



The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody: Great Figures of History Hilariously Humbled

Will Cuppy , Fred Feldkamp (Editor) , William Steig (Illustrator)

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Ever wonder what Nero did before he began fiddling about in Rome, or wanted the bare facts about Lady Godiva? Maybe you've found the story of Lucrezia Borgia a bitter pill to swallow, or wanted the straight skinny on corpulent King Henry the Eighth, but you haven't the stomach for stuffy history books. Now these and twenty-two more of history's most famous personages are brought brilliantly to life, in this collection of unflinchingly accurate yet undeniably hilarious biographies. You'll laugh while you learn about the very real people behind the legendary names, including why Montezuma was so vengeful, and why Catherine was so Great. You'll even finally lay to rest the rumor that Charlemagne was called "Chuck" by his friends.

The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody: Great Figures of History Hilariously Humbled Details

Date : Published April 30th 1992 by Barnes Noble (first published 1950)

ISBN : 9780880298094

Author : Will Cuppy , Fred Feldkamp (Editor) , William Steig (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 240 pages

Genre : History, Humor, Nonfiction, Comedy, Biography

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Alessia Scurati says

Mi sono ritrovata a leggere questo libro dopo uno speed date letterario (sì, esistono speed date letterari, sono bellissimi per me meno per quelli delle case editrici che mando regolarmente in crisi, tra l'altro quel giorno non ascoltavo molto perché ero presa da morire dal Circolo Filologico milanese perché sono anche una patita di Instagram - senza gatti, né cibo, né selfie... come ho fatto?).

Comunque: è la storia vera che sembra non vera di alcuni noti personaggi storici in poche pagine.

Will Cuppy fa ridere. Non solo: ne sa un sacco delle cose che scrive. Tanto che (riassumo da postfazione) gli storici non ebbero nulla da ridire quando uscì la raccolta perché la documentazione era davvero *flawless*, senza difetti.

Io di difetti ne trovo 2 nella narrazione: 1 schema che un po' si ripete; 2 le note onnipresenti che sono una cosa che spezza il ritmo e che io aborro anche nelle tesi e nei saggi e in Carlo Emilio Gadda - però, ammetto che lo spirito storico-divulgativo dell'opera di Cuppy necessita di note.

Alla fine vale 4 stelle, anche perché questo tizio mi ricorda in modo allarmante me, sotto certi aspetti (Will, ti sarebbe piaciuto un sacco il circolo filologico, e anche Instagram, fidati).

Arman says

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Najme Ghanbari says

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Claire says

If I was a history teacher, this would be my textbook. It's the kind of book that you can't read by yourself because all you want to do is read the funny parts out loud to people. It is total comedy genius, plus it's a brilliant history book. The best part of the whole book is the chapter on Hannibal, and about his journey over the Alps via elephant caravan, which is pretty much the most ridiculous way you could think of to cross the

