



History without the Boring Bits: A Curious Chronology of the World

Ian Crofton

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A strikingly different take on world history, from the former editor-in-chief of *The Guinness Encyclopedia*

Conventional chronologies of world history concentrate on the reigns of kings and queens, the dates of battles and treaties, the publication dates of great books, the completion of famous buildings, the deaths of iconic figures, and the years of major discoveries. But there are other more interesting stories to tell, stories which can bring the past vividly and excitingly to life. Imagine a book that tells you the date of the ancient Roman law that made it legal to break wind at banquets; the name of the defunct medieval pope whose putrefying corpse was subjected to the humiliation of a trial before a court of law; the identity of the priapic monarch who sired more bastards than any other king of England; and last but not least the date of the demise in London of the first goat to have circumnavigated the globe—twice. Imagine a book crammed with such deliciously disposable information, and you have *History Without the Boring Bits*. By turns bizarre, surprising, trivial, and enlightening, this book offers rich pickings for the browser, and entertainment and inspiration aplenty for those who have grown weary of more conventional works of history.

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