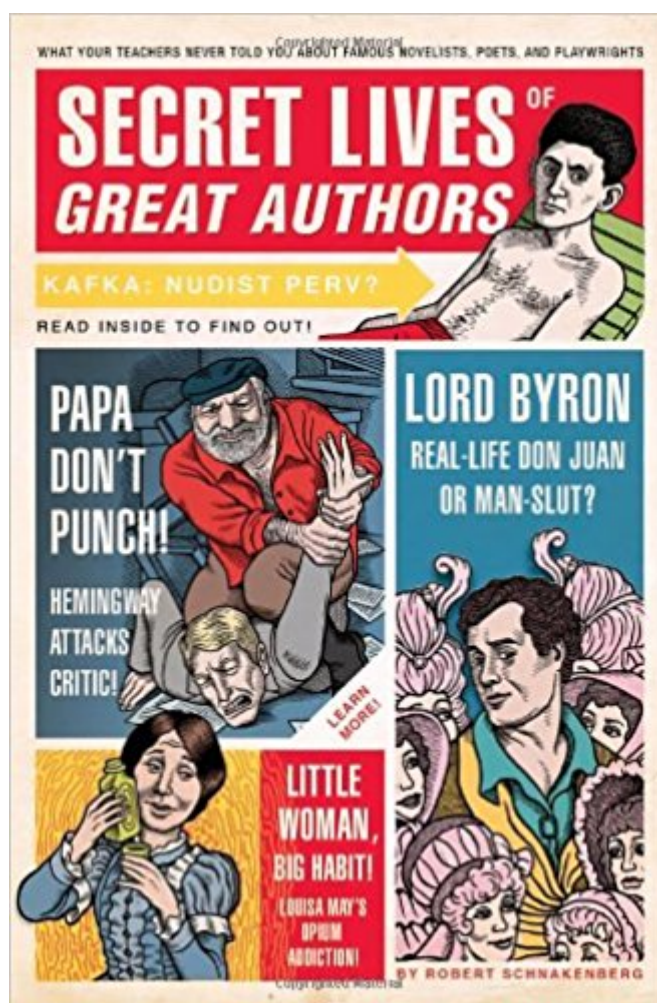


The book was found

Secret Lives Of Great Authors: What Your Teachers Never Told You About Famous Novelists, Poets, And Playwrights



Synopsis

Strange-but-true tales of murderers, adulterers, drug addicts, and other literary legends. With outrageous and uncensored profiles of everyone from William Shakespeare to Thomas Pynchon, *Secret Lives of Great Authors* tackles all the tough questions your high school teachers were afraid to ask: What's the deal with Lewis Carroll and little girls? Is it true that J. D. Salinger drank his own urine? How many women and men did Lord Byron actually sleep with? And why was Ayn Rand such a big fan of Charlie's Angels? Classic literature was never this much fun in school!

Book Information

Series: Secret Lives

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Quirk Books (February 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1594742111

ISBN-13: 978-1594742118

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,051,132 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #100 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Humor #105 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Theories of Humor #1187 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Trivia

Customer Reviews

Adult/High School Schnakenberg packages the lives and loves of 41 famous writers into a supermarket-tabloid parody. All rumors, idiosyncrasies, feuds, etc., are fodder for laughs or sarcastic jeers; no event is so tragic as to be exempt. Each biography starts with birth/death dates, nationality, astrological sign, major works, contemporaries and rivals, literary style, and words of wisdom. Because Emily Dickinson wrote her poems in iambic tetrameter, they can be sung to the tune of "The Yellow Rose of Texas." She may have been a closet lesbian, but was definitely a Sagittarius. J. R. R. Tolkien (Capricorn) was one of the original translators of the Old Testament Books of Jonah and Job of the Jerusalem Bible and also snored so loudly that he was relegated to the bathroom to sleep while his wife remained in the bedroom. Agatha Christie, a Virgo, had a

disability called dysgraphia and had to dictate all of her writing. Also, both of her husbands cheated on her. Schnakenberg compares F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald to P. Diddy and Lindsay Lohan as King and Queen of the celebrity party circuit, "astounding guests with their outrageous, drunken behavior." He cites Hemingway and Fitzgerald as the Oscar and Felix of America's Lost Generation. Thanks to modern headlines and reality TV, nothing here is particularly shocking, but the author does show that celebrity is celebrity no matter when it occurs. All readers will find at least a few "you have to hear this" tidbits. —â •Dana Cobern-Kullman, Luther Burbank Middle School, Burbank, CA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Robert Schnakenberg is the author of several nonfiction books including *Distory: A Treasury of Historical Insults*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Pros: Informative and extensively researched (given that you believe everything written in it despite a daunting lack of sources). The colors are uniform and bright, and the way information is organized is visually stunning and consistent. Gives great biographical and historical context on writers and their major works. Cons (there are a lot of them): The grammar is horrendous. The sections are brimming with comma splices, missing periods, missing spaces, and, in at least one sentence, missing words entirely. In the section on Franz Kafka, the "Words of Wisdom" quote reads "Beyond a certain point there is no return. This point has to reached." when it should be "This point has to be reached." The writing style also gets too casual and opinionated for my taste, but I understand the author's tone is intended to be a little conversational rather than serious. The cover of the book is also misleading and cheapens the content; although the cover is intended to be fun and engaging, I found myself embarrassed to carry it around and people asked me if I was reading gossip and propaganda on writers. A lot of the content should have sources as well—I was questioning consistently the content and trivia because there were no mentions of where information came from. Sources are crucial for a book like this where controversial tidbits and facts of authors and written are exploited, otherwise it can be construed as libel. Another huge disappointment is probably not the author's fault, but my copy came in good condition. After one day of reading it, just one, the binding came apart completely; the glue used was not very adhesive and now I have pages barely clinging on to each other that I have to put together with my own stronger glue.

This book has some very interesting facts about famous authors that were referenced in *The Allure of Nymphets*. For example, thirty-four-year-old Leo Tolstoy had his eighteen-year-old

newlywed read his diary on their wedding night - apparently, as a preview of what to expect from him sexually, because the diary detailed "his sexual escapades with other women, including female serfs." And Balzac often wrote for fifteen hours per day, drank fifty cups of Turkish coffee per day, and practiced, as Deida recommends in *The Way of the Superior Man*, non-ejaculatory sex. Katie

I love this. It's so funny, so full of trivia about writers. J.R.R. Tolkien slept in the bathtub. Agatha Christie was addicted to something or other (opium?). On and on. Writing this review reminds me to get the book out for a few laughs. I could use them.

This book was great fun! I got it as a gift for an avid reader but everyone at the party had fun hearing the "other" stories of these well known authors. Each chapter included little cartoon like "blurbs" with additional stories or gossip...Lots of laughs....

The book is very entertaining & informative. However, as others have pointed out, he makes a few notable errors in the book. Which then leaves me to wonder about the accuracy of the rest of the book. A bibliography of his sources would be helpful, especially if one wanted to use this in a classroom.

I got this as a Christmas gift for a friend who writes books. He's sold close to ten million copies of his different books in over 20 languages. So I like it when I can get him a book he hasn't heard of or read. Bingo. He loved this.

Great quality

This was a really amusing read. Who knew authors led such wierd and interesting lives. Ha ha. William Burroughs! Holy moly.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Secret Lives of Great Authors: What Your Teachers Never Told You about Famous Novelists, Poets, and Playwrights Secret Lives of Great Composers: What Your Teachers Never Told You about the World's Musical Masters Secrets The Secret Never Told You;Law of Attraction for Instant Manifestation Miracles: 5 Secrets Never Told on How to Use the Law of Attraction (Law of ... Instant Manifestation Miracles Book Book 2) Secret Lives of the U.S. Presidents: What Your Teachers Never Told you About the Men of The White House Secret Lives of the First Ladies: What Your

Teachers Never Told you About the Women of The White House The Greatest Music Stories Never Told: 100 Tales from Music History to Astonish, Bewilder, and Stupefy (The Greatest Stories Never Told) The Great Poets William Blake (Naxos Great Poets) Secrets The Secret Never Told You: Law of Attraction for Instant Manifestation Miracles OTHER Secret Stories of Walt Disney World: Other Things You Never Knew You Never Knew Secret Stories of Walt Disney World: Things You Never Knew You Never Knew (Volume 1) Secret Stories of Walt Disney World: Things You Never Knew You Never Knew More Secret Stories of Walt Disney World: More Things You Never Knew You Never Knew (Volume 2) The Rights of Authors, Artists, and other Creative People, Second Edition: A Basic Guide to the Legal Rights of Authors and Artists (ACLU Handbook) Everything Your Coach Never Told You Because You're a Girl: and other truths about winning Knowing Jesus And The Urantia Book Through Questions To The Authors: The Gospel Authors 100 Most Popular Genre Fiction Authors: Biographical Sketches and Bibliographies (Popular Authors (Hardcover)) Pain by The Authors of Pain: The debut poetry collection from WWE tag team and literary powerhouse The Authors of Pain. You Can Be Happy No Matter What: Five Principles Your Therapist Never Told You 101 Things Your Dad Never Told You About Men: The Good, Bad, and Ugly Things Men Want and Think About Women and Relationships Comics Confidential: Thirteen Graphic Novelists Talk Story, Craft, and Life Outside the Box

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)