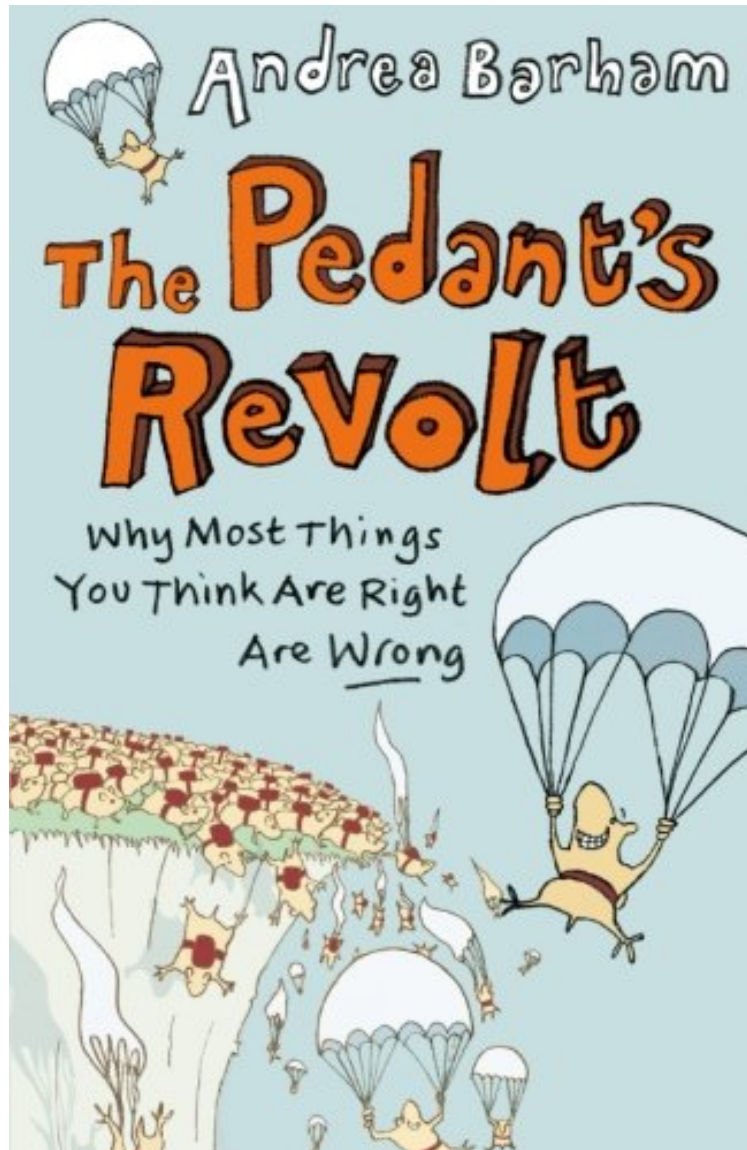


(Ebook pdf) The Pedant's Revolt: Why Most Things You Think Are Right Are Wrong

The Pedant's Revolt: Why Most Things You Think Are Right Are Wrong

Andrea Barham

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Andrea Barham : The Pedant's Revolt: Why Most Things You Think Are Right Are Wrong before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pedant's Revolt: Why Most Things You Think Are Right Are Wrong:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun, funBy CustomerEverything it says it is, everything it ought to

be. Fun, fun, fun. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. People Don't Know This? By Timothy Haugh In The Pedant's Revolt, Ms. Barham wants to explain to us why most things we think are right are wrong. The problem is, many of the wrongs righted here are things a person of average education should know already. Do most people really think Harpo Marx was really mute? Or that George Washington really admitted to chopping down a cherry tree as a boy? Or that Conan Doyle has Holmes say "Elementary, my dear Watson."? In fact, I was surprised at how many of the things she mentions here I actually teach to my high school students: that no educated person in Columbus' time believed that the earth was flat, that "wherefore art thou, Romeo" is not about wondering where he is, that Lincoln was not an abolitionist, that "it's" means "it is", for a few examples. I could go on, but I hope I've made my point. And then there's the problem of splitting hairs. Some of Ms. Barham's corrections seem to really be putting a fine point on things. After quoting Paul in Acts of the Apostles quoting Jesus as saying "It is more blessed to give than to receive" she says there is no reference to Jesus actually saying this in the Bible (though Acts is part of the Bible). She points out that in Hamlet the quote is "The lady doth protest too much, methinks" instead of "Methinks the lady doth protest too much". True, but worth an entry? To be fair, I did learn some things I did not know before. I didn't know, for example, that for safety sake, most cowboys in the old west only loaded five bullets in their six shooters. I didn't know that Lizzie Borden (or nursery rhyme fame) was acquitted of the famous murder. I didn't know that milk is actually not good for cats. These are all things I am happy to know now. In fact, this book is a short one and not without some pleasures. The fact that I've put so much thought into so many of the entries--even the ones I know--shows that there is quite a lot of interest here. Certainly, it would be a good corrective to people that actually believe some of these things. Though, somehow, I don't think these are people who are reading books anyway. But the next time someone tries to claim that Nero fiddled while Rome burned, it's nice to know the truth of the matter is right here.

Irreverent, smart, and obscenely entertaining, this book shatters the myths, misconceptions, fallacies, and falsehoods about all the things people think they know Lead pencils can give you lead poisoning . . . Newton discovered gravity when an apple fell on his head . . . One dog year equals seven human years . . . Marie Antoinette said Let them eat cake! . . . Fact or fiction? Pedants, revolt! In chapters literary, medical, grammatical, historical, scientific, and biblical, this book sets the record straight on the facts behind the fallacies that have somehow become accepted wisdom. From insects to food, grooming to Greeks, the animal kingdom to assassinations, Harpo Marx to Shakespeare, and questionable quotes such as Its all Greek to me, this remarkable book reveals the often surprising origins of the legends and folklore we mistake for the gospel truth and teaches you to think twice before repeating them. Covering a range of diverse topics, this is the ultimate go-to book for settling many an unresolved dispute, shedding light on a wide variety of facts that we have always believed to be true, but which are, in fact, completely false.

From Publishers Weekly Barham, a technical writer with four previous titles published in the UK, here debunks the tenacious pieces of folk wisdom that remain rooted in our collective consciousness: Ostriches, it turns out, do not bury their heads in the sand, and feeding milk to kittens is not good for them. One should not "starve a fever." "Elementary, my dear Watson," is spoken in almost every film featuring Sherlock Holmes, yet doesn't appear in any of the Holmes works by Arthur Conan Doyle. (In truth, the line was used by a film reviewer writing for the New York Times in October 1929.) Barham's concise righting of wrongs are organized into "Customs and Beliefs," "Historical Figures," "Sayings" and 18 other headings. They will have a whimsically rectitudinous appeal for some, but others may feel that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing--or as Alexander Pope, the English poet and satirist, really said: "a little learning is a dangerous thing." Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.