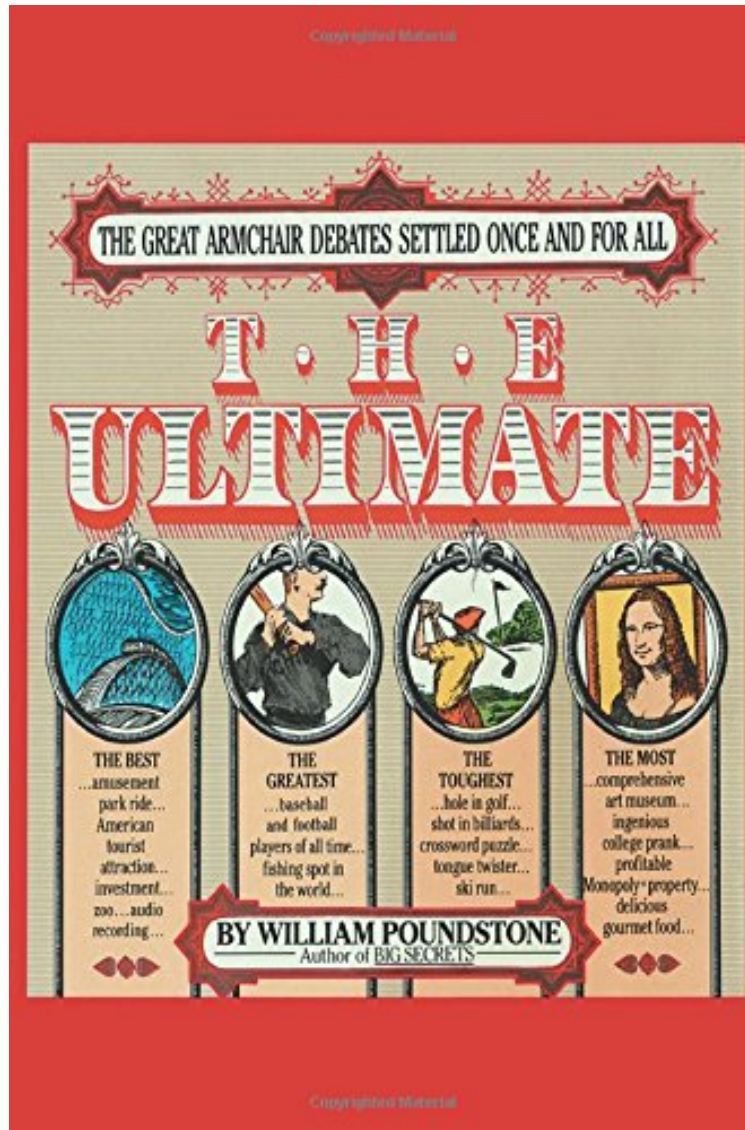


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The Ultimate: The Great Armchair Debates Settled Once and for All

William Poundstone

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William Poundstone : The Ultimate: The Great Armchair Debates Settled Once and for All before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ultimate: The Great Armchair Debates Settled Once and for All:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Lacking in content and format. By Rich M. This one was a complete miss for the normally reliable Mr. Poundstone. Few of these "great armchair debates" are settled, and the book's so small it's just annoying to read. I expected more from the author of *Big Secrets*. 34 of 35 people found the following review helpful. Browser's paradise By A Customer Despite not being a large book, this paperback makes a great "coffee table" book in the sense that it is great to leave laying around to have guests browse through. Flipping it open, one finds such important questions as: who's the best baseball player? which art museum is best? addressed. These are all questions that people have idled away time answering; the value Poundstone adds is having researched them. He provides just enough information--even on topics for which I don't have much expertise I found his commentary interesting. Even for those who don't care about the details the book is worth flipping through to see the comparative charts and conclusions. Some of his choices of important questions to answer seem a bit odd (what's the most difficult shot in billiards) but even these result in a brief, interesting chapter devoted to some topic I'd never previously pondered.

A humorous trivia book that has the official and final word on what qualifies as the coolest, the best, the toughest, the most, and of course the ultimate. Readers will enjoy learning which rollercoaster is the best, and what was the most ingenious college prank. Those are only a sample of this trivia book that will entertain all readers.

About the Author William Poundstone studied physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is the author of *The Recursive Universe*, about information theory and physics, and *Labyrinths of Reason*, an exploration of paradox in science. The author of such popular books as *Big Secrets*, *The Ultimate*, and *Prisoners Dilemma*, he has also written for *Esquire*, *Harpers Magazine*, *SPY*, and other periodicals. Poundstone lives in Los Angeles.