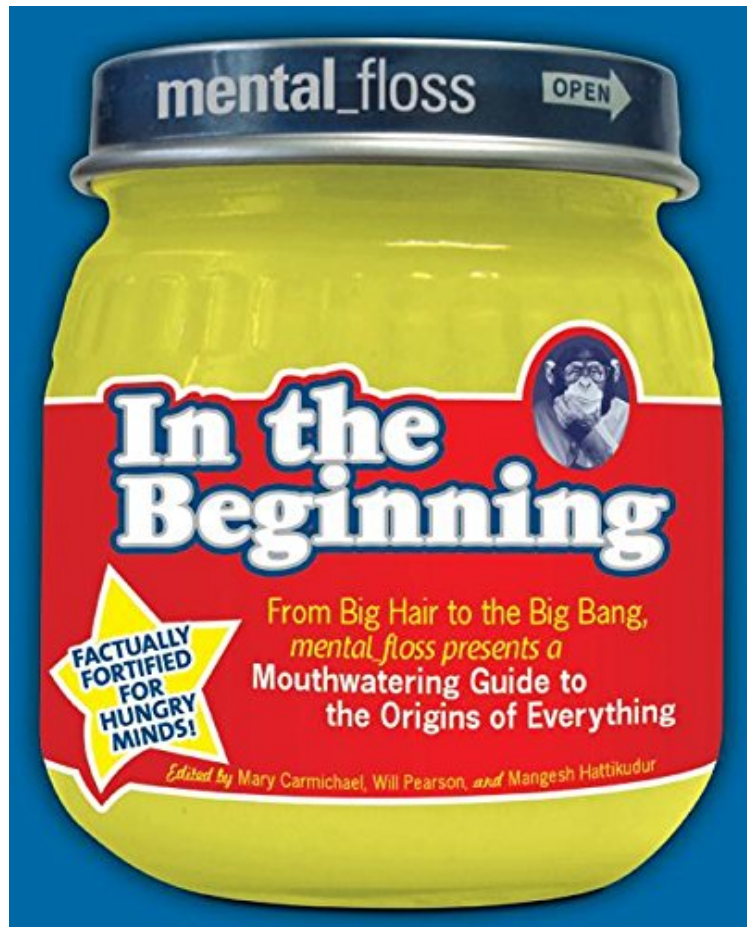


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Editors of Mental Floss : Mental Floss presents **In the Beginning: From Big Hair to the Big Bang, mental_floss presents a Mouthwatering Guide to the Origins of Everything** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mental Floss presents In the Beginning: From Big Hair to the Big Bang, mental_floss presents a Mouthwatering Guide to the Origins of Everything:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Fun Facts That You May (Never) Use By DaisyDoI am surprised that there are not more reviews for this book. This was the first Mental Floss book that I purchased. If you're someone who has moments when you're doing something and ask yourself "I wonder who invented this?", or "Have people

really been using this for a hundred years?" then you'll thoroughly enjoy this book. If you're someone who has a few extra minutes to kill and likes reading short entries with fascinating information that you'll probably never use, then you'll enjoy this book. One of the major highlights of this book is the humorous slant that it is written in, which can only be expected from Mental Floss. There are also sketched drawings throughout the entries. It is, by no means, written like an encyclopedia. My only complaint is that there is not an index in this book; instead, it is broken into "chapters" which are listed in the front of the book. These chapters include***:"Arts and Literature": From Shakespeare to Jazz. "Bad Stuff": Mythical Creatures, Drugs, Epidemics, and more fun/depressing things. "Fashion and Beauty": From the basics like Soap and Lotion to Hairstyles and Swimsuits. "Food and Drink": From what to eat like Pasta and Gum to the Dishwasher and Toaster. "Fun and Games": From Boardgames to Roller coasters. "Government, Law, and Money": From the Royal Family to Taxes and Coupons. "Pop Culture": Batman and beyond! (Sorry I couldn't help myself, hehe.) "Romance": Why do we get married? Who invented breast implants? "Science and Medicine": The Big Bang, Flight, Prosthetics, Electroshock, Organ Transplants, oh my! "Spinning the Globe": Increase your knowledge of foreign affairs (and how they got that way)! "Traditions": Religion to Holidays. "Useful Stuff": From the Wheel (how stereotypical) to air-conditioning, traffic lights, scissors, and even staples.***I did not list all the entries of the chapters, but listed a few to give you an idea of what they included. There are plenty more entries in the chapters, but I do not have the time nor the patience to type them all out and doubt you have the patience to read them. All in all, this is a great addition to anyone's bookshelf. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love this book By Keith A This is a nice fact / trivia book that I think is perfect as a "Bathroom Book". The information is interesting, accurate, and broken down into short vignettes that is great for reading when you only have 5 minutes at a time. Recommended. Keith Appleby , Author American Pub Trivia. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great but not their best By Erica H I've been reading Mental Floss magazine for years and own many of their books. This is probably my least favorite. It's got great information but seems to lack the wit and humor that they're known for. I'd recommend it if you are a big fan of mental floss, but if not, I'd suggest you start with one of their other books!

Sure, you know all about the birds and bees. But did Dad ever tell you that it wasn't a stork that put that shiny can opener in your kitchen drawer? Or paperclips started out as proud, Nazi-fighting warriors? And did he tell you how cruise control was originally conceived by a blind genius? From mullets to Silly Putty, lie detectors to karaoke, we've got the true stories behind everything you didn't think had stories. Because if you're looking for answers, In the Beginning is the place to start.

About the Author Will Pearson and Mangesh Hattikudur met as first year students at Duke University. Ignoring the lures of law school and investment banking, the pair co-founded mental_floss and have been grinning ever since. Maggie Koerth-Baker is a freelance journalist and a former assistant editor at mental_floss magazine, where she consistently astounded Will and Mangesh with her amazingness.