

## Readers Digest Strange Stories Amazing Facts

Collects more than six hundred documented reports of incredible occurrences witnessed or experienced, over the past two hundred years, by ordinary people

Examines the scientific evidence for such unexplained phenomena as crop circles, living dinosaurs, lake monsters, spontaneous human combustion, and UFO abductions

Could the strange actually be true? *Time-Life Mysteries of the Unknown* takes readers on a tour of the eerie and unexplained - from the search for vanished civilizations to the science of real-life zombies, from famous UFO sightings to encounters with ghosts and otherworldly creatures, and much more. This rich full-colour guide offers scores of photographs and documents that shed new light on the world's most puzzling supernatural events and paranormal phenomena.

*Mysteries of the Unknown* also ventures into strange geographical locations where the laws of nature appear to be suspended and examines the paradoxes of ancient scientific instruments that seem far too advanced for their time. And meet the scientists and dedicated amateur researchers who are unlocking the secrets to the great mysteries of history - and the future.

An offbeat history of the United States journeys beyond the newspaper headlines and world events to document the impact of individuals long overlooked by textbooks on American history and discusses fads, hoaxes, scandals, and other lesser-known events from America's past. The 'Reader's Digest' Book of Strange Stories, Amazing Facts. Stories that are Bizarre, Unusual, Odd, Astonishing, Incredible - But True. Strange Stories, Amazing Facts. Stories that are Bizarre, Unusual, Odd, Astonishing, and Often Incredible. The Reader's Digest Book of Strange Stories, Amazing Facts. Stories that are Bizarre, Unusual, Odd, Astonishing, Incredible - But True. Strange Stories, Amazing Facts of America's Past. Readers Digest

20 mind-expanding short stories. Inspiring, liberating, otherworldly, magical, surreal, bizarre, funny, disturbing, unique... all of these words have been used to describe the stories of Mike Russell so put on your top hat, open your third eye and enjoy: *Nothing Is Strange*. From the author of the novel *Swamplandia!*—a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize—comes a magical and uniquely daring collection of stories that showcases the author's gifts at their inimitable best. Within these pages, a community of girls held captive in a Japanese silk factory slowly transmute into human silkworms and plot revolution; a group of boys stumble upon a mutilated scarecrow that bears an uncanny resemblance to a missing classmate that they used to torment; a family's disastrous quest for land in the American West has grave consequences; and in the marvelous title story, two vampires in a sun-drenched lemon grove try to slake their thirst for blood and come to terms with their immortal relationship. Named a Best Book of the Year by: The Boston Globe O, The Oprah Magazine Huffington Post The A.V. Club A Washington Post Notable Book An NPR Great Read of 2013

From the #1 New York Times—bestselling author of *A Woman of Substance* comes a billionaire tycoon's lifelong search for the right

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woman's love. Born in Berlin and orphaned by World War II, Maxim Westheim is left to fend for himself. With brains, charm, and grit, he forges a new identity for himself as Maximilian West, billionaire corporate raider. Max is ruthless in the business world, but his personal affairs are another story. His work takes him around the world to such opulent locales as London, New York, Paris, Venice, and Morocco, mingling with the world's rich and powerful. But his marriages end in divorce, and even his mistresses can't avoid heartbreak. When his life is shattered, he looks back at the women who have loved him and begins a search into his own soul which will lead to the one woman who holds the key to his heart. "Legions of readers undoubtedly will be satisfied by the romantic fortunes of the cultured, wealthy and powerful people whose lives she evokes." —Publishers Weekly "[Bradford] is one of the world's best at spinning yarns." —The Guardian

If you ever thought history was dull and our forefathers stodgy, here is a book to change your mind. Its short newsy approach to the most fascinating offbeat stories in American history make it fun to read and hard to put down. Did you know that Polish immigrants reached America 12 years before the Pilgrims? That a Supreme Court justice was once arrested--a vice president indicted--for murder? That Al Capone's brother was a federal Prohibition agent? This is America at its most fascinating--more than 600 true stories as gripping as a whodunit, as fast paced as a spy chase, as atmospheric as a historical novel--guaranteed to give many hours of reading pleasure. B02226. In the same vein as the first book in the series, True Crime, Volume 2, includes more than two dozen gripping tales of murder, kidnapping, robbery, and much more from the Reader's Digest archives. For more than 90 years, Reader's Digest has been telling the amazing true stories of real-life thrillers, unsolved mysteries, and tales of cold-blooded murder—and of the regular folks caught up in these harrowing situations. Now we've pulled together a collection of more than two dozen of these gripping narratives, including: The tale of the bank heist pulled off by a gang of old geezers The bizarre story of Robert Durst, a real-estate heir accused of three grisly murders The case of the 1849 murder at Harvard involving a professor The harrowing account of parents who saved their daughter from a serial killer The history of the original Ponzi scheme The stories in True Crime, Volume 2, are for crime aficionados and novices alike, tantalizing enough to hold your attention yet brisk enough to be your best beach or book club read. Enjoy the ride with a carjacker, a wife killer, and modern-day pirates living on borrowed time. (Enjoy even more how they get their just deserts.)

Because he spends so much time perfecting his flying form instead of concentrating on getting food, a seagull is ostracized by the rest of the flock.

Have you ever wondered what exactly does go bump in the night? From mysteries like Shackleton's ghostly companion to the Loch Ness Monster and friends, read the amazing evidence about these mysterious cases and make up your own mind. Things are not always what they seem - until they are, then you might wish you had never asked!

NOMINATED FOR THE 2019 NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FOR AUTOBIOGRAPHY ONE OF NPR'S BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR SHORTLISTED FOR THE BAILLIE GIFFORD PRIZE FOR NONFICTION SHORTLISTED FOR THE RATHBONES FOLIO PRIZE LONGLISTED FOR THE RSL ONDAATJE PRIZE The acclaimed New York Times bestselling author of *The Vanishing Velazquez* shares a riveting true story "with as many twists and turns as any mystery" (Los Angeles Times) describing her mother's mysterious kidnapping as a toddler in a small English coastal village—"an incredible and incredibly unusual book about family secrets" (Nick Hornby, *The Believer*). In the fall of 1929, when Laura Cumming's mother was three years old, she was kidnapped from a beach on the Lincolnshire coast of England. There were no screams when she was taken, suggesting the culprit was someone familiar to her, and when she turned up again in a nearby village several days later, she was happy and in perfect health. No one was ever accused of a crime. The incident quickly faded

from her memory, and her parents never discussed it. To the contrary, they deliberately hid it from her, and she did not learn of it for half a century. This was not the only secret her parents kept from her. For many years, while raising her in draconian isolation and protectiveness, they also hid the fact that she'd been adopted, and that shortly after the kidnapping, her name was changed from Grace to Betty. "Both page-turning and richly absorbing" (The Providence Journal), *On Chapel Sands* (originally titled *Five Days Gone*) unspools the tale of Cumming's mother's life and unravels the multiple mysteries at its core. Using photographs from the time, historical documents, and works of art, Cumming investigates this case of stolen identity with the toolset of a detective and the unique intimacy of a daughter trying to understand her family's past and its legacies. "Brilliant" (The Guardian) and "a story told with such depth of feeling and observation and such lyrical writing I couldn't put it down" (Anna Quindlen), *On Chapel Sands* is a masterful blend of memoir and history, an extraordinary personal narrative unlike any other.

Describes different forms of life which survive in remote places including hidden valleys, wetlands, deserts, frozen lands, wastelands, and oceans.

The bizarre beasts, incredible places, and peculiar phenomena featured in this mind-blowing compendium are not just really weird - they're really real! With more than 125,000 copies sold worldwide, this wacky encyclopedia explores our world's most exciting oddities. Did you know there's a plant that eats mice? Or that you can dip your toe in a rainbow-colored river? From fiery tornadoes flying across the sky to huge sinkholes eating up the earth, each example is illustrated with jaw-dropping images and handy fast facts that provide the explanations behind the stories. Whether it's geography, people, places, animals, plants, or weather, *Strange But True!* is the ideal book for curious young minds who are fascinated by our weird and wonderful world.

The hauntingly prophetic classic novel set in a not-too-distant future where books are burned by a special task force of firemen. 'Another indispensable classic' The Times "Ray Bradbury's gift for storytelling reshaped our culture and expanded our world" Barack Obama Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to burn books, which are forbidden, being the source of all discord and unhappiness. Even so, Montag is unhappy; there is discord in his marriage. Are books hidden in his house? The Mechanical Hound of the Fire Department, armed with a lethal hypodermic, escorted by helicopters, is ready to track down those dissidents who defy society to preserve and read books. The classic dystopian novel of a post-literate future, *Fahrenheit 451* stands alongside Orwell's *1984* and Huxley's *Brave New World* as a prophetic account of Western civilization's enslavement by the media, drugs and conformity. Bradbury's powerful and poetic prose combines with uncanny insight into the potential of technology to create a novel which, decades on from first publication, still has the power to dazzle and shock.

Books are dangerous People in *Blanow* think that books are dangerous: they fill your head with drivel, make poor firewood and cannot be eaten (even in an emergency). This book is about Howul. He sees things differently: fires are dangerous; people are dangerous; books are just books. Howul secretly writes down what goes on around him in *Blanow*. How its people treat foreigners, treat his daughter, treat him. None of it is pretty. Worse still, everything here keeps trying to kill him: rats, snakes, diseases, roof slates, the weather, the sea. That he survives must mean something. He wants to find out what. By trying to do this, he gets himself thrown out of *Blanow*... and so his journey begins. Like all gripping stories, *HOWUL* is about the bad things people do to each other and what to do if they happen to you. Some people use sticks to stay safe. Some use guns. Words are the weapons that Howul uses most. He makes them sharp. He makes them hurt. Of course books are dangerous. Cover design: Alison Buck

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Describes Christmas customs around the world, recounts the history of Christmas, and shares Christmas poems and stories

A social, cultural, technological, and political history of the United States, surveying the nation's development, in words and pictures, from the early voyages of exploration to the present

The Editors of Reader's Digest present a hilarious collection of dumb people doing dumb things. Every day in America we are bombarded by stupidity; sometimes we just shake our heads, but most of the time we get a good laugh out of the really dumb things people do and say. In this collection of dumb stories we poke a little fun at the unbelievably dumb things that happen in our lives and have a good chuckle along the way. You're a dumb criminal if...you're not picky about your office locations. Christopher Exley of Everett, Washington, was arrested for conducting a drug deal over the phone—in the bathroom of the Everett Police Department. During my brother-in-law's first performance review, his boss said, "I'm not quite sure what it is you do here. But whatever it is, could you do it faster?" --Jeanie Waara, Philip, SD In an attempt to balance work and motherhood, I delegated the grocery shopping to my young babysitter. But the job proved a tad daunting. One day while I was at work, she texted me from the supermarket. "Can't find Brillo pads," she wrote. "All they have are Tampax and Kotex." --Kimberly Clark, Alpharetta, GA I overheard an elderly gentleman tell his friend that he couldn't meet him the next day because he had to go to the hospital for an autopsy. His friend was sympathetic: "I had one of those last year. Luckily it wasn't serious." --Tracy Moralee, Hitchin, Great Britain

The true story behind 150 of the world's most enduring myths, strange disappearances, mysterious deaths, nagging controversies & timeless questions.

The adventures of an unusual dog, part St. Bernard, part Scotch shepherd, that is forcibly taken to the Klondike gold fields where he eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack. . -- Calm, stoic captain Mac Whirr has just been given command of a new steamship, the Nan-Shan. He and his crew are transporting Asian workers across the China Sea when a sudden drop in atmospheric pressure alerts Mac Whirr of, "some uncommonly dirty weather knocking about."

It was a simple incident in the life of James Clavell—a talk with his young daughter just home from school—that inspired this chilling tale of what could happen in twenty-five quietly devastating minutes. He writes, "The Children's Story came into being that day. It was then that I really realized how vulnerable my child's mind was —any mind, for that matter—under controlled circumstances.

Normally I write and rewrite and re-rewrite, but this story came quickly—almost by itself. Barely three words were changed. It pleases me greatly because I kept asking the questions... Questions like, What's the use of 'I pledge allegiance' without understanding? Like Why is it so easy to divert thoughts? Like What is freedom? and Why is so hard to explain? The Children's Story keeps asking me all sorts of questions I cannot answer. Perhaps you can—then your child will...."

A WASHINGTON POST NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR An O, THE OPRAH MAGAZINE BEST BOOK OF 2020 FINALIST FOR THE STORY PRIZE LONGLISTED FOR THE ASPEN WORDS LITERARY PRIZE ONE OF THE NEW YORKER BOOK CRITIC'S FAVORITE FICTION OF THE YEAR "Sublime short stories of race, grief, and belonging . . . an extraordinary new collection . . ." —The New Yorker "Evans's new stories present rich plots reflecting on race relations, grief, and love . . ." —The New York Times Book Review, Editor's Choice "Danielle Evans demonstrates, once again, that she is the finest short story writer

working today.” —Roxane Gay, *The New York Times*—bestselling author of *Difficult Women* and *Bad Feminist* The award-winning author of *Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self* brings her signature voice and insight to the subjects of race, grief, apology, and American history. Danielle Evans is widely acclaimed for her blisteringly smart voice and X-ray insights into complex human relationships. With *The Office of Historical Corrections*, Evans zooms in on particular moments and relationships in her characters’ lives in a way that allows them to speak to larger issues of race, culture, and history. She introduces us to Black and multiracial characters who are experiencing the universal confusions of lust and love, and getting walloped by grief—all while exploring how history haunts us, personally and collectively. Ultimately, she provokes us to think about the truths of American history—about who gets to tell them, and the cost of setting the record straight. In “Boys Go to Jupiter,” a white college student tries to reinvent herself after a photo of her in a Confederate-flag bikini goes viral. In “Richard of York Gave Battle in Vain,” a photojournalist is forced to confront her own losses while attending an old friend’s unexpectedly dramatic wedding. And in the eye-opening title novella, a black scholar from Washington, DC, is drawn into a complex historical mystery that spans generations and puts her job, her love life, and her oldest friendship at risk.

From the first dog to the first beefalo, from farming to CRISPR, the human history of remaking nature When the 2020 Nobel Prize was awarded to the inventors of CRISPR, the revolutionary gene-editing tool, it underlined our amazing and apparently novel powers to alter nature. But as biologist Beth Shapiro argues in *Life as We Made It*, this phenomenon isn’t new. Humans have been reshaping the world around us for ages, from early dogs to modern bacteria modified to pump out insulin. Indeed, she claims, reshaping nature—resetting the course of evolution, ours and others’—is the essence of what our species does. In exploring our evolutionary and cultural history, Shapiro finds a course for the future. If we have always been changing nature to help us survive and thrive, then we need to avoid naive arguments about how we might destroy it with our meddling, and instead ask how we can meddle better. Brilliant and insightful, *Life as We Made It* is an essential book for the decades to come.

An entertaining and essential collection of stories about the surprising and strange fates of the fifty-six Founding Fathers who signed the Declaration of Independence. Now in paperback with a brand-new cover, the wildly successful *Signing Their Lives Away* tells the untold stories of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. In the summer of 1776, a group of 56 men risked their lives and livelihood to defy King George III and sign the Declaration of Independence—yet how many of them do we remember? *Signing Their Lives Away* introduces readers to the eclectic group of statesmen, soldiers, slaveholders, and scoundrels who signed this historic document—and the many strange fates that awaited them. To wit: • The Signer Who Was Poisoned By His Nephew • The Signer Who Was Killed In a Duel • The Signer Who Went to Prison • The Signer Who Was Lost at Sea • The Signer Who Achieved Fame as a Brewer Complete with portraits of every signatory, *Signing Their Lives Away* provides an entertaining and enlightening narrative for students, history buffs, politicians, and Hamilton fans alike.

A comprehensive, historical overview of some of the world's greatest natural disasters captures the power of the human spirit as it triumphs over the floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, and other calamities

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More than two dozen timeless favorites from the Reader's Digest archives. From everyday heroes to larger-than-life characters, small moments to historic events, the unforgettable stories in Reader's Digest come alive as never before in this keepsake book. Our editors have combed the archives for the narratives—sometimes funny, often poignant, always inspirational—that still strike deep chords today, such as: The gripping tale of a North Carolina woman and her Shepherd, Gandalf, who found a lost Boy Scout in the woods during their first search-and-rescue job The tragic account of the crash of the Columbia Space Shuttle The miracle of the old letter that led to a couple being reunited after nearly 60 years apart The heroic actions of an eighteen-year-old girl who carried a young boy to safety after being pulled out to sea in a riptide The hilarious anecdote about the one exception to humorist Calvin Trillin's happy childhood, a sickly collie named Chubby Featuring the best of the best from the present and past, this collection of timeless favorites will thrill your senses, warm your heart, and brighten your day.

A heavily illustrated, comprehensive guide to all aspects of paranormal phenomena, extrasensory experiences, the occult, and the unexplained boasts meticulous research

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Presents facts about a wide range of topics, including plants, animals, earth sciences, people, and technology, as well as answering some commonly asked questions.

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Archaeologist Christopher Jordan and ancient manuscript expert Kathryn Ferguson are brought together by famed New Testament scholar Andrew Stewart of Edinburgh, Scotland. On a research expedition to Maaloula, Syria, Stewart stumbles across an ancient scroll, a truncated rough draft of the gospel of Mark. All evidence indicates John Mark is the author. The completed autograph scroll, the archaeological find of the millennium, is believed to be in a cave in Maaloula. Amid the Syrian revolt, Chris and Kate travel to Maaloula. Time is of the essence. The obstacles are overwhelming. Paralleling their perilous quest is John Marks escape with the manuscript from the Roman siege of Jerusalem in 70 CE, his journey to Damascus where he can complete his gospel and make copies for distribution throughout the empire. A major theme threading the work is the resurrection. Is the last page of the gospel of Mark missing? Or did the author intend to leave the resurrection dangling, shrouded in mystery? The answer is in the last page.

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