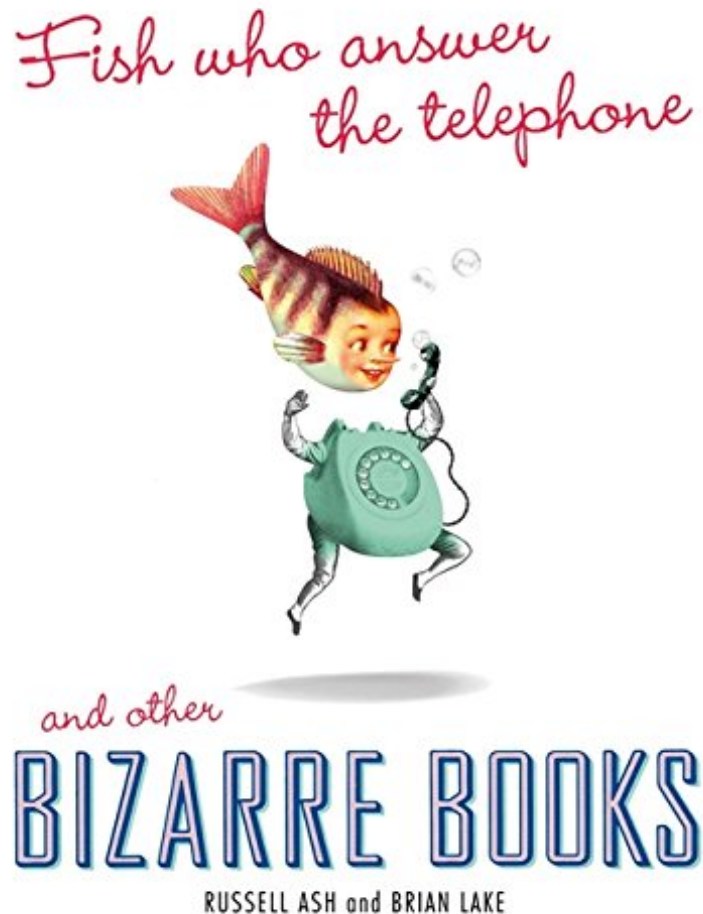


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Fish Who Answer the Telephone and Other Bizarre Books

Russell Ash, Brian Lake

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Russell Ash, Brian Lake : Fish Who Answer the Telephone and Other Bizarre Books before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fish Who Answer the Telephone and Other Bizarre Books:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Look at How the English Language Has ChangedBy James N SimpsonFish Who Answer the Telephone is the latest (2006) update of a collection originally published in 1985 as Bizarre Books and again in 1998. The collection shows a substantial number of books with titles mostly published a very long time ago that mean a totally different thing today then they innocently did back then. Some words have now become swear words, others another word for sex or genitalia, homosexuality, masturbation or other topics. With some entries paragraphs from the book which obviously had a very innocent meaning at the time now read with a completely new meaning such as a paragraph from 1882 published Christie's Old Organ (on page 52 this book)

"Old Treffy felt rather better and he turned as usual to his old organ to cheer his fainting spirits. For old Treffy knew nothing of a better comforter. Shall I take the organ out? Old Treffy did not answer; a great struggle was going on in his mind. Could he let anyone but himself touch his dear old organ?" Another, Invisible Dick, which from the cover (yes some covers are included as well) is obviously an invisible man science fiction type adventure (see customer images), Shag the Pony, Charlie and His Dog Shag and Cock Tugs are three more. Some entries are of authors who suit their book's title such as Frank Slaughter who wrote Lifeblood, Daniel Snowman who wrote Frozen Future, Lloyd Walker who wrote Biomechanics of the Human Foot and Leonard Wing who wrote the natural history of birds. There's also titles where proofreading probably didn't happen such as Bullying and Sexual Harassment: A Practical Handbook, The Romance of the Beaver, Ducks and How to Make Them Pay, Draw in Your Stool, Two Men Came Together and Scouts in Bondage to name but a few. This little book is an interesting conversation starter to leave in your lounge room or to pass around the office.

Out of the tens of thousands of books published every year, a significant proportion are unintentionally funny or just plain loopy. "Fish Who Answer the Telephone and Other Bizarre Books" brings these choice works together between two covers. Extraordinary titles include: "Aeroplane Designing for Amateurs"; "How to Draw a Straight Line"; "Ferret Facts and Fancies" and "Phone Calls from the Dead". The contents of many of these titles are no less mind-boggling - from illustrations of different types of barbed wire, to the advice contained in "Whippings and Lashings" ('always use ropes or cord of suitable thickness' and 'do not fumble or use fancy methods'), the oddness collected here is unrivalled. Some of the most unusual book jackets ever created are reproduced in full-colour, along with a selection of the most extraordinary book descriptions ever written ('This book shows 178 jumps executed by some of the most prominent and important people of our society'). "Fish Who Answer the Telephone and Other Bizarre Books" is a unique and utterly original collection of the world's most unusual books and authors." "Featuring full colour covers of gems such as "Scouts in Bondage "and" Moles and their Meaning "The oddest titles, including "Flashes from the Welsh Pulpit "and" Premature Burial and How it May Be Prevented "And the strangest authors, from Marmaduke Baglehole to Dr F.P.H Prick van Wily

"One of the funniest books I've ever encountered. My only complaint is that it should probably include a health warning. I almost made myself ill through laughing.' (Unsolicited testimonial) 'The perfect lavatory book. Start reading this and you'll be in there for hours' - Christopher Matthew" About the Author In the course of their careers in the business of writing and selling books, Russell Ash and Brian Lake have collected hundreds of bizarre book examples from this extensive field.