle cat. (Okay...) Frauenfelder also writes that the "father" of cheesy mail order products: Sea Monkeys & X-Ray Specs was (despite his Jewish heritage) a white supremacist, which is not mentioned in the Wikipedia article. I ought to check & see if Nauru was one of the Pacific islands Tony Horowitz visited in Blue Latitudes.. the name of the island & its situation sounds familiar.

It's a mildly entertaining book - a decent bathroom read, perhaps, or a springboard for further reading in a middle school/early high school science or history classroom

Greg says

light trivia from the Boing Boing/MAKE guy.
