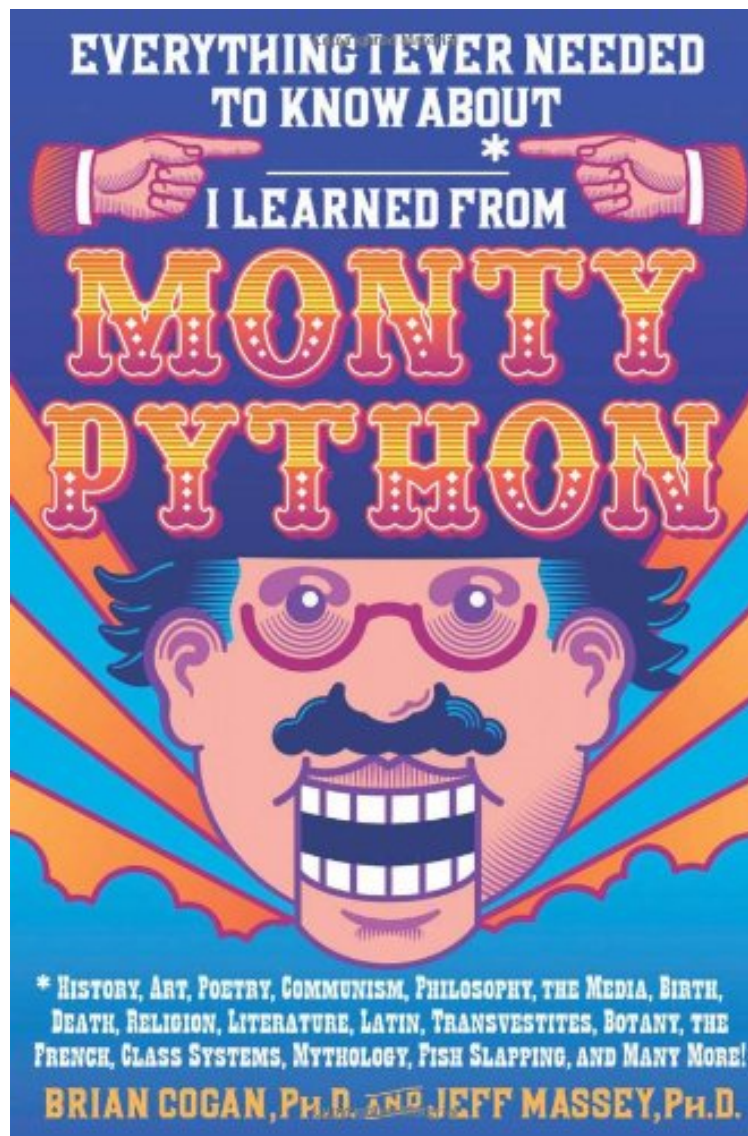


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A comprehensive and hilarious guide to understanding the many Monty Python jokes and allusionsThroughout their five seasons on British television (and well into the troop's movie sequels and assorted solo projects), Monty Python became a worldwide symbol not only for taking serious subjects and making them silly, but also for treating silly subjects seriously.Monty Python provided a treasure trove of erudite "in" jokes, offering sly allusions to subjects as diverse as T.S. Elliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" (as part of a commercial for a weight loss product) and how to conjugate Latin properly (as explained by a Roman centurion to a Jewish zealot painting anti-Roman graffiti on a wall). It was this combination of the uniquely highbrow but silly humor that inspired countless followers (Saturday Night Live, to name one). This hilarious and helpful guide puts Python's myriad references into context for the legion of fans, scholars, and pop culture aficionados that still strive to "get" Monty Python.

“The authors clearly know their Python, and they also know how much the Pythons themselves knew about virtually everything, up to and including the Spanish Inquisition.” ?The New York Times“The authors get the jokes as well as the anger behind many of them...With helpful books like this one, readers may be more alert to the persistent absurdities of modern life and to the bracing anarchy preached by Monty Python.” ?The Washington Post“Excellent...The focus on the important bits, the ones that really break the wall down, is where this work really shines.” ?San Francisco Book “A clever concept...[and] an interesting take on the Pythons.” ?Kirkus s“Here devoted Python fans Cogan and Massey suggest that what made the show unique was its many in-jokes and references to history, philosophy, politics, pop culture, the arts, the sciences, and . . . well, pretty much everything[...]. Their argument is undeniably persuasive: as anyone who's spent the best years of his or her life becoming a word-perfect reciter of Python sketches will tell you, there's a lot to be learned, if you just pay attention.” ?Booklist“Monty Python fans will applaud the efforts of fellow fans Cogan and Massey who introduce the surreal comedy group to the uninitiated by exploring the historical, political, literary, artistic, and even religious contexts for many of the troupe's sketches.” ?Publishers Weekly“As a lifelong Python fanatic, I've read just about everything ever written about them. How refreshing to see a new take on the phenomenon –the educational value of Monty Python! Everything I Needed to Know About ___I learned from Monty Python proves something that I always suspected –Monty Python is good for you. Well written, thoroughly researched and often very funny, I couldn't put this book down. (Note to authors: please make the paperback version less sticky)” ?Jason Lamb. cohost The Morning Zone, The Zone 91-3, Victoria, BC, CanadaAbout the AuthorDR. BRIAN COGAN is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Communication at Molloy College. The author of The Encyclopedia of Punk, he has also written numerous articles on punk rock, comic books, and the intersection of politics and popular culture.DR. JEFF MASSEY is professor of English at Molloy College. He is the vice president of MEARCSTAPA, the coeditor of Heads Will Roll!: Decapitation in the Medieval and Early Modern Imagination, and the author of sundry articles.