



The Raucous Royals

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.

The Raucous Royals Details

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Author : Carlyn Beccia

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From Reader Review *The Raucous Royals* for online ebook

Lucy says

...I dare you to judge this book by its cover...

Trust your feeling about this one-You'll be right on.

Instantaneously this book will grab your attention with its gorgeous cover, regal writing, royal colours and cleverly amusing illustrations. A deliciously tempting visual feast, *The Raucous Royals* is filled with the most outrageous historical rumors that instantly captivate the interest. Your child will want to find out –Did that happen? That's so funny! That didn't happen!...Or, did it? No way to find out but to keep on reading; and that's what will happen cause your child won't let you put it down.

Carlyn Beccia (check out her blog) is a fantastic author! She has devised a sure way to whet a child's appetite for history. The book is filled with guessing games, secret codes, experiments, quizzes and the most hilarious, almost caricature-like illustrations ever. And that's only the half of it...the best part is savored in the history! That's where you discover whether King Richard really did murder his nephews; or whether Anne Boleyn had six fingers; if Mary Queen of Scots plotted to assassinate her cousin Elizabeth I-or- if King Louis XIV took only three baths in his life! What?!

All rumors? Or fact? You won't be misled. Everything is explained with clarity, fun, and complete accuracy. Carlyn Beccia's work reveals itself as intelligent, witty, creative and well researched. *The Raucous Royals* is filled with interactive, thought provoking questions and topics that trigger the mind. Your child will love using his detective instincts to search and find out the truth while learning interesting historical facts. I just can't say enough about the presentation and content of this book. Well written and beautifully illustrated; the book will captivate young children, while being sophisticated enough to keep older teens just as enthralled.

The perfect blend between historical accuracy and splendor in creative entertainment, *The Raucous Royals* depicts history through an amazingly unique and enticing approach that will have kids falling in love with the past.

Ages: 7...(adults will absolutely love this book too – along with the whole experience!)

From Sophia's Corner:

Sophia's Opinion:

I liked reading about Henry VIII so much! He was so fat that his servant people carried him around. He's my favourite and that was so funny. I even learned how to write the code like Mary the Queen of Scott. That was fun too.

Right now this is my favourite, bestest book in the world.

Rating: 5 Castles but I want to give it 6!

VegasGal says

Any book that can teach kids about history while making them laugh and allows them to solve mysteries and rumors about those "boring and uncool Royals" is a great thing, and this book did just that.

Castle Spooktacular says

Another awesome book celebrating the weird history of famous people. This author knows what's up!

Sylvia says

Ternyata ya, gosip tuh nggak cuma muncul sekarang aja, lewat infotainment, internet, tabloid, de el el. Tapi sejak jaman baheula yang namanya rumors tuh udah ada. Dan parahnya lagi, gara-gara rumors, orang bisa dipenggal kepalanya. Bahkan raja dan ratu pun bisa kena gosip (yaeyalah justru yang digosipin itu kan orang besar ya? seleb gituu).

Buku ini ngebahas rumors yang beredar di zaman kerajaan dulu. Gimana rumors itu bisa bertahan hingga sekarang? Ya lewat tulisan-tulisan di pamflet, gambar kartun, jingle yang dinyanyikan, juga dari mulut ke mulut (kek kalo nenangga gitu deh, bergosip di depan pager rumah kali ye kalo sekarang?)

Tapi buku ini nggak cuma ceritain gosip doang, si penulis memberikan jawaban apakah gosip yang beredar benar atau salah, trus dipaparin fakta-fakta sejarahnya.

Kek contoh, Raja Henry VIII digosipin sangat-sangat gemuk sehingga kemana-mana kudu digendong ama pelayan-pelayannya. Pelayan-pelayan lho ya, jamak nih. Jawabnya: BETUL! Bayangin aja, makannya tiap hari aja kepala babi, pie burung pigeon, puding angsa, belut bakar, kaki babi, ikan panggang dengan bumbu (tapi khusus yg ini hanya disajikan pada hari rabu, jum'at dan minggu saja). Tolong! Gimana nggak beratnya sampe 300 pounds! (ada yang tau berapa kilo?) dan dia mesti diangkat sama empat pelayannya kalo naik kotak kerajaan. Tau kan, kotak kecil yang isinya Raja kalo dia mau kemana-mana?

Trus ada gosip lagi nih, katanya Raja Louis XIV, cuma mandi tiga kali selama hidupnya! HA? Can you imagine raja nggak pernah mandi? Baunya udah nggak lazim lagi pastinya tuh. Tapi jawabnya (untungnya): SALAH. Kenapa sampe muncul gosip seperti itu? Karena jamannya Raja Louis itu, kotoran yang ada ditubuh (makin kotor makin bagus) itu bisa membuat kita sehat dan kuat! Jadi orang-orang dulu mandi setahun sekali. Tapi, si Raja justru rajin banget mandi dan dia bersiih banget, malah ganti undies sampe tiga kali sehari.

Trus, trus satu lagi nih, Napoleon Bonaparte kan digosipin orangnya pendek ya? Pernah denger kan? Jawabannya mau tau gak? SALAH! Bahkan dia setengah inci lebih tinggi dibanding rata-rata tinggi orang di jamannya. Kalo sekarang dia masih ada pasti kepilih jadi pemain basket deh!

Pokoknya buku ini asik banget deh, nggak cuma tulisan tapi banyak gambarnya juga, jadi nggak ngebosenin. Dan banyak fakta sejarah yang bisa kita dapetin. Entertaining juga educating kali ye bahasa kerennya.

Kris Waldherr says

The *Raucous Royals* is given life by the prodigiously talented Carlyn Beccia, who wrote, illustrated and designed it. Accordingly, the book has a remarkable integration between text, design and art. The book is designed to look like part tabloid magazine, part graphic novel, part Ye Olde Master homage. Frankly, I'm amazed to learn that this is only Beccia's second picture book; her debut was *Who Put the B in Ballyhoo?*, a circus-inspired alphabet.

(Yes, technically these are picture books marketed to children. But I think they're really for any age -- beautifully illustrated books are ageless -- though *The Raucous Royals* is definitely slanted to an older audience than *Ballyhoo*. Figure kids over eight.)

The core of *The Raucous Royals* is how history is "a Distillation of Rumors."* Beccia writes: "Once a rumor is born, it never truly dies. Before television, tabloid magazines, and the Internet, rumors about royalty were started by clever jingles, silly cartoons, small books called pamphlets, and simple word of mouth." From there, she deconstructs over a dozen rumors from the last five hundred years, starting with Vlad the Impader and finishing with England's unfortunate George III.

It's a fun romp, made all the livelier by Beccia's knowing wit and clever art. All the wives of Henry VIII are there, including Anne Boleyn and her supposed sixth finger. Elizabeth and her cousin Mary Stuart are presented in a Rashomon-like format. I especially liked Beccia's explanations of some of the stranger health obsessions of times past, such as "The Boil Butt Beautifier." Apparently Louis XIV was prone to nasty boils on his... well, you get the idea!

A few rumors are lightly glossed over because of the juvenile market constraint. For example, Beccia plays coy in her presentation of Catherine the Great's supposed death-by-horse. The rumor she offers: "Catherine the great empress of Russia, died after being crushed by her horse." Um, well, only half the story there. But how else could you explain this to a G-rated audience without tipping toward a racy R rating? It's a tricky thing -- and this is one tale from history that is just too juicy to leave out.

I think *The Raucous Royals* would make a delectable gift for any history fan, especially if they're on the younger side. I know if I'd had this book as a kid, I would eaten it up like coffee ice cream, my favorite childhood treat. So highly recommended for the holidays, birthdays and beyond. I can imagine many a juicy school report being fueled by it.

* Quote from Thomas Carlyle, 1795 - 1881.

Alicia says

This was a fun picture book/middle grade but awesome YA read aloud to talk about truth and fiction and how rumors persist even hundreds of years later because they get told and then embellished and retold some more. Using documentation and sometimes still leaving it in the hands of readers this had some striking illustrations and humor-- not for the serious researcher--but specific to it's intent and purpose.

It unequivocally shows how crazy/sexy/scary/badass those royals were!

Nicola Turner says

There's nothing better than a bit of juicy gossip about royals. It's what makes history interesting and probably why I find most American history pretty boring. Never mind the fact that they slaughtered hundreds of thousands of people, spent money lavishly while their subjects starved, and went around taking over other people's countries. The point is royals of yore dressed fabulously while doing it. Those good old days are gone, though. I haven't seen an outfit yet on Elizabeth II that doesn't make her look frumpy (though I will admit, she knows a good hat when she sees one).

Beccia brings those jaw-dropping royals back to life in her deliciously illustrated new book. The rich colors echo the ostentatious luxury of royalty and her portraits seem as though they came off the gallery of some 16th Century castle with a dubious past.

Beccia chose a true or false approach to her subject and it serves her purpose well. Readers get a lesson in detective work and untrustworthy sources as well as tasty tidbits of information. My 5th and 6th graders nearly threw up after reading a typical menu served to Henry VIII - mind you, I did add the part about people making themselves sick at banquets just so they could cram more grilled beaver tail or roasted peacock down their throats. This led to an interesting discussion that I shall not elaborate on here. Suffice it to say that every page of Beccia's marvelous book sparks a myriad of topics for conversation - not many of them suitable for the dinner table, which of course kids love!

The *Raucous Royals* is Carlyn Beccia's second book. The first is *Who Put the B in Ballyhoo*.

Molly says

This book caught my eye when a professor was describing different ways to appeal to reluctant readers.

It's a pretty good book, especially for younger readers

Raucous Royals starts each chapter by stating a royal rumor, then asking if it's true or false. For example, did Marie Antoinette really say, "Let them eat cake"? Was Prince Dracula a real vampire? Then a short, clever, highly illustrated chapter details the answer. One of the things I loved most about the book was the Q/A format: it encourages questions within the text. It's very interactive, including little quizzes and some instruction on how to research historical rumors. Additionally, when historians can't agree on an answer, the book's answer is "You decide!" followed by some evidence on both sides of the issue. I actually learned quite a bit from this, and had a lot of fun realizing how little I knew about certain historical events. Plus, because it regards royals, there is something inherently fascinating about it.

I wouldn't use this book past middle school, simply because it's written for a younger audience, and I think high schoolers would be offended if you made them read this. It would be great to teach a history unit using this book. History textbooks are usually very dull, but *Raucous Royals* is written with such clever tone and animated illustrations that it inspires interest. The one thing that sort of irritated me about the book is that it is only a surface-level examination of these rulers. The book is not intended to be too detailed, so it didn't bother me too much, but it was there.

Warnings:

Drugs: none.

Sex: One short article within the book talks about Napoleon's wedding night, and several chapters talk about the many wives of Henry VIII, but sex is not directly discussed.

Language: none.

Violence: Some of these rulers have done some terrible things to their people. None of these things are described in detail or have illustrations of them, but they are briefly mentioned.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

It was ok, a bit too chatty and informal, and even confusing in one spot (p.54). I suppose it might intrigue kids to want to read more on these historical mysteries and rumors. The information in it was interesting; I just didn't care for the way it was presented.

Jennifer Nash says

Interesting read. A few errors of fact, but still enjoyed it. Good book for getting kids interested in history.

Christine Heron says

Interesting introduction to royal history.

Cheryl says

Very cute illustrations. But I found two glaring errors that bring the rating down.

-Anne Boleyn was executed on May 19, 1536, not on May 17, as this book claims.

-Marie Antoinette was married to Louis XVI not Louis XIV, as this book incorrectly states.

Who knows how many more errors are in this book? Can't be trusted. Any editor should've caught these mistakes? Isn't that their job? Forget that the author herself should've corrected this before printing it in her name.

Other than that, it was cute and engaging, if not inaccurate.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Jennifer Wardrip aka "The Genius" for TeensReadToo.com

I really, really enjoyed THE RAUCOUS ROYALS, which is funny since I don't enjoy historical books all that much. But author Carlyn Beccia has turned this book into an interactive experience, and it was so much fun to learn that the things I had always taken as truth weren't always true after all!

For example, I had always heard (even in school!) that Napoleon Bonaparte was short. But using today's measuring standards, he'd be 5'6", which although isn't the height of an NBA starter, definitely isn't short!

Many people attribute the line "let them eat cake" to Marie Antoinette, since philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau had claimed in 1766 that Ms. Antoinette had suggested, quite flippantly I might add, that the poor who had no bread should instead eat cake. Not true! No one really knows why this saying has survived throughout history, but poor Marie has been getting a bad rap for ages!

Henry VIII had six wives, and it's been said that he liked to behead them with an ax. The truth, though, is that only one of his wives, Kathryn Howard, was actually beheaded this way. Although, if you ask me, one beheaded wife is more than enough!

Anyone with an interest in history, royals, or just plain old fun historical detecting is sure to enjoy THE RAUCOUS ROYALS. With clues, games, trivia, and much more, this is one book that's more than just a dry history text. A perfect book for either a classroom or personal library!

Lisa Kizer says

Good, brief introduction to some of Royalties crazier behavior.

Sarah says

FUN!

Them crazy Royals :P
