

Raucous Royals: Test your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce WhichRoyal Rumors are True

By Carlyn Beccia



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What is in a rumor? Carlyn Beccia invites us to look more closely at all rumors and consider how the truth can become twisted over time in this one-of-a-kind combination of nonfiction picture book, graphic novel, and tabloid magazine.



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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 4–8—This lighthearted look at historical rumors about European rulers from Vlad Dracula to George III is full of humor, interesting facts, and insightful perspectives. Some of the rumors turn out to be true (Henry VIII's weight), some are false (Louis XIV's bathing habits), and several are still undecided (Richard III as a murderer). Examining their veracity is a clever hook that leads into a fascinating look at how gossip, literature, and other unreliable sources can be taken as truth over time. The author provides just enough introductory context and shares well-chosen anecdotes and facts in an engaging conversational style. Varied approaches keep each section fresh: a mock casebook presents the "rumor suspects" regarding the death of Catherine the Great, for example, and opposing arguments from fictional historians show both sides of the question of Peter the Great's actual "greatness." Comic portraits and other illustrations add to the irreverent tone. Mary I reaches from her picture frame to grab the crown of Elizabeth in one scene, and a lineup of males against a wall demonstrates Napoleon's taller-than-average stature, among other funny examples. The conclusion offers tips on how to use research to gauge the accuracy of historical rumors, and a bibliography cites multiple sources for each figure covered in the book. This humorous approach to history has strong booktalk potential, and also serves as a compelling introduction to the notion that separating fact from fiction can be challenging and fun.—Steven Engelfried, Multnomah County Library, OR Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From **Booklist**

This entertaining collective biography looks at rumors about a dozen royal figures and presents evidence of each tale's truth or falsehood. The discussion begins with Prince Dracula (a real vampire?) and Richard III (a hunchback? murdered his nephews?), spotlights five colorful Tudors, then moves on to six later figures, including Marie Antoinette ("Let them eat cake"?) and Catherine the Great (crushed by her horse?). Noting the invention of the printing press in 1440, Beccia draws an intriguing connection between today's rumor-filled tabloids and fifteenth-century pamphlets smearing Vlad Dracula (aka Vlad the Impaler). Nicely designed and fully illustrated with caricatured digital images sometimes inspired by period portraits, the book looks inviting and the lively text is consistently entertaining. The final section suggests how students can research historical rumors. A bibliography and a few source notes are appended. Though other history books have more substance, choose this one to engage readers in critical thinking about the "facts." Grades 4-7. --Carolyn Phelan

Review

"The energy and gleefully gossipy nature makes this a fine companion for Krull's Lives of . . . series, while its verve particularly recommends it as an entree into historiography and critical thinking."--The *Bulletin*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Beatrice Pearson:

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As we

know that book is very important normally. The book Raucous Royals: Test your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce WhichRoyal Rumors are True was making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The e-book Raucous Royals: Test your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce WhichRoyal Rumors are True is not only giving you much more new information but also to get your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with all the book Raucous Royals: Test your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce WhichRoyal Rumors are True. You never truly feel lose out for everything if you read some books.

Dustin Kellett:

Raucous Royals: Test your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce WhichRoyal Rumors are True can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort that will put every word into joy arrangement in writing Raucous Royals: Test your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce WhichRoyal Rumors are True but doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one of it. This great information could drawn you into fresh stage of crucial considering.

Joseph Barnett:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray anyone, why because this Raucous Royals: Test your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce WhichRoyal Rumors are True guide written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who read the book. Written in good manner for you, dripping every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still doubt Raucous Royals: Test your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce WhichRoyal Rumors are True as good book not only by the cover but also with the content. This is one e-book that can break don't evaluate book by its cover, so do you still needing an additional sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Malcolm Moser:

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