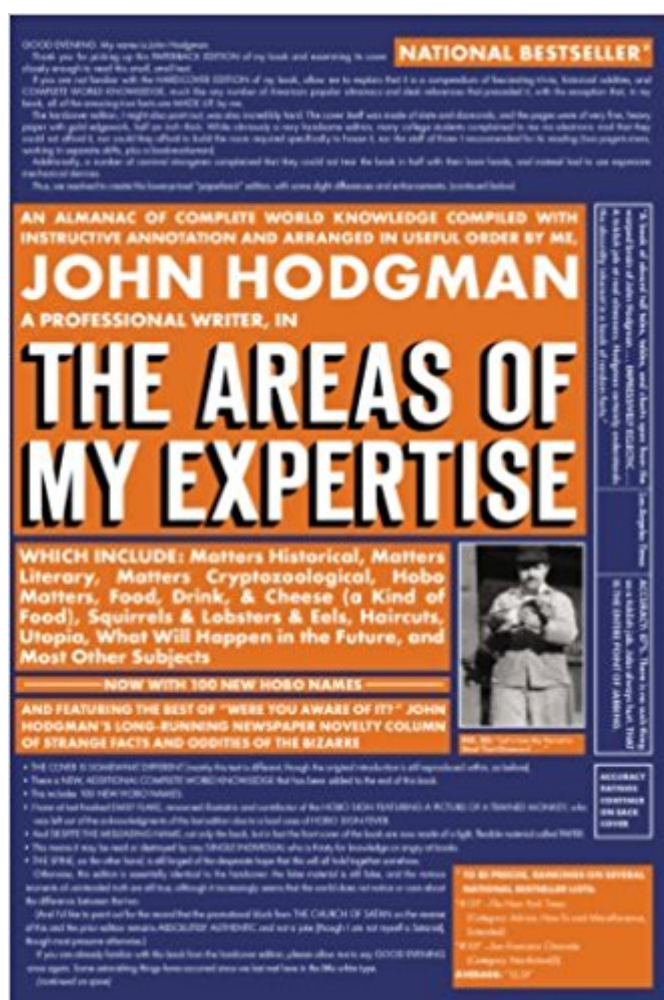






Synopsis

The Areas of My Expertise is a lavish compendium of handy reference tables, fascinating trivia, and sage wisdom—•all of it completely unresearched, completely undocumented and (presumably) completely untrue, fabricated by the illuminating, prodigious imagination of John Hodgman, certifiable genius. In an age when fake facts are all the rage, John Hodgman proves he is a man ahead of his time. Look out for John Hodgman's latest book, *Vacationland*, available from Viking in Fall 2017.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With his Daily Show appearances and his "I'm a PC" Apple ads, John Hodgman has only become more famous since the hardcover edition of his all-you-need compendium of facts, *The Areas of My Expertise* was released. He has also become smarter. To reflect this, the paperback edition of *The Areas of My Expertise* has been expanded to include 100 new hobo names and new, additional complete world knowledge. John Hodgman and his fur-hatted associate, Jonathan, have prepared an exclusive video for customers explaining the above. Click here or on the image above to watch John Hodgman describe the only book you'll ever need.

In this super-literate, ultimately exhausting exercise in literary parody, New York Times magazine contributor Hodgman has produced "a compendium of COMPLETE WORLD KNOWLEDGE." From sections titled "What Will Happen in the Future" to "What You Did Not Know About Hobos," he piles up smart-alecky nonsense in layer upon layer of surreal, wholly fictional factoids. Whether

highlighting American presidents who had hooks for hands, or sketching out the mythical secrets of Yale University, Hodgman creates a strange and intermittently hilarious parallel universe where lists of history's worst haircuts (in addition to the Mullet, there are the Scrape, the Scab and the Shag-Swoop) are printed alongside descriptions of "famous novels that were not originally published as books." Sprinkled throughout with breathless "factual" interjections "Were you aware of it? The body of Thomas Edison was never buried. Instead it was displayed for many decades in a traveling carnival.... DOES IT EVEN SEEM POSSIBLE?" this "almanac" demonstrates Hodgman's formidable imagination, if not his ability to amuse consistently. The individual passages are funny but get lost in an already overstuffed work. For the hyper-well-read fans of publications like McSweeney's, this is a treasure trove of twisted absurdist miscellany. For others, however, it may just be too much of a good thing. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

One of the only books you will ever need in your whole life. I read this, and was able to speak with trees, see brain waves, interpret Hobo mating calls, boil 3 eggs at once, and cry like a man. You will laugh, cry, and chant the welcome to end times aloud in a ritualistic circle. I can't recommend anything more.

This is honestly the funniest thing I've ever read. I find humor in print isn't an easy thing to convey. Just head to the humor section of any mega book store and you'll find that it's lacking. That being said I was very skeptical going into reading Hodgman's book. Much to my surprise and amazement, it turned out to be a genuine laugh-out-loud read throughout. So much so that I felt I need to share it with others and thus, this is my first review on . If you are like me, you come to this site to check out reviews before buying books. There is a catch with this book, you really have to like and understand his kind of non-sequitor humor. As you can see in the reviews, there's a lot of people who didn't like this book. I think the problem is not that this book isn't hilarious...it is...I think it's just a type of comedy that folks 'get' or not. Sooo I'd suggest you bounce over to the book's website areasofmyexpertice.com and look around and decide if his humor is your thing before buying. As for me, I've already bought 4 additional copies to share with friends. I think it's that good. Then again, I'm one of the lucky few that will be ready for the next Hobo Wars....I know the signs.

Are you reading this review? Hello? Yes. If you are, that means that you are somewhat likely

perhaps maybe a little interested in this book (or Audio CD for those of you that would prefer to receive your funny through a sense other than that disgusting eye-reliant one). Errr. Now I've forgotten what I was doing. No no no, I remember now, I was writing a review of the most excellent 'The Areas of My Expertise' by John Hodgman. Within this great tome or (as Mr. Hodgman put it) "cumbersome audio CD set", you may find interesting facts and trivia. Or you may not, I'm not psychic. What I can tell you is that, to myself and several select friends, this is one of the most humorous books in the realm of literary genius. Within minutes of opening this book (assuming that you have chosen to read it and not just pretend to in order to impress members of the opposite sex with your ability to hold a book open and make thoughtful noises) you will become overwhelmed with the literary hilarity, or as I am putting it 'literarity'. In short (or tall), you'll laugh. Quite a bit. If you enjoy such humorous things as a monkey boxing a cat, or a robot boxing a kangaroo, H.B.'s (Hobo Boxes) or just Boxcars themselves, you should (or would be in your best interest to) enjoy this book. Immensely. Greatly. No, I will not combine another word. Ah. Yes. The review. It is quite a good book cover, don't you think? Blue and Orange, that's Nature's goodness. And it can be right in your home. Or car. Or garbage bin of a material you selected when you purchased it (the bin, not the book). The cover contains knowledge. What knowledge? The knowledge of John Hodgman. What John Hodgman? Don't be silly. It is the very John Hodgman who wrote 'The Areas of My Expertise'. The work contains interesting facts on furry lobsters, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and the attempted Hobo takeover of the United States Government in the 1930's. It also lists over six-hundred and ninety-nine names of the aforementioned Hobo-folk. The end of the review? A summary? Buy the book or audio CD. Buy it now, you will most likely not regret it unless you don't find it funny. But many have, and you can too. You want to, don't you? Then buy it.

this is an outstanding book for those places where you only get a few minutes at a time to read. the bedside, the bathroom, your backpack... the author has a wonderfully wry, left-of-center sense of humour, and is unapologetic about constructing false facts to make his "almanac" more interesting. that, in itself, is a wonderfully subtle statement about how people tell their own stories. the only thing that keeps this book from getting 5 stars is that i was hoping for a TRUE almanac, just with wittier and stranger content. that said, though, i was pleasantly surprised to find a gem of a book which finds its way into my mitts several times a week.

Hodgman has a perfect pen for the art of brilliant randomness. I enjoyed this book from cover to cover as his sense of humor is precisely on the same vector as my own. I would highly recommend

this reading if you enjoy a delightful mix of clever factual fabrications and the juxtaposition of quick "makes you think" humor and sharp, scholarly diction. I've bought 5 copies as gifts for acquaintances that I like as well as those that I don't, in hopes that they will learn not to take life not quite so seriously. Thank you John.

Hard to read right through. But great to open now and then for a random laugh.

Its great reading on the john but I wouldn't recommend reading this at great length. Hodgman is a very talented comedian/actor extraordinaire but this book is more of a Cyclopedia written by a mad man in some sort of parallel universe full of hobos.

Awesome. Maybe some of the sections, like the various colonial professions related to eels, but it is wonderful to see such a personally wacky tome make it in the mainstream. Even if you don't listen to the entire audio version on your iPod (including all the hobo names--why did I listen to all of them? why did he read them?) like I did, it is unique and well worth your time.

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