

Synopsis

Lonely Planet: The world's leading travel guide publisher*This is not a guidebook. And it is definitely 'not-for-parents'. It is the real, inside story about one of the world's most famous cities - Rome. If you were a cat why would you want to live in Rome? Would you want to go to the bathroom with dozens of other people? Can you imagine eating a flamingo's tongue for lunch? Why do they fire a cannon every day in Rome? This book shows you a Rome your parents probably don't even know about. Authors: Written and researched by Lonely Planet, Klay Lamprell About Lonely Planet: Started in 1973, Lonely Planet has become the world's leading travel guide publisher with guidebooks to every destination on the planet, as well as an award-winning website, a suite of mobile and digital travel products, children's books, and a dedicated traveller community. Lonely Planet's mission is to enable curious travellers to experience the world and to truly get to the heart of the places where they travel. TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards 2012 and 2013 winner in Favorite Travel Guide category 'Lonely Planet guides are, quite simply, like no other.' - New York Times 'Lonely Planet. It's on everyone's bookshelves; it's in every traveller's hands. It's on mobile phones. It's on the Internet. It's everywhere, and it's telling entire generations of people how to travel the world.' - Fairfax Media (Australia) *#1 in the world market share - source: Nielsen Bookscan. Australia, UK and USA. March 2012-January 2013

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (45 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #129,744 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe](#) #91 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Travel](#) #211 in [Books > Travel > Europe > Italy > General](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

I have this book and the London one from the same series, and I'll say about the same thing for both books. The book is a nice size, has tons of great color pictures, drawings, interior building cross-sections, and lots of interesting, useful and fun information. These are not history books, per se, but they do have a lot of historical content in them, some of which is presented quite dark and violent for a childrens book. My issue with these books is not that violent history and human suffering is included, but the WAY it is presented; it feels very flippant, kind of like a "well, too bad for them...haha!" kind of attitude. I don't know if the authors were trying to make historical events seem cool and edgy and funny to attract kids, but to me it came off as callous, uncaring and gratuitous. On the introduction page alone the book talks excitedly about "gruesome history" and "check out cool stories about fighting with wild animals" (referring to the events in the colosseum). Uh, no... these are not "cool stories," and they are not fun and lighthearted and something to casually "check out". They are true stories of unbelievable mass cruelty and torture and murder. Why would something so clearly inhumane be presented so callously?

"Not-For-Parents Rome" is chockablock full of information about the long history of this ancient city, and much of it is interesting. The book, however, has a distinct problem in presentation, since its often fascinating facts about the almost 3000-year-old city, its people, and its customs are thrown together all higgledy-piggledy. There seems to be no rhyme nor reason behind the order, as the table of contents illustrates (e.g. the Capuchin cemetery, the Vatican, Cats, Fashion Fest, etc); nor is there a logical context within which to set the snippets of information. Each page contains several terse statements, which too often go unexplained, about topics that may be only vaguely related to each other. I would say that the book's biggest problem is that the authors haven't settled on an age group, or even a gender, for their readers. From the outrageous puns (some are fun) and the 'naughty bits'--emphasis on the ancient Roman all-in-it-together public loos, and the ancient version of toilet-tissue--I would say that it was geared for boys between ten and fifteen, although I can't imagine them being the slightest bit interested in the matching handbags worn by today's smart Roman women. For that matter, would girls of that age-group really want to know that "The center of Roman fashion is a stylish stretch of road known as Via Condotti" or that "Via Veneto is also a favorite with the chic crowd."? This same section (pp. 22-23) demonstrates the slapdash nature of the book, because amidst the "dudettes and dudes" [!!], the authors have inserted painted costume illustrations of an "Emperor" (holding the hand of an unidentified purple-clad woman that may or may not be the empress), "Plebeian", "Slave", "Senator", and "Equestrian", without any further

comment or definition.

ROME EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW is a 96-page book with color drawings, color photos, black and white photos, and cartoon drawings, printed on glossy paper. There are about 40 chapters, with titles such as, "Glad to be a Gladiator . . . Not," "Why Rome Isn't Reme," "All Roads Lead to Rome," "Religious Habits," "Caves of the Catacombs," and so on. The first chapter (pages 6-7) has color photographs of a shoulder guard, a leg protector, a trident, and a shield, where the text reads, "There were about 30 types of gladiator, and they all used different weapons, shields, and armor. Swords were common, but there were also deadly three-pronged forks known as tridents . . . and even strong nets that were thrown over opponents." This chapter has a drawing of the gladiators in the ring, with defeated human opponents laying in the soil. Another part of the text, crunched in between the drawings, informs the reader that the most famous gladiators include Spartacus, Marcus Attilius, and Flamma of Syria. In turning to another chapter, "Tricking the Eye" (pages 32-33), we find a color photo of the Palazzo Spada, where the text informs us that "a gallery off the central courtyard is built with a rising floor and shrinking columns. This makes the gallery look more than four times its actual length and a tiny sculpture at the end looks life-sized." This chapter includes a color photo of LA BOCCA DELLA VERITA, which is a marble sculpture of a bearded man who bites off the hand of people who tell lies. Another photograph is taken through a keyhole in the door at VILLA MALTA, and through the keyhole we see the dome of ST. PETER'S BASILICA. Another color photo shows the dome in the ceiling of CHURCH OF ST.

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