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## Online Library What I Do More True Tales Of Everyday Crazyiness

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**KEY=OF - AVILA JOHANNA**

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### Out of the Ordinary

### True Tales of Everyday Crazyiness

Pan Macmillan Jon Ronson's subjects have included people who believe that goats can be killed by the power of a really hard stare, and people who believe that the world is ruled by twelve-foot lizard-men. In *Out of the Ordinary*, a collection of his journalism from the Guardian, he turns his attention to irrational beliefs much closer to home, investigating the ways in which we sometimes manage to convince ourselves that all manner of lunacy makes perfect sense - mainstream, domestic, ordinary insanity. Whether he finds himself promising his son that he will be at his side for ever, dressed in a Santa costume, or trying to understand why hundreds of apparently normal people would suddenly start speaking in tongues in a Scout hut in Kidderminster, he demonstrates repeatedly how we all succumb to deeply irrational beliefs that grow to inform our everyday existence. *Out of the Ordinary* is Jon Ronson at his inimitable best: hilarious, thought-provoking and with an unerring eye for human frailty - not least his own. Praise for *The Men Who Stare at Goats*: 'Not only a narcotic road trip through the wackier reaches of Bush's war effort, but also an unmissable account of some of the insanity that has lately been done in our names' *Observer* Praise for *Them: Adventures with Extremists*: 'A funny and compulsively readable picaresque adventure through a paranoid shadow world' Louis Theroux, *Guardian*

### Expat

### Women's True Tales of Life Abroad

Seal Press It's one thing to travel abroad—to stay in charming hotels and deliberate over whether to visit this museum or relax at that café, even to head off the beaten track for a glimpse of "real" life—and another thing altogether to move to another country. *Expat* chronicles the experiences of twenty-two ordinary women living extraordinary lives in outposts as far flung as Borneo, Ukraine, India, Greece, Brazil, China and the Czech Republic. In vivid detail, these writers share how the realities of life abroad match up to the expat fantasy. One woman negotiates the rough courtesies of Serbia, finding lives limned by harshness and an insurmountable spirit. Another is tutored on English manners by an eclectic bunch from Liverpool: "The cardinal sin in America is to be insincere, whereas the cardinal sin in England is to be boring." For some, their new home prompts them to reconnect or confront lost parts of themselves: One woman rediscovers her Judaism—in Japan; another writer's Western outlook is challenged by Javanese mysticism. Many share their own naïve blunders and private confessions: a Thanksgiving dinner that doesn't translate in Paris, a sudden yearning for bad Hollywood films. And all discover that what it means to be "American" is redefined, again and again. *Expat* taps into the bewilderment, the joys and surprises of life overseas, where the challenges often take unexpected forms and the obstacles overcome are all the more triumphant. Featuring an astonishing range of perspectives, destinations and circumstances, this collection offers a beautiful portrait of expatriate life.

### True Tales of Old-time Kansas

'Rollicking, adventurous, touching. Whether the reader invests only a few minutes at a time or finishes the book at one sitting, he is in for a lot of fun.' - *American West* 'Fascinating tales set down succinctly and excitingly. There are stories of lost treasure and sudden riches, of outlaws and sheriffs, of massacres and heroics.' - *Kansas City Times* 'A fun book. Where else but in the frontier West were such stories really lived?' - Richard Bartlett, author of *Great Surveys of the American West* and *The New Country: A Social History of the American Frontier*

### True Tales from Another Mexico

# The Lynch Mob, the Popsicle Kings, Chalino, and the Bronx

UNM Press Stories of life in modern Mexico reveals the spirit, drama, and humor of surviving daily life in and around Mexico's system of political, economic, and social organizations.

## What I Do

**Picador In What I Do: More True Tales of Everyday Crazyiness**, the second volume of Jon Ronson's collected Guardian journalism, he hilariously demonstrates how our everyday lives are determined by the craziest thoughts and obsessions; how we spend our time believing in and getting worked up by complete nonsense. But also, as he chillingly demonstrates, there are clever people working in the highest echelons of business who are employed to spot, nurture and exploit the irrationalities of those among us who can barely cope as it is. In part one, read about the time Jon inadvertently made a lewd gesture to a passing fourteen-year-old girl late at night in the lobby of a country-house hotel. And about his burgeoning obsession with a new neighbour who refused to ask him what he did for a living, despite Jon's constant dropping of intriguing hints. And about the embarrassment of being caught recycling small talk at a party. In part two, read some of Jon's longer stories, which explore manifestations of insanity in the wider world: the tiny town of North Pole, Alaska, where it's Christmas 365 days of the year; behind the scenes at Deal or No Deal, which Jon likens to a cult with Noel Edmonds as its high priest; a meeting with TV hypnotist Paul McKenna, who has joined forces with a self-help guru who once stood trial for murder - but can they cure Jon of his one big phobia? As hilarious as it is perturbing, Jon Ronson's new collection is a treat for everyone who has ever suspected themselves to be at the mercy of forces they can barely comprehend.

## Frank

### The True Story That Inspired the Movie

**Penguin** From the bestselling author of *The Psychopath Test* comes a characteristically humorous story of a musician on the margins. In *Frank: The True Story that Inspired the Movie*, Jon Ronson reflects on his days playing keyboard for the Frank Sidebottom Oh Blimey Big Band. Frank Sidebottom, best known for performing with a big fake head with a cartoon face painted on it, was a cult favorite in the United Kingdom and is the subject of the new movie *Frank*, co-written by Ronson and starring Michael Fassbender, Maggie Gyllenhaal, and Domhnall Gleeson.

### A Reader's Book of Days: True Tales from the Lives and Works of Writers for Every Day of the Year

**W. W. Norton & Company** A witty and addictively readable day-by-day literary companion. At once a love letter to literature and a charming guide to the books most worth reading, *A Reader's Book of Days* features bite-size accounts of events in the lives of great authors for every day of the year. Here is Marcel Proust starting *In Search of Lost Time* and Virginia Woolf scribbling in the margin of her own writing, "Is it nonsense, or is it brilliance?" Fictional events that take place within beloved books are also included: the birth of Harry Potter's enemy Draco Malfoy, the blood-soaked prom in Stephen King's *Carrie*. *A Reader's Book of Days* is filled with memorable and surprising tales from the lives and works of Martin Amis, Jane Austen, James Baldwin, Roberto Bolano, the Brontë sisters, Junot Díaz, Philip K. Dick, Charles Dickens, Joan Didion, F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Keats, Hilary Mantel, Haruki Murakami, Flannery O'Connor, Orhan Pamuk, George Plimpton, Marilynne Robinson, W. G. Sebald, Dr. Seuss, Zadie Smith, Susan Sontag, Hunter S. Thompson, Leo Tolstoy, David Foster Wallace, and many more. The book also notes the days on which famous authors were born and died; it includes lists of recommended reading for every month of the year as well as snippets from book reviews as they appeared across literary history; and throughout there are wry illustrations by acclaimed artist Joanna Neborsky. Brimming with nearly 2,000 stories, *A Reader's Book of Days* will have readers of every stripe reaching for their favorite books and discovering new ones.

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## True Tales of Puget Sound

**Arcadia Publishing** From the shores of Gig Harbor to the slopes of Mount Rainier, the towns surrounding Puget Sound all have incredible stories to share. How did Old Fort Nisqually, now perched on a lofty bluff above Tacoma, move twenty-two miles from its original 1843 site in DuPont? Did Eatonville's copper-infused paint inspire the phrase "painting the town red"? Read about the famed Pie Goddess of Enumclaw and about a cookbook compiled by Emma Smith DeVoe of Parkland that included helpful tips from suffragettes. Join author Dorothy Wilhelm, of the television show *My Home Town*, as she explores these beloved town tales and uncovers the rest of the story.

## Hey Ranger 2

## More True Tales of Humor & Misadventure from the Great Outdoors

**Taylor Trade Publications** In this sequel to the wildly successful *Hey Ranger: True Tales of Humor and Misadventure from America's National Parks*, former ranger Jim Burnett casts his net globally in search of the most outrageous and humorous stories of man in his eternal quest to experience the natural world. Burnett tells of campers being belted by mysterious objects falling from the sky, like potatoes and ice cream; wildlife photos that went awry, including a ground squirrel that outwits a photographer; dumb crooks in parks, such as the drunk driver who mistakenly knocked on a judge's door to report an accident; and drivers who went over the hill and into the woods instead of to Grandma's house. Burnett also assembles contenders for the strangest questions ever asked of a park ranger, lessons on how not to pick a campsite, life lessons you can learn from a canoe trip, as well as some classic bear stories. As always, Burnett's stories are meant to inform as well as entertain, and serve as cautionary tales on how not to become "a victim of your vacation." Told in Burnett's classic, conversational style, *Hey Ranger 2* will not disappoint.

## Strange But True Tales of Car Collecting

## Drowned Bugattis, Buried Belvederes, Felonious Ferraris and Other Wild Stories of Automotive Misadventure

**Quarto Publishing Group USA** These bizarre true stories of collectors and their cars is "a whole lot of fun" (*The Virginian Pilot*). Have you heard of the fellow who squirreled away dozens of Chevilles, Camaros, and other classic muscle cars in semi-trailers? How about the president of Shakespeare fishing rods, who sold thirty Bugattis for a mere \$85,000? What about the English nobleman who cut up and buried his Ferrari hoard in an elaborate insurance scam? Or how about the Duesenberg abandoned in a Manhattan parking garage for decades only to be uncovered by Jay Leno? Most car collectors exhibit a healthy enthusiasm for their hobby by digging into their favorite marques, chasing parts, swapping stories, and generally living the car-guy lifestyle. Some, however, step over that fine line between enthusiasm and obsession—and that's where these legendary car-collector stories come from. In *Strange but True Tales of Car Collecting*, Keith Martin and the staff of *Sports Car Market Magazine* recount the wildest, most eccentric, over-the-top stories of collectors and their collections. "This likable book serves as a 'Ripley's Believe It or Not!' for car obsessives." —*The New York Times*

## Hey Ranger!

## True Tales of Humor and Misadventure from America's National Parks

**Taylor Trade Publications** In his thirty years with the National Park Service, Jim Burnett has seen it all: boat ramp mishaps that have sent cars into the water; skunks in the outhouse and bears at the dumpster; visitors looking for the bridge over the Grand Canyon.

## True Tales of Lust and Love

**Catapult** Anna David's *True Tales of Lust and Love* began as a one-time-only reading and storytelling show in January of 2012, a venue for writers and comedians to share and laugh at their dating disaster stories. But after selling out the venue and attracting immediate press and buzz—with articles in *The LA Weekly*, *LA Times*, *Time Out*, *Flavorpill*, and *LAist*, among others—David agreed to produce the show every month. It has continued not only to sell out but also to attract a growing list of authors, comedians, and Hollywood writers. As *Time Out* declared, "This is the place to go to

see strong female performers.” With the show now booked indefinitely, and with audio recordings of each performance available on iTunes, Anna has collected the most popular and entertaining pieces into the first ever True Tales of Lust and Love anthology. The book includes essays organized into three sections—Casual Sex, Dating, and Out of the Ordinary—which collectively offer up funny, raucous, insightful, and surprisingly touching confessions about the quest for lust and love. Everyone has dating disaster stories, everyone needs to share and laugh at them, and this anthology will give readers the opportunity to do just that, with contributions from the funniest writers and comedians around, pulled from the world of books, TV, and film. True Tales of Lust and Love is the perfect complement for a funny or cynical Valentine’s Day—and beyond.

## Ouija Board Nightmares 2: More True Tales of Terror

**Desert Hills Publishing** The long awaited sequel is here! This all-new volume of true stories takes up where the original Ouija Board Nightmares left off—with even more chilling tales, extraordinary events, and urgent warnings. Containing nearly 60 stories of Ouija board sessions gone terribly wrong, this book offers something for everyone: paranormal enthusiasts, horror fans, thrill seekers, or even concerned parents and friends. From the Table of Contents: Strange Events Menacing Messages Creepy Coincidences Infernal Intruders Fiendish Attacks Oppressions and Obsessions Zozo: The Ouija Board Demon Friends and Fiends on Fire Island A Family’s Nightmare - The Story Behind Veronica When the Author of The Exorcist Tried Out a Ouija Board Interest in the occult is at an all-time high, and that means more people than ever are turning to Ouija boards to explore the world beyond this one. The problem is, the Ouija board is a magnet for attracting any and all dwellers of that world—human and demonic—and an invitation to those spirits to cross into the human realm. Can this ever be a good thing? The victims whose stories are told in Ouija Board Nightmares 2, and the experts cited throughout the book, would resoundingly answer no. These accounts are fascinating and provocative, but with them comes a warning: Ouija boards are dangerous and the entities they attract can make your life, and the lives of those around you, a living hell. Read them with your mind open, your eyes clear—and your lights on.

## The Least of Us

## True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth

**Bloomsbury Publishing USA** From the New York Times bestselling author of Dreamland, a searing follow-up that explores the terrifying next stages of the opioid epidemic and the quiet yet ardent stories of community repair. Sam Quinones traveled from Mexico to main streets across the U.S. to create Dreamland, a groundbreaking portrait of the opioid epidemic that awakened the nation. As the nation struggled to put back the pieces, Quinones was among the first to see the dangers that lay ahead: synthetic drugs and a new generation of kingpins whose product could be made in Magic Bullet blenders. In fentanyl, traffickers landed a painkiller a hundred times more powerful than morphine. They laced it into cocaine, meth, and counterfeit pills to cause tens of thousands of deaths—at the same time as Mexican traffickers made methamphetamine cheaper and more potent than ever, creating, Sam argues, swaths of mental illness and a surge in homelessness across the United States. Quinones hit the road to investigate these new threats, discovering how addiction is exacerbated by consumer-product corporations. “In a time when drug traffickers act like corporations and corporations like traffickers,” he writes, “our best defense, perhaps our only defense, lies in bolstering community.” Amid a landscape of despair, Quinones found hope in those embracing the forgotten and ignored, illuminating the striking truth that we are only as strong as our most vulnerable. Weaving analysis of the drug trade into stories of humble communities, The Least of Us delivers an unexpected and awe-inspiring response to the call that shocked the nation in Sam Quinones’s award-winning Dreamland.

## Happily Ali After

## An Other Fairly True Tales

**HarperCollins** “Hilarious. . . . Her glass isn’t half full—it’s ‘empty and cracked.’”—Entertainment Weekly (the Must List) Moved by a particularly inspirational tweet one day, Ali Wentworth resolves to live by the pithy maxims she discovers in her feeds. What begins as a sort of self-help project quickly turns into something far grander—and increasingly funnier—as the tweets she once viewed with irony become filled with growing metaphysical importance. And thus begins her “Unhappiness Project.” It’s not all that long before Ali expands her self-improvement quest to include parenting, relationships, fitness (or lack thereof), and dieting advice. The results are painfully (at times literally) clear: when it comes to self-help, sometimes you should leave it to the professionals. “Razor-sharp.”—Cosmopolitan “Irresistible. . . . Sharply observant and incisively funny.”—Library Journal

## The Roommates

### True Tales of Friendship, Rivalry, Romance, and Disturbingly Close Quarters

**Picador THE SECOND ENTRY IN THE PICADOR TRUE TALES SERIES: ONE OF LIFE'S TRICKIEST RITES OF PASSAGE COLLECTED INTO AN UNFORGETTABLE VOLUME OF STORIES** The fraught relationship between roommates is a true cultural obsession. Shows like *Friends*, *The Golden Girls*, *The Odd Couple*, and *New Girl* have held us rapt for decades, simultaneously delighting and disconcerting us with their depictions of mismatched couples' cringe-worthy awkwardness and against-all-odds friendship. Maybe it's that uniquely unnatural experience of living with a total stranger that ignites our curiosity, or just that almost all of us, for better or worse, have had one of our own. In Stephanie Wu's *The Roommates*, people of all ages reveal their disastrous, hilarious, and sometimes moving stories of making their best friend for life or lifelong nemesis. Learn what it's like to share a room in places as unusual as a thirty-person beach house, a billionaire's yacht, a reality show mansion, and a retirement hotel, and those as familiar as sleepaway camps, boarding schools, and college dorms. Put down your roommate's dirty dishes and passive-aggressive Post-it's for this eye-opening glimpse into how people live together in the modern age. You'll meet: *The Amateur Taxidermist* · *The Alcoholic Genius* · *The Kleptomaniac* · *The Rent Stiffer* · *The Naked Nanna* · *The Serial Roommate* · *The Top Chef* · *The Recovered Addict* · *The Russian Missionary* · *The Obsessive Lesbian* · *The Impersonator* · *The Party Poopers...and many more!*

## Kid Activists

### True Tales of Childhood from Champions of Change

**Quirk Books Moving, relatable, and totally true childhood biographies of Martin Luther King Jr., Susan B. Anthony, Helen Keller, Malala Yousafzai, and 12 other inspiring activists.** Every activist started out as a kid—and in some cases they were kids when their activism began! But even the world's greatest champions of civil liberties had relatable interests and problems--often in the middle of extraordinary circumstances. Martin Luther King, Jr. loved fashion, and argued with his dad about whether or not dancing was a sin. Harvey Milk had a passion for listening to opera music in different languages. Dolores Huerta was once wrongly accused of plagiarizing in school. *Kid Activists* tells these childhood stories and more through kid-friendly texts and full-color cartoon illustrations on nearly every page. The diverse and inclusive group encompasses Susan B. Anthony, James Baldwin, Ruby Bridges, Frederick Douglass, Alexander Hamilton, Dolores Huerta, Helen Keller, Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Iqbal Masih, Harvey Milk, Janet Mock, Rosa Parks, Autumn Peltier, Emma Watson, and Malala Yousafzai.

## More True Tales of the Paranormal

### Ghosts, Poltergeists, Near-Death Experiences and Other Mysterious Events

**Dundurn** From phone calls from the dead to various forms of hauntings, this fascinating collection of true paranormal accounts written by a researcher and scientist documents the experiences people from all walks of life have had with the supernatural.

## A Bad Idea I'm about to Do

### True Tales of Seriously Poor Judgment and Stunningly Awkward Adventure

The author recounts awkward encounters and embarrassing experiences that he had both while growing up in New Jersey and as an adult.

## Stories for Boys Who Dare to Be Different 2

## Even More True Tales of Amazing Boys Who Changed the World

Running Press Kids Boys can be anything they want to be! In this sequel to the New York Times bestseller *Stories for Boys Who Dare to Be Different*, Ben Brooks introduces seventy-six more boys and men who will inspire young readers to live boldly and true to themselves. What do environmental activist Xiuhtezcatl Martinez, philosopher Socrates, and singer Ed Sheeran all have in common? Each of them defied expectations -- going against the grain and pursuing their dreams despite a seemingly impossible barrage of obstacles and difficulties. Their stories are incredible, as are those of tap dancer Evan Ruggiero, Pokémon creator Satoshi Tajiri, the brave Chernobyl Divers, and the other inspirational boys who fill the pages of this extraordinary book. Together, their stories offer young boys the welcome alternative message that masculinity can mean many things -- that it's okay to be sensitive, to be bold, and to follow their hearts.

## Kid Presidents

### True Tales of Childhood from America's Presidents

Quirk Books Hilarious childhood biographies and full-color illustrations show how George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Barack Obama, and other presidents-to-be faced kid-sized problems growing up in America. Every president started out as a kid! Forget the legends, tall tales, and historic achievements—before they were presidents, the future leaders of the United States had regular-kid problems just like you. John F. Kennedy hated his big brother. Lyndon Johnson pulled pranks in class. Barack Obama was bothered by bullies. And Bill Clinton was crazy clumsy (he once broke his leg jumping rope). *Kid Presidents* tells all of their stories and more with full-color cartoon illustrations on every page. History has never been this much fun!

## Kid Artists

### True Tales of Childhood from Creative Legends

Quirk Books Hilarious childhood biographies and full-color illustrations reveal how Leonardo da Vinci, Beatrix Potter, Keith Haring, and other great artists in history coped with regular-kid problems. Every great artist started out as a kid. Forget the awards, the sold-out museum exhibitions, and the timeless masterpieces. When the world's most celebrated artists were growing up, they had regular-kid problems just like you. Jackson Pollock's family moved constantly—he lived in eight different cities before he was sixteen years old. Georgia O'Keeffe lived in the shadow of her "perfect" older brother Francis. And Jean-Michel Basquiat triumphed over poverty to become one of the world's most influential artists. *Kid Artists* tells their stories and more with full-color cartoon illustrations on nearly every page. Other subjects include Claude Monet, Jacob Lawrence, Leonardo da Vinci, Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Frida Kahlo, Beatrix Potter, Yoko Ono, Dr. Seuss, Emily Carr, Keith Haring, Charles Schulz, and Louise Nevelson.

## Stories for Kids Who Dare to Be Different

### True Tales of Amazing People Who Stood Up and Stood Out

Running Press Kids Boys will be boys and girls will be girls? Not in this book. The follow-up to Ben Brooks's New York Times bestselling *Stories for Boys Who Dare to Be Different*, this book offers more extraordinary true stories of amazing people who broke the mold and changed the world for the better. The resulting message? Be yourself, and your dreams might come true. With the help of Quinton Winter's striking full-color illustrations, Brooks offers an accessible compilation of 76 famous and not-so-famous influencers from the past to the present day, every single one of them a rule-breaker and stereotype-smasher in his or her own way. Entries include Emma Gonzalez, Andy Warhol, Bjork, Hans Christian Andersen, Sally Ride, and so many more -- heroes from all walks of life and from all over the world.

## The Men Who Stare at Goats

Simon and Schuster Bizarre military history: In 1979, a crack commando unit was established by the most gifted minds within the U.S. Army. Defying all known laws of physics and accepted military practice, they believed that a soldier could adopt the cloak of invisibility, pass cleanly through walls, and—perhaps most chillingly—kill goats just by staring at them. They were the First Earth Battalion, entrusted with defending America from all known adversaries. And they really weren't joking. What's more, they're back—and they're fighting the War on Terror. An uproarious exploration of American military paranoia: With investigations ranging from the mysterious "Goat Lab," to Uri Geller's covert psychic

work with the CIA, to the increasingly bizarre role played by a succession of U.S. presidents, this might just be the funniest, most unsettling book you will ever read—if only because it is all true and is still happening today.

## More True Tales of Old-time Kansas

'Swift-moving tales, always readable, often captivating. Dary is ever the master of narrative. This is a contribution to the literary heritage of the state.' -Thomas Isern, coauthor of Plainsfolk

## Kid Athletes

## True Tales of Childhood from Sports Legends

Quirk Books Hilarious childhood biographies and full-color illustrations show how Tiger Woods, Gabby Douglas, Bruce Lee, Billie Jean King, and other budding sports champions faced kid-sized challenges growing up. Forget the gold medals, the championships, and the undefeated seasons. When all-star athletes were growing up, they had regular-kid problems just like you. Baseball legend Babe Ruth was such a troublemaker, his family sent him to reform school. Race car champion Danica Patrick fended off bullies who told her “girls can’t drive.” And football superstar Peyton Manning was forced to dance the tango in his school play. Kid Athletes tells all of their stories and more with full-color cartoon illustrations on every page. Other subjects include Billie Jean King, Jackie Robinson, Yao Ming, Gabby Douglas, Tiger Woods, Julie Krone, Bruce Lee, Muhammad Ali, Bobby Orr, Lionel Messi, and more!

## Lost at Sea

## The Jon Ronson Mysteries

Riverhead Trade (Paperbacks) Profiles the eccentricities of contemporary culture and the strange things in which people believe, in an investigation of such topics as indigo children, the Insane Clown Posse's juggalo fans, and assisted suicide practitioners.

## The Psychopath Test

## A Journey Through the Madness Industry

Picador USA The new Sunday Times top-ten bestseller from the author of *The Men Who Stare at Goats*

## The Stories Behind the Stories

## The Remarkable True Tales Behind Your Favorite Kid's Books

BUSHEL PECK Did you know that J.K. Rowling came up with Harry Potter while waiting for a delayed train? Or that Winnie the Pooh was inspired by a real bear who lived in the London Zoo? Or that Dav Pilkey's teacher once ripped up his drawings as a kid and told him he'd never make a living making silly comics? (Maybe we should introduce her to Captain Underpants.) In *The Stories Behind the Stories*, you'll hear all these incredible stories about your favorite kid's books and authors and much more! Includes full-color illustrations plus other fascinating facts and tidbits to satisfy even the most curious reader.

## Desert Oracle

## Volume 1: Strange True Tales from the American Southwest

MCD The cult-y pocket-size field guide to the strange and intriguing secrets of the Mojave—its myths and legends, outcasts and oddballs, flora, fauna, and UFOs—becomes the definitive, oracular book of the desert For the past five years, *Desert Oracle* has existed as a quasi-mythical, quarterly periodical available to the very determined only by subscription or at the odd desert-town gas station or the occasional hipster boutique, its canary-yellow-covered, forty-four-page issues handed from one curious desert zealot to the next, word spreading faster than the printers could keep up with. It became a radio show, a podcast, a live performance. Now, for the first time—and including both classic and new, never-before-seen revelations—*Desert Oracle* has been bound between two hard covers and is available to you. Straight out of Joshua Tree, California, *Desert Oracle* is “The Voice of the Desert”: a field guide to the strange

tales, singing sand dunes, sagebrush trails, artists and aliens, authors and oddballs, ghost towns and modern legends, musicians and mystics, scorpions and saguaros, out there in the sand. *Desert Oracle* is your companion at a roadside diner, around a campfire, in your tent or cabin (or high-rise apartment or suburban living room) as the wind and the coyotes howl outside at night. From journal entries of long-deceased adventurers to stray railroad ad copy, and musings on everything from desert flora, rumored cryptid sightings, and other paranormal phenomena, Ken Layne's *Desert Oracle* collects the weird and the wonderful of the American Southwest into a single, essential volume.

## So You've Been Publicly Shamed

Picador In 2012, Jon Ronson's online identity was stolen. Jon publicly confronted the imposters, a trio of academics who had created a Jon Ronson Twitter bot obsessed by unlikely food combinations and weird sex. At first, Jon was delighted to find strangers all over the world uniting to support him in his outrage. The wrongdoers were quickly shamed into stopping. But then things got out of hand. This encounter prompted Jon to explore the phenomenon of public shaming and what he discovered astonished him. As he meets famous shamers and shamees, Jon learns just how quickly public ridicule, often delivered from anonymous or distant sources, can devastate its victim. After our collective fury has raged with the force of a hurricane, we forget about it and move on, and it doesn't cross our minds to wonder what we've done. How big a transgression really justifies someone losing their job? What about the people who become global targets for doing nothing more than making a bad joke on Twitter, do they deserve to have their lives ruined? How is this renaissance of shaming changing the world and what is the true reason behind it? Simultaneously powerful and hilarious in the way only Jon Ronson can be, *So You've Been Publicly Shamed* is a deeply honest book about modern life, full of eye-opening truths about the escalating war on human flaws - and our very scary part in it.

## True Tales of American Life

Faber & Faber Chosen by Paul Auster out of the four thousand stories submitted to his radio programme on National Public Radio, these 180 stories provide a wonderful portrait of America in the twentieth century. The requirement for selection was that each of the stories should be true, and each of the writers should not have been previously published. The collection that has emerged provides a richly varied and authentic voice for the American people, whose lives, loves, griefs, regrets, joys and sense of humour are vividly and honestly recounted throughout, and adeptly organised by Auster into themed sections. The section composed of war stories stretches as far back as the Civil War, still the defining moment in American history; while the sequence of 'Meditations' conclude the volume with a true and abiding sense of transcendence. The resultant anthology is both an enduring hymn to the strange everyday of contemporary American life and a masterclass in the art of storytelling.

## Everything I Loved More

## True Tales of Rocks and Rails

*Everything I Loved More* is a roller-coaster collection of true short stories that follow a young man searching for sincere adventure along the tops of freight trains and mountain ranges. The danger can be nausea-inducing while he hangs on a single flexing hold of sandstone hundreds of feet off the ground or attempts to skirt the sexual advances of a meth smoking trucker while hitchhiking through the middle of nowhere. Between the many gripping scenes, his debasing humor acknowledges the foolish romance of it all. Beyond each singular exciting and hapless adventure, an important journey is told between the tales: the journey of a young man attempting to combat mental health issues with a potent dose of unabashed recklessness - and just how well it almost works.

## Uncommon Wisdom

## True Tales of What Our Lives as Doctors Have Taught Us About Love, Faith and Healing

Rodale Books In light of the escalating costs of healthcare in the U.S. and the on-going debate about appropriate health insurance reform, it's easy to forget about the human side of medicine and the importance of the doctor-patient relationship. In *Uncommon Wisdom*, neurologists John Castaldo and Lawrence Levitt share what they have learned in their many years as doctors, not just from tests and labs, but from years of listening and learning from their patients. These 16 tales show doctors as human beings: flawed and full of doubt, wonder, and reverence about what it means to be alive. The stories remind us that the medical profession should be about treating people with the dignity they deserve and that medical miracles don't always involve medicine. These doctors find cures, solve mysteries, and glean many lessons from listening deeply to their patients.

## Whatever You Do, Don't Run

### True Tales of a Botswana Safari Guide

**Rowman & Littlefield** A hilarious, highly original collection of essays based on the Botswana truism: "only food runs!" With a new introduction and new material from the author In the tradition of Bill Bryson, a new writer brings us the lively adventures and biting wit of an African safari guide. Peter Allison gives us the guide's-eye view of living in the bush, confronting the world's fiercest terrain of wild animals and, most challenging of all, managing herds of gaping tourists. Passionate for the animals of the Kalahari, Allison works as a top safari guide in the wildlife-rich Okavango Delta. As he serves the whims of his wealthy clients, he often has to stop the impulse to run as far away from them as he can, as these tourists are sometimes more dangerous than a pride of lions. No one could make up these outrageous-but-true tales: the young woman who rejected the recommended safari-friendly khaki to wear a more "fashionable" hot pink ensemble; the lost tourist who happened to be drunk, half-naked, and a member of the British royal family; establishing a real friendship with the continent's most vicious animal; the Japanese tourist who requested a repeat performance of Allison's being charged by a lion so he could videotape it; and spending a crazy night in the wild after blowing a tire on a tour bus, revealing that Allison has as much good-natured scorn for himself. The author's humor is exceeded only by his love and respect for the animals, and his goal is to limit any negative exposure to humans by planning trips that are minimally invasive—unfortunately it doesn't always work out that way! **New story:** People often ask safari guides about the experience that frightened them the most. In this story Peter Allison tells of the time he became aware of unseen danger, and knew that somewhere within meters of him was a hunting lioness. Peter Allison is originally from Sydney, Australia. His safaris have been featured in National Geographic, Conde Nast Traveler, and on television programs such as Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures. He travels frequently to speaking appearances, and splits most of his time between Botswana, Sydney, and San Francisco.

## Kid Scientists

### True Tales of Childhood from Science Superstars

**Quirk Books** Funny and totally true childhood biographies and full-color illustrations tell tales from the challenging yet defining growing-up years of Albert Einstein, Jane Goodall, Marie Curie, and 12 other brilliant scientists. Every great scientist started out as a kid. Before their experiments, inventions, and discoveries that changed the world, the world's most celebrated scientists had regular-kid problems just like you. Stephen Hawking hated school, and preferred to spend his free time building model airplanes, inventing board games, and even building his own computer. Jane Goodall got in trouble for bringing worms and snails into her house. And Neil deGrasse Tyson had to start a dog-walking business to save up money to buy a telescope. Kid Scientists tells the stories of a diverse and inclusive group—also including Temple Grandin, Nikola Tesla, Ada Lovelace, Benjamin Franklin, Isaac Newton, Rosalind Franklin, Sally Ride, Rachel Carson, George Washington Carver, and Vera Rubin—through kid-friendly texts and full-color cartoon illustrations on nearly every page.

## Clubbed Class

Trafalgar Square Publishing

### The Mammoth Book of Pirates

**Robinson** A rollicking tour of the history of the high seas with Blackbeard, Captain Kidd, 'Calico Jack' Rackham, Anne Bonney and other figures of maritime legend. Includes Francis 'The Scourge of Spain' Drake's audacious night-time treasure raid on Nombre de Dios; Alexander Exquemelin's fly-on-the-wall account of the 'wicked order of pirates, or robbers of the sea'; the journal of William Dampier, found stashed in a hollow bamboo tube, and much more. Witness skulduggery and malice, terror and excitement -- a colourful and always entertaining collection.

## Don't Read This Book Before Dinner

### Revoltingly True Tales of Foul Food, Icky Animals, Horrible History, and More

**National Geographic Children's Books** "Surprising, and disgusting, facts and stories about animals, nature and the world around us"--