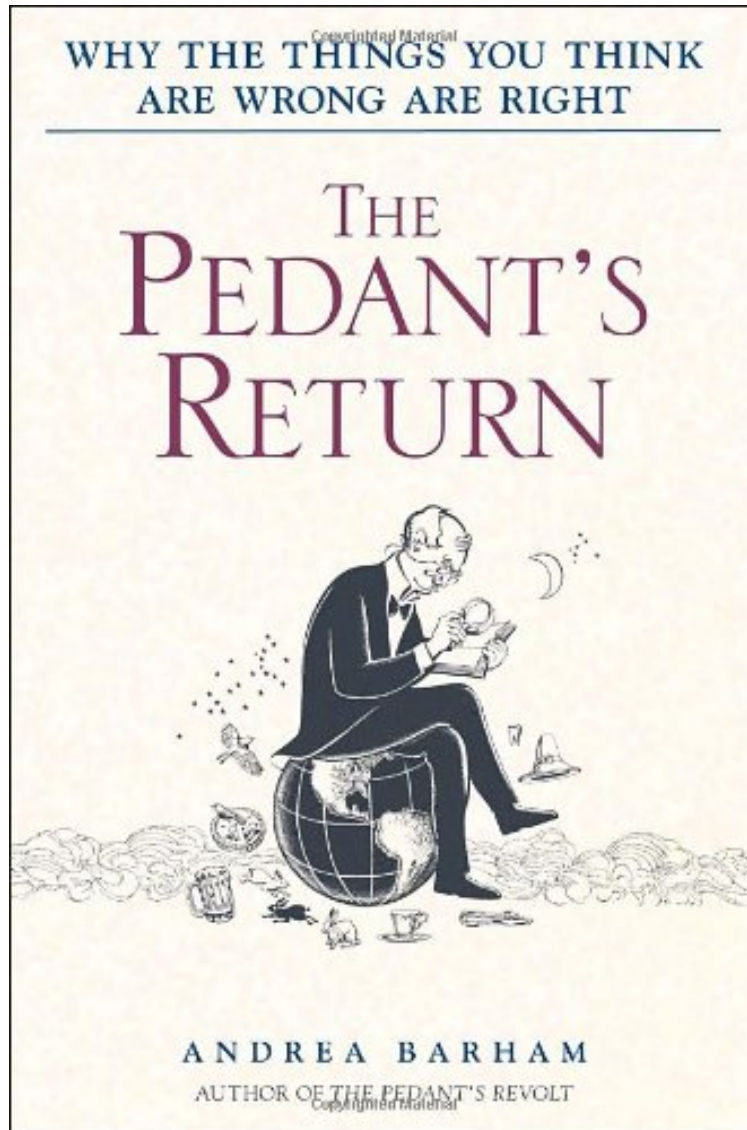


[PDF] The Pedant's Return: Why the Things You Think Are Wrong Are Right

The Pedant's Return: Why the Things You Think Are Wrong Are Right

Andrea Barham

ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#6300880 in Books 2007-08-28 2007-08-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.81 x .71 x 5.27l, .55 #File Name: 0553384910176 pages | File size: 54.Mb

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

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. People Don't Know This? Part 2By Timothy HaughIn The Pedant's Return, Ms. Barham turns her original project around. Instead of telling us why the things we think are right are wrong

as she did in *The Pedant's Revolt*, in this one she wants to tell us why the things we think are wrong are right. It might seem like an important difference but, to judge by the two books, it's essentially the same project suffering from the same weaknesses. My biggest problem remains the same: that the facts Ms. Barham shares with us are things a person of average education should know. That's not to say that there isn't the occasional surprise, but not as many as you might hope. That said, its strengths are the same as well. It's a short, well-written book that is easy to read through quite quickly. And there are enough interesting tidbits to keep you going. Still, since the people who need to be reading this probably aren't, I have to wonder what the point is.

In *The Pedants Revolt* you learned that you were wrong about everything you thought was right. Now the Pedant returns with a twist. *The Pedants Return* is an addictive collection of outlandish assertions that are so absurd they must be true. Prepare to discover that you're wrong about, well, even the things you think are wrong. Apple seeds are poisonous? An electric eel can actually electrocute you? The S in Harry S. Truman doesn't stand for anything? Everyone knows those are old wives' tales or are they? Luckily the Pedant has returned to rescue you from your ignorance and to explain to you why: Eating too many carrots can turn you orange. Bone china contains actual bones. Men have a higher pain threshold than women. Charles Darwin married his first cousin. A beer shortage caused the Pilgrims' early landing at Plymouth. Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, had a genital piercing. A citizen's arrest is legal. From the entertainment industry to the Bible, food and drink to medical matters, royalty to birds and insects, *The Pedants Return* sets the record straight about everything you thought you knew. Prepare to be fascinated and flabbergasted at just how wrong you've been all along!

From Publishers Weekly: In 2006's *The Pedant's Revolt*, Barham focused on the false information and bad advice in well-known folk wisdom ("starve a cold," one human year equals seven dog years, etc.), but in this follow-up she takes the opposite tack, examining old wives' tales and famously outlandish anecdotes that are actually true. She tackles literature, nature, food, history, medicine and famous figures, among other topics, putting the facts to stories like Virginia Woolf's affinity for writing while standing up (in emulation of her older sister, a painter). Other stories, like the origin of Saint Nicolas's gift-giving tradition, get shocking makeovers: as it turns out, the jolly fat man began his career by buying children out of prostitution. Surprisingly true legends also include the skin-coloring effects of eating too many carrots, the absence of the resurrection in the original version of Saint Mark's gospel and the fact that the "S" in Harry S. Truman doesn't stand for anything. Imminently browsable, this volume should provide the trivially inclined with lots of fun (and perhaps some late nights worrying, for instance, about bugs living in one's inner ear). Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Imminently browsable ... should provide the trivially inclined with lots of fun. Publishers Weekly: About the Author: Andrea Barham is the author of *The Pedants Revolt*, and is a technical writer in the U.K. While she is a big fan of the world, she feels that there should be less wrongness and more rightness in it. Painfully aware of her inability to correct the bigger issues such as war, poverty, and global warming, she is concentrating on smaller issues more suited to her skills, which consist of looking stuff up. By correcting common misconceptions such as the belief that your heart stops when you sneeze, she is hoping to create a domino effect and that eventually all wrongs will be righted, though she is not holding her breath (which, incidentally, you cannot die from). *The Pedants Return* is her sixth book.