



The People's Almanac Presents the Book of Lists

David Wallechinsky, Irving Wallace, Amy Wallace

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The People's Almanac Presents the Book of Lists Details

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From Reader Review The People's Almanac Presents the Book of Lists for online ebook

Andre The says

Worried by the potential attractiveness of the relentless list of Wallaces and Wallechinskys in the authorship, I glued this book to the top of my toilet cistern to prevent it from being stolen. I wish I hadn't. The place became a crossroads for humanity and I was barely able to get a fart in edgeways until I pried it loose and banished it to the Oxfam shop.

The rest, of course, is history. It was picked up by an off-duty blogger who suddenly saw the road to the unimaginable riches that could flow from cheap, list-based journalism. Thankfully the bottom has since dropped out of the market for pieces like "7 ways to misuse the grocer's apostrophe" and "Ten top tips for storing used chuddy" but for a while one could scarcely open a copy of *Cosmopolitan* without a numbered slew of dubious second-hand lies slithering onto your codpiece. Blame this book.

Amanda Ure says

This and its three successors are supreme examples of books that simply could not exist today because of the internet. They're fascinating, but they also replicate almost perfectly the kind of content which people browse on list sites and videos online nowadays. They serve as a kind of nostalgic fossil of what used to be.

Hank Stuever says

I went completely batshit bonkers for this book the summer between 5th and 6th grade. You can keep your *Guinness Book of World Records*. I would spend hours poring over this.

Lincoln Wert says

Perfect bathroom reads. Quick, short, and fun.

Harris says

This book has a special place in my heart. If I recall, I discovered it in 5th or 6th grade and quickly acquired all of the series that I could. Even then, in the '90s, the book was hopelessly out of date and a few of the lists had to be taken with a grain of salt but, as I did not yet have access to the internet, this was one of the finest sources of random trivia and bizarre facts available to me. I loved every page of it (with the exception, I suppose, of the chapter devoted to sports) and poured over each list, taking down notes and lists of my own. Divided into sections by topic, Crime, Literature, Nature, Art, etc., there were all sorts of tidbits to blow my eleven year old mind. I remember bringing them everywhere so as to be able to look up amusing facts for

friends and classmates at short notice, at one point dropping a copy into a mud puddle at recess and having to painstakingly dry the thick little paperback.

Compiled by a father, sibling team, the lists reflect the time period they were written, but have a witty, casual style and, in addition to lists of facts like the ten countries where the highest percent of men and women live to 85, there are lists consisting of the opinions of famous people such as the ten worst movies of all time (circa 1977). Whether it was the five most hated people in history (1970-1976), the nine dog breeds that bite the least, or fifteen authors who wrote best sellers in prison, I learned a lot (particularly in the section on sex). In the end, I feel that there was definitely an influence there on shaping my interest in organizing knowledge and sparking my eclectic, multidisciplinary interests in learning as much as I could.

Reading it today brought back this feeling of awe at the endless variety of weird stuff in the world throughout time, and I smiled as I remember being amazed or shocked by various facts that I now remember having been confirmed or questioned in my later education. The yellowed, slightly brittle pages still have that nice, slightly sweet tinge of a '70s era paperback, redolent of library book sales and middle school classrooms. The Books of Lists are probably entirely redundant now, what with new lists of bizarre, random amusing facts being posted by the hundreds daily on websites such as Cracked and BuzzFeed. How much influence have these books had on the other 20 and 30 somethings who make these online compilations? I wonder.

Nandakishore Varma says

My first introduction to lists. I thoroughly enjoyed it - been a list fan ever since.

Telans says

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Dave Jones says

I got this when I was still living in Kankakee. Very addictive reading on a multitude of subjects.

Jeff says

The ultimate bathroom book.

Matthew Thompson says

It was written in the 70s so its a little outdated. Some of the lists are very boring, but there is some interesting facts and stories.

Manny says

Lists. Dontcha love 'em? You've got an item, then another item, and then some more items! All the items are similar, but at the same time, hey, they're different. And they come in an order, which may or may not mean something. Wow.

I'm afraid I'm already running out of ideas for explaining why lists are so damn fascinating. Instead, in the spirit of this book, I thought I'd compile a list myself. So here's

A LIST OF ALL MY DIALOGUE/CONVERSATION REVIEWS

Alice talks to
the Mad Hatter and the March Hare
the King of Hearts

Rowan Atkinson (as Blackadder) talks to Hugh Laurie

Isaac Asimov talks to Isaac Asimov, Isaac Asimov, Isaac Asimov and Isaac Asimov

Mr Banks talks to The Older Mr Dawes

Michael Bay talks to Jerry Bruckheimer

Characters from *The Bent Sword* talk to each other

Simone de Beauvoir talks to her toyboy lover

Isabella Beeton talks to Leo Tolstoy

Biggles talks to Algie, Bertie and Ginger

James Bond talks to

M

Q's attractive assistant

Brad talks to Janet

Rupert Brooke talks to his Cambridge friends

Elizabeth Buchan talks to an angry friend

Susan Calvin talks to her boss

Candide talks to a journalist

Carrie talks to Charlotte, Miranda and Samantha

Cherubino from *The Marriage of Figaro* talks to a talk show host

John Cleese talks to a difficult customer

Steven R. Covey talks to his girlfriend

Several Culture Ships talk to each other

D'Artagnan and his friends talks to Edmond Dantès

Richard Dawkins talks to Pierre-Simon de Laplace and Georges Lemaître

A Richard Dawkins fan talks to a creationist

Arthur Dent talks to Trillian, Ford Prefect and Zaphod Beeblebrox

Albert Einstein talks to Robert Heinlein

Faust talks to Mephistopheles

Atticus Finch talks to an inquest into Hamlet's death

Frank Herbert talks to his publisher

George talks to his cool girlfriend about
The Amber Spyglass
The Blind Assassin
Bonk: The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex
Copenhagen
Paradise Lost
No Country for Old Men

Gertrude talks to herself

Hamlet talks to Charles Swann

The History Boys talk to Mr. Irwin

I talk to
Archy
The cast of *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*
Alice from *Go Ask Alice*
My blog
This girl in a bookshop
The Emperor Claudius (in Latin)
John Cleese
This cool Chinese academic
Don Corleone
Philip K. Dick (probably)
My dinner guests
The Dykes to Watch Out For
A concerned friend
A sane, well-meaning friend
A femme fatale from Pioneer Books
A fish
The angel Gabriel
My girlfriend, Einstein, Kristen Stewart etc
The Good Reads Club
The Good Reads Club (again)
The Good Reads Club (yet again)
A girl who wants to kill her stepmother
This girl I knew
A hot older chick and an evil ex (warning: contains graphic scenes of kissing)
In That Other Dimension
Jordan, mysteriously transmuted into an attractive boy
Immanuel Kant
Linda Lovelace's unquiet spirit
Lotaria (or possibly someone else)
A loved one
Stephenie Meyer
Thursday Next
Mr. Nosnepets from the 25th century
The girl from *Persona*

A reality TV host
Roderick the robot
Someone who thinks they can be more pedantic than I am
My subconscious (about Wittgenstein)
My subconscious (about *Die Kleine Hexe*)
Myself
Catherine Townsend
Catherine Townsend again
John Updike
Isadora Wing
a Young Earth Creationist

Spencer Johnson talks to Jesus

Joseph K talks to the man behind the curtain

Garry Kasparov talks to
Black Swan
Death

Rudyard Kipling talks to a Time Traveler

Grandmaster Kotronias talks to his publisher

Krapp talks to himself

Lili talks to Max

Harry Lime talks to *L'histoire de la Suisse pour les nuls*

Lazarus Long talks to Goodreads

Manuela talks to her hot French flatmate

Michel from *Paris au XXème siècle* talks to an old scientist dude

Le petit Nicolas talks to Max et Lili

Roland Omnes talks to *Divergent*

A Patrick Lapeyre fan talks to his lover

The Little Prince talks to
Paul Davies
a Quiz Addict

Philip Pullman talks to Jesus

Macbeth talks to Sherlock Holmes

William Paley talks to the 21st century

Mary Poppins talks to
Isabella Beeton
Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy

Montag from *Fahrenheit 451* talks to a chess analyst

Michael Moorcock talks to a friend

Evadne Mount talks to Gilbert Adair

A movie producer talks to
Woody Allen
Jean-Paul Dubois

Paul Muad'Dib talks to a guy in a bar

Friedrich Nietzsche talks to Philip E. High

O'Brien from *1984* talks to Humpty Dumpty

Robert Pattinson talks to a French movie director (through an interpreter)

Pericles talks to the rest of the cast

Two Pynchon fans talk to each other

A young philosopher talks to his English teacher about
Whom God Would Destroy
Gray Matters

Jemima Puddleduck talks to a foxy gentleman

Jessica Q. Rabbit talks to the Toon Town Times

Raymond Radiguet talks to the Sassy Gay Friend

Ayn Rand talks to Eugene O'Neill

A reluctant Margaret Atwood fan talks to his wife about
The Robber Bride
Wilderness Tips

Archancellor Ridcully talks to his colleagues at Unseen University

Salviati talks to Simplicio and Sagredo

Several fans of *Report on Probability A* talk to each other

A Roman Games Sports Commentator talks to his audience

Winston Smith talks to a senior member of the Inner Party

Snowman talks to the Crakers

Socrates talks to Oscar Wilde

A Surrealist Boxing Commentator talks to his audience

Tabitha from *The Riddler's Gift* talks to J.R.R. Tolkien

Two people who liked *Sperm Wars* talk to each other

The Them talk to each other

A Twilight Marketeer talks to a focus group subject

Jules Verne talks to Marcel Proust

Vladimir talks to Estragon, Pozzo and Lucky

R.E. Vuer talks to this hot Swedish chick

Hermann Weyl talks to his second wife

The Walrus and the Carpenter talk to *1984*

Winnie-the-Pooh talks to

Christopher Robin

Goodreads

A Hostile Reviewer

Vikki Blows

Yossarian talks to Milo Minderbinder

Zippy the Pinhead talks to Ferric Jagger, Tarzan, Doc Savage and two velociraptors

Azeem says

Very Interesting read... though I did not have to verify many of the facts at the time I first read it. Now, I realize that many of the facts presented herein are eminently challenge-able. I own Book of Lists 2 and Book of Lists 3 too. Lots of categories, lots of topics, lots of diversion. I will not recommend it as a reference book but it is very readable (that's why it gets four stars). The Wallace family obviously put a lot of effort in compiling this book and many of the lists are actually quite helpful.

Simon says

This was great! Better than I thought it would be. Whoever added this book to Goodreads got the page numbers wrong. There is way more than the posted amount. I was at one point 124% done the book and I still had two chapters left. :P

This book is just plainly, very interesting and it is amazing what you can learn from a book like this. Entertaining and informative. I just wonder where they get the idea to create a book like this.

Jason Yarborough says

My parents had nearly the whole series. I probably read these books ten times each when I was eight years old. It's the foundation of all my trivia knowledge...

Astraia says

Something for everyone in here. If you like trivia- you will love this. Sex, drugs and more.
