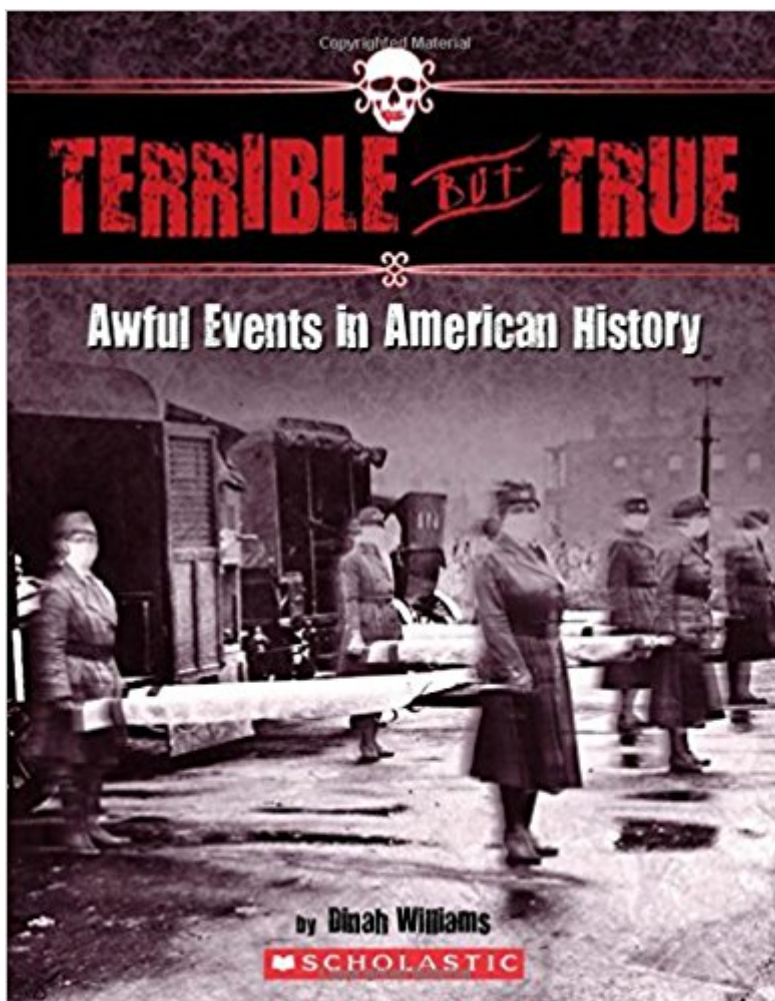


The book was found

Terrible But True: Awful Events In American History



Synopsis

Think American history is all boring battles and snooze-worthy old dudes? Think again! Welcome to *Terrible But True*, where you'll dig deep into America's forgotten past to uncover some creepy, disgusting, and just plain bizarre stories. From America's first serial killers and deadly vampire-like diseases to haunted ghost ships and vicious river pirates, our nation's history is weirder than you could have ever imagined. So dive in and prepare to be shocked, because sometimes the truth is even stranger than fiction.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #253,446 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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Customer Reviews

Gr 5 Up — Williams introduces readers to a variety of tragic events in chronological order. Famous and lesser-known topics are represented, including Revolutionary War prison ships, Philadelphia's Yellow Fever epidemic, the San Francisco earthquake, the Boston Molasses Flood, and 56 other occurrences. While many incidents are indeed tragic, others seem out of place. For instance, there is a chapter dedicated to the mercury-laden pills provided to the members of the Lewis and Clark expedition, but no injury or fatality came about from them. In relating the plight of Chinese railroad workers, Williams discusses their strike demands, but no mention is made of any resulting deaths until an inset at the end of the chapter. Likewise, scale is also an issue (the failed assassination attempt on Andrew Jackson in relation to other events that involved the deaths of many people). The chapters are extremely brief, and the narrative is overall uninspiring except for the quotations by witnesses. Readers should instead check out Jim Murphy's *The Great Fire* and *An America Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793* and

Steven Otfinoski's *The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire: Core Events of an Industrial Disaster*.

VERDICT Despite the promising premise and the introduction of many little-known tragic events, the flat narrative and the brevity in detail make this a secondary purchase. —Margaret Nunes, Gwinnett County Public Library, GA

"What's more alluring than a catastrophe? This easy-reading collection of calamities should attract both browsers and researchers like a magnet." -Booklist

TERRIBLE BUT TRUE is a remarkable overview of history through the lens of fascinating and horrifying events. Young readers, particularly those who are reluctant, will appreciate the familiar historical moments and characters, but will also love those lesser-known stories. TERRIBLE BUT TRUE is friendly and readable introduction to the parts of history that we all wonder about! I hope there's a book two.

From the germs of the prison ships in New York Harbor during the Revolutionary War to the long ride of Abe Lincoln's Funeral Train, and from the awful flames that sent women jumping to their death in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire to the original Ponzi Schemes - you are there. It's all thanks to this energetic and well-researched book. Dinah Williams opens a window into shocking events in American history that every student should know about. The writing sparkles and the pictures are vivid. I wish that I had this book back when I was in school. Barry Strauss Professor of History Cornell University

As a Middle School librarian, I highly recommend *Terrible But True*. Both engaging and informative, this book is guaranteed to draw in readers who are reluctant to pick up a nonfiction title. More and more, students are expected to be able to work with informational text, and this is exactly the type of book that will make the task fun. Teachers will appreciate the author's inclusion of many primary source documents. A must have for any school library. Erin Marmara Sparta Middle School Library

My son loves this book! He is a big reader, and he loves stories of river pirates and weird diseases. What he likes, and I like too, is that they seem like fiction but they're real.

I read these stories with my kids and I thought I knew my history, but I probably didn't know half the

terrible but true things in this book. I found myself looking up historical photos and old articles. It's really a good book for every age.

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