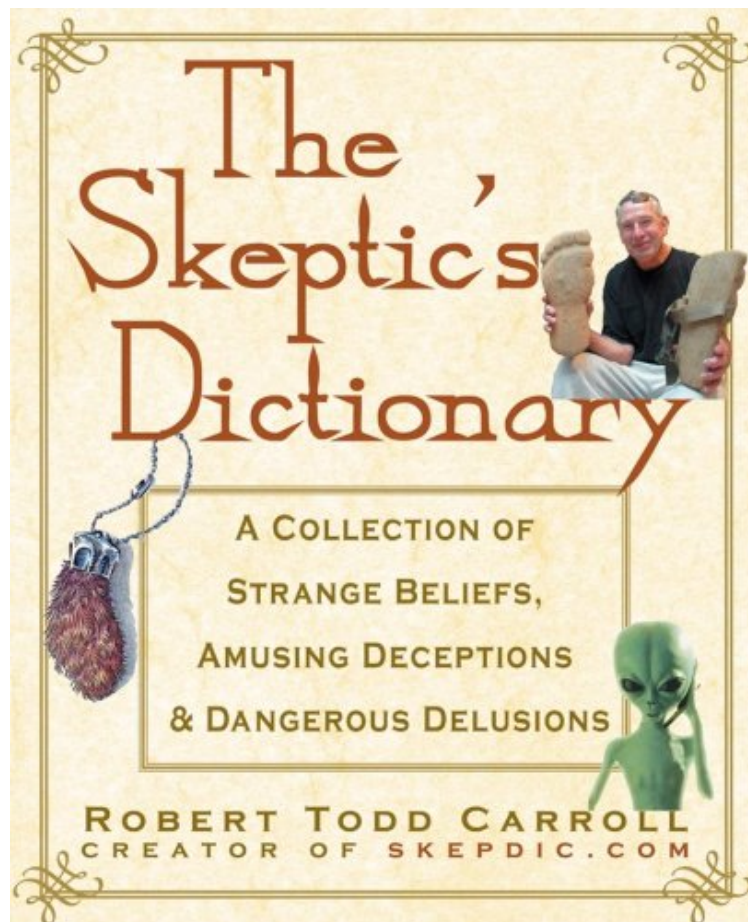


(Ebook free) The Skeptic's Dictionary: A Collection of Strange Beliefs, Amusing Deceptions, and Dangerous Delusions

The Skeptic's Dictionary: A Collection of Strange Beliefs, Amusing Deceptions, and Dangerous Delusions

Robert Todd Carroll

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#352935 in Books Unknown 2003-08-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.18 x .98 x 7.50l, 1.72 #File Name: 0471272426446 pagesThe Skeptic's Dictionary: A Collection of Strange Beliefs, Amusing Deceptions, and Dangerous Delusions | File size: 51.Mb

Robert Todd Carroll : The Skeptic's Dictionary: A Collection of Strange Beliefs, Amusing Deceptions, and Dangerous Delusions before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Skeptic's Dictionary: A Collection of Strange Beliefs, Amusing Deceptions, and Dangerous Delusions:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thorough, interesting, and authoritativeBy RICHARD JOHNSONI recommend this book for anyone interested in some of the ideas that have more recently gained currency, including but not limited to those associated with "new age" thinking.The book's subtitle ("A Collection of Strange Beliefs, Amusing Deceptions Dangerous Delusions") is misleading. The subjects of many of the entries are not at all controversial; for example, "positive-outcome bias" and "placebo effect." These may be included because some may *view* the concepts as strange, or because some may misuse the concepts to defraud others. In any case, their

inclusion, the subtitle notwithstanding, is helpful to those of us who are not sure about the legitimacy of a particular practice. One strength of the book is the thoroughness of the entries. The article on the aforementioned placebo effect covers more than 3 large two-column pages. Yet there are close to 400 articles in all, of varying sizes. Occasional illustrations add to the interest. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So, How Skeptical Are You? By Teresa Ramseur This is a very wonderful book! It is filled with all sorts of facts and theories on a wide range of topics. Even Santa and Bigfoot have entries that are worth checking out. Alongside the Druids and Psychoanalysis. From the strange to the mundane, there is something for even the most skeptical of skeptics here. Offers up some very compelling arguments, depending upon the topic discussed. In fact, it might make you reconsider how much of a skeptic you are or have become. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good, with Some Omissions By jurgfella The problem with a book like this, which could be (and in a sense already is) a website, is that the content that it tackles is really "dynamic" content, changing as new actors and belief systems come on the scene. Even so, this is a generally good book by the largely admirable author, and better I would say than James Randi's "Encyclopedia of Claims, Frauds, and Hoaxes of the Occult and Supernatural," which governs some of the same territory.

A wealth of evidence for doubters and disbelievers ""Whether it's the latest shark cartilage scam, or some new 'repressed memory' idiocy that besets you, I suggest you carry a copy of this dictionary at all times, or at least have it within reach as first aid for psychic attacks. We need all the help we can get."" -James Randi, President, James Randi Educational Foundation, randi.org ""From alternative medicine, aliens, and psychics to the farthest shores of science and beyond, Robert Carroll presents a fascinating look at some of humanity's most strange and wonderful ideas. Refreshing and witty, both believers and unbelievers will find this compendium complete and captivating. Buy this book and feed your head!"" -Clifford Pickover, author of *The Stars of Heaven and Dreaming the Future* ""A refreshing compendium of clear thinking, a welcome and potent antidote to the reams of books on the supernatural and pseudoscientific."" -John Allen Paulos, author of *Innumeracy* and *A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper* ""This book covers an amazing range of topics and can protect many people from being scammed."" -Stephen Barrett, M.D., quackwatch.org Featuring close to 400 definitions, arguments, and essays on topics ranging from acupuncture to zombies, *The Skeptic's Dictionary* is a lively, commonsense trove of detailed information on all things supernatural, occult, paranormal, and pseudoscientific. It covers such categories as alternative medicine; cryptozoology; extraterrestrials and UFOs; frauds and hoaxes; junk science; logic and perception; New Age energy; and the psychic. For the open-minded seeker, the soft or hardened skeptic, and the believing doubter, this book offers a remarkable range of information that puts to the test the best arguments of true believers.

* offers a remarkable range of information that puts to the test the best arguments of true believers (*Short Books*, Vol.24, No.3, December 2004) I found myself engrossed in the information due to its vast collection of interesting entries (*M2 Best Books*, 22 March 2004) ""...Use this book as protection against attacks by New Agers, alternative therapists and others who have chosen to abandon reason..."" (*The Times*, 25 October 2003) ""...Carroll is always interested in why such beliefs occur and points generously to further literature..."" (*The Guardian*, 18 October 2003) ""...Anyone wanting an informed opinion with which to smack down an argumentative pal should start here..."" (*Dorset Echo*, 25 October 2003) ""...A treat to savour...first reaction is pleasurable incredulity and occasional hilarity... an amazing assembly, elegantly written and level-headed...likely to be used so often it is a pity it is a softback book..."" (*New Scientist*) ""...No reasonable, logic-based library will be without a copy!"" (*Good Book Guide*, March 2004)