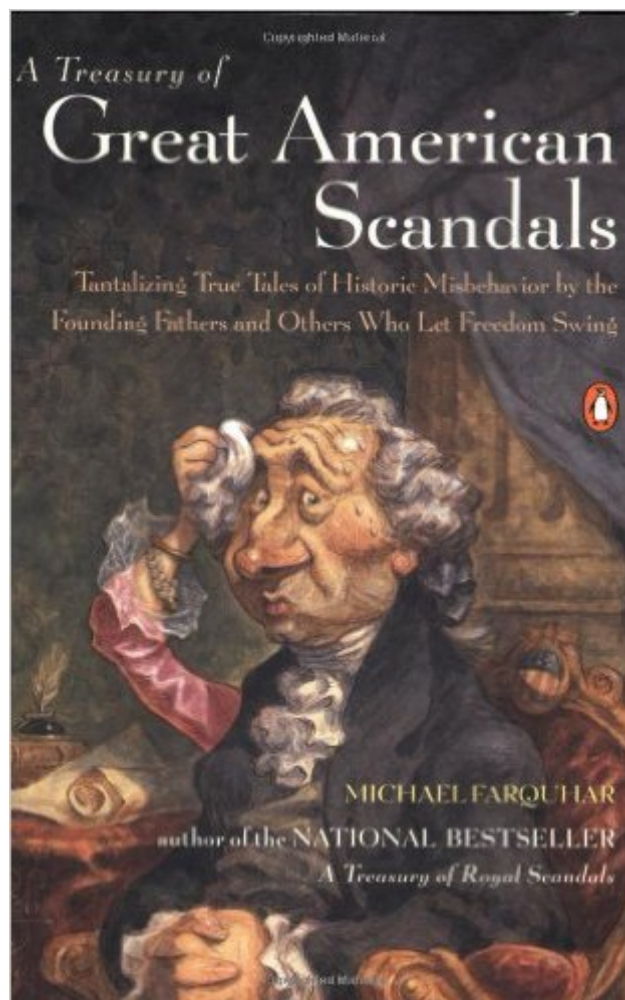


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A Treasury Of Great American Scandals: Tantalizing True Tales Of Historic Misbehavior By The Founding Fathers And Others Who Let Freedom Swing





Synopsis

Following on the heels of his national bestseller *A Treasury of Royal Scandals*, Michael Farquhar turns his attention to matters a little closer to home with *A Treasury of Great American Scandals*. From the unhappy family relationships of prominent Americans to the feuds, smear campaigns, duels, and infamous sex scandals that have punctuated our history, we see our founding fathers and other American heroes in the course of their all-too-human events. Ineffectual presidents, lazy generals, traitors; treacherous fathers, nagging mothers, ungrateful children, embarrassing siblings; and stories about insanity, death, and disturbing postmortems are all here, as are disagreeable marriages, vile habits, and, of course, sex: good sex, bad sex, and good-bad sex too. We can take comfort in the fact that we are no worse and no better than our forebears. But we do have better media coverage. Bonus educational material: A brief history of the United States, including scandals! The American Hall of Shame! A complete listing of presidential administrations!

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Customer Reviews

Many of the scandals referred to in Farquhar's title are familiar (Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton's duel; Ben Franklin's animosity toward his son; Robert Lincoln's commitment of his mother to an insane asylum), but there are quite a few that strike a cord. Thomas Jefferson's brother Randolph for one. Apparently he couldn't be trusted to manage his own affairs and one of Jefferson's slaves refers to him as "one mighty simple man--used to come out among the black people, play the fiddle and dance half the night." Unfortunately, this account is only one-page long,

and Farquhar makes no mention of the fact that it may have been Randolph rather than Thomas who impregnated Sally Hemings. Some of the other highlights (or lowlights) from GREAT AMERICAN SCANDALS involve James Buchanan's sexual preference; J. Edgar Hoover's vindictiveness; and some direct quotes from Richard Nixon's Oval Office tapes. And there's an especially eerie section on what happened to some famous corpses, including Tom Paine's and John Paul Jones's. The section on the Salem Witch trials shows how duplicitous human beings, even young ones, can be. According to Farquhar, life in Salem was so dull that the girls made the whole thing up to get attention. Despite the rehashing of some well-known historical episodes, SCANDALS is a fast read and well-worth the cost of the book.

I read this author's first book on Royal Scandals and found it both informative and, at times, very funny. This new book on American Scandals is even better. In Great American Scandals, the reader will find topics that are generally familiar and completely unknown. From the Salem Witch Trials to the 1970s Congressional sexcapades, the author writes with a combination of facts and wit. You will realize, after reading this book, how much you didn't know about the topics you thought you were familiar with. For example, everyone knows that Mary Todd Lincoln was mentally ill. Who knew her own son took her to court to have her committed to a mental institution! Farquhar gives a great history on "dueling" - beginning with the famous Burr-Hamilton duel and moves into its history and its popularity in the 19th century - involving several well and lesser known politicians. I particularly enjoyed the information on the Presidents...the Nixon "quotes" are classic...I highly recommend this book - a must read for all fans of US History!

I picked up Michael Farquhar's book because I thought the cover was so funny. Glancing at a few pages, I knew I had to buy it. Turns out, you really can judge a book by its cover! The stories are hilarious, and sometimes even moving. Anyone who was ever bored by their American History classes should read this wonderful book and discover just how fun history can be.

This is a fun book with tantalizing tales of misbehavior from times past, and reminds us that human nature does not especially change through the ages. Maybe we have more checks and balances than in those early days of dueling and fist fights on the Congress floor, but our modern politicians and business leaders still manage to get caught with their fingers in the till or "inappropriately" touching the young lasses; plus now we have digital cameras and taped phone calls. In this interesting little volume, you will find slave-owners, fat presidents, old senile chief justices, a FBI

director wearing dresses and harassing civil rights leaders, a president who hates Jewish people, and women finally getting the vote and putting a handsome, but unqualified, president into office. Chapter after chapter is enlightening, often causing the reader to laugh out loud and/or exclaiming, "I didn't know that about our Founding Fathers." I guarantee that if you are the type to slow down at the grocery check-out counter and glance at the tabloids, or chitchat with your neighbors after watching the news, you will truly enjoy this one.

Anyone interested in history will enjoy this read. The format is done in short tales of often little known information. Some is not new to history buffs, but there are some interesting tidbits that put a different perspective on what you thought you knew. It is enjoyable and easy to read. I highly recommend it and this author who seems to enjoy his research and sharing what he has learned with the reader. I am an avid reader of history and I especially enjoy the trivia and little known snippets of information these types of books relay. This book has not disappointed.

No, this is not an in-depth history book, and thank goodness for that! Rather it is a hilarious (and well-researched) collection of historical American scandals--mostly political, and all really, really funny. A great way to learn, and also just a great read. Highly recommended.

For those who are looking for the stories history books can't tell, this a book for you! This book will leave you in shock when you read the juicy accounts of dueling, murder, affairs, insane mother's and wife's, treason, and other scandalous behavior by our founding fathers and other highly esteemed people in our history books! Who would have thought that Ben Franklin would imprison his own son, the son who he also made test his kite and key lightning experiment. You will read of hateful feuds amongst our countries founding fathers, an attempt to steal one of our former President's graves, and the many prejudice comments made by former President Nixon. I personally enjoyed this book because it was funny, and the entertaining stories will also teach you a lot. This book will keep you on your toes, and make you want to know what will happen in the next chapter of scandalous behavior. The history America doesn't shed much light on, is in full color in this book.

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