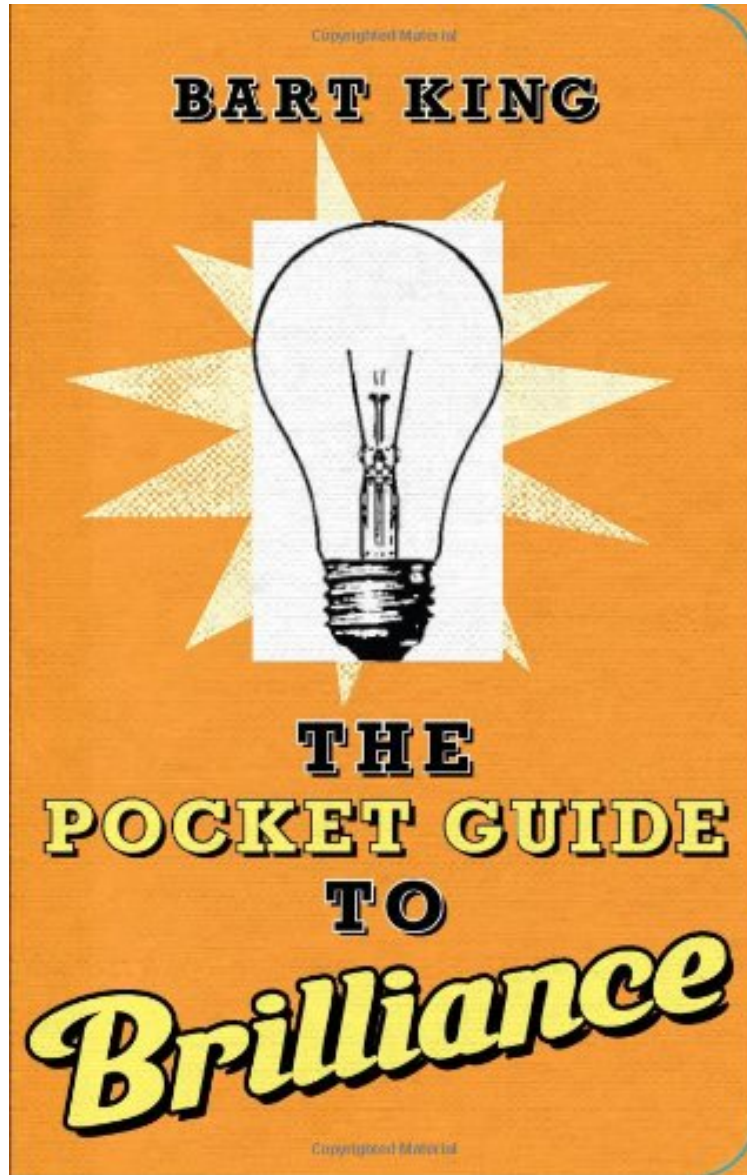


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The Pocket Guide to Brilliance

Bart King

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Bart King : The Pocket Guide to Brilliance before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pocket Guide to Brilliance:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. The brilliance (or not) of America and her people...By Thomas DuffPortland author Bart King has one of the quirkiest writing styles I know, and it may well be why I like his work so much. His latest book, The Pocket Guide to Brilliance, is a humorous look at the history of the United States down

through the years, and showcases why we Americans are so brilliant (or not-so-brilliant, as the case often is). It's definitely good for a laugh, and you'll pick up more than a few obscure facts that you can use to show your own brilliance (or lack of common sense)...Contents:Introduction; Quick Wits and Canny Minds, Plymouth Rocks; Bad Habits and Funky Customs; Talkin' 'Bout a Revolution; How to Win an Election; Wanna Be a Cowboy?; Playin' It Old School; Brilliant Women; Brilliant Leaders; Great Expectations; Not-So-Brilliant Villians; Forgotten BrillianceThe slant on brilliance here is given through a series of examples throughout US history of leaders and citizens who cover the entire spectrum of eejits to geniuses. And of course, most of them are rather humorous (in a warped way). For instance, General Woods once let the Indian chief Geronimo (held prisoner at the time) inspect his rifle and taught him how to fire it. Geronimo then proceeded to shoot at a target and hit a passerby. Geronimo laughed uproariously, handed the gun back over, and said "good gun!" Of course, what genius allowed him to shoot it in the first place? Or what about Anne Royall, the first professional female journalist? She wanted to interview John Quincy Adams, but he wouldn't grant her the time. So she followed him down to the river, where he had a habit of skinny-dipping. She then proceeded to sit on his clothes, refusing to move until he answered all her questions. And here I thought the Mike Wallace ambush style of journalism was ruthless! And what book is complete without pearls of wisdom from our former President, George W. Bush? Who can forget "As I'm sure you can imagine, it is an unimaginable honor to live here!" Um... yeah.King writes the same way someone would talk to you... Jokes, silly asides, and a few rabbit trails. While I'm not sure you'll come away any more "brilliant", you will come away with a smile and appreciation that no matter how stupid you think you might be, there's always others lower on the scale than you are.

Pocket Guide to Brilliance-Punctuated with both sharp and dry wit, Bart King presents a wealth of fascinating trivia. Brilliant people are those who walk father, think deeper, and talk louder than the rest of us. They do what it takes to get the job done, and then some. Learn from masters of brilliance like: The first female journalist, Anne Royall, who forced an interview with John Quincy Adams by stealing his clothes while he was skinny dipping! Candidate John Lindsay, who released chickens at a speech by his opponent, George Wallace, in order to shame Wallace into a debate. Benjamin Franklin, the originator of phrases like "A learned blockhead is a greater blockhead than an ignorant one," and "A man who lives on hope, dies farting." Bart King, a self-proclaimed "dabbler," is interested in games, magic, current events, music, chess, history, literature, geography, travel, crime, science fiction, art, and almost everything else! The veteran of many water-balloon wars, he's twice won the prized "Arrested Development" award from the New York Society of Amateur Psychologists. He earned a master's degree in history from Sonoma State University and has taught middle school for the past fifteen years. Bart's work has been featured in The Oregonian, The Portland Tribune, Chicago Parent, Family Fun magazine and many other publications. He has also appeared on dozens of television and radio programs including the widely syndicated "Bob and Tom Show." Not only is Bart a wild and crazy boy, he's also the author of bestseller The Big Book of Boy Stuff. Bart subsequently co-authored The Big Book of Girl Stuff with his five sisters and 50 former students. This title won widespread acclaim; if you are skeptical (and you should be!) please see its product page. Also, take a look at these fun links: Bart's fabulously fun and entertaining blogs: Ultra-Gross! and Unexpectedly Bart Bart's awesome Website: Bartking.net Bart's: Amazon Author Page

From the Back Cover Little-known historical trivia that will enlighten and delight. "If you can't dazzle them with brilliance, baffle them with bull." -W.C. Fields Bart King's books include The Pocket Guide to Mischief, The Big book of Boy Stuff, The Pocket Guide to Games, and The Big Book of Girl stuff. Bart lives in Portland, Oregon, where he serves as Ambassador of Brilliance and runs a small marmalade company. About the AuthorBart King writes funny—and educational!—books for kids and immature adults. (His title The Big Book of Boy Stuff was once .com's top-selling children's book.) As a young lad, Bart discovered he could punch people into outer space. Sadly, he lost a lot of friends that way. Today, Bart is recognized as one of the world's leading superhero experts. (And as a longtime middle school teacher, he is also highly sought after by supervillains!)Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. This book has been specially designed by scientists to cultivate your brilliance and to encourage you to be a more engaged citizen. It does this by shining a light on the United States. Not everyone has considered Americans as being brilliant. Innovative, yes. Inventive, yes. Invasive, occasionally. Brilliant? Not so much. Special Delivery How many stamps would it take to mail yourself? That was the question facing Henry Brown in 1849. A slave in Richmond, Virginia, Brown came up with a first-class plan to mail himself to freedom. He got a shipping crate large enough that he could just barely fit into it. Breathing holes were bored into it, and a local shopkeeper agreed to mail Brown in the crate to Philadelphia. Brown got into the crate, the lid was nailed shut, and off he went. The total length of the trip was just over a day, but in that time, Brown was left upside down for hours. Luckily, on a steamboat, two men turned the crate right-side up to use for a chair. After his arrival in Philadelphia, Brown eventually escaped to Great Britain, leaving Virginia far behind. He even got a cool nickname out of the endeavor: Henry "Box" Brown.