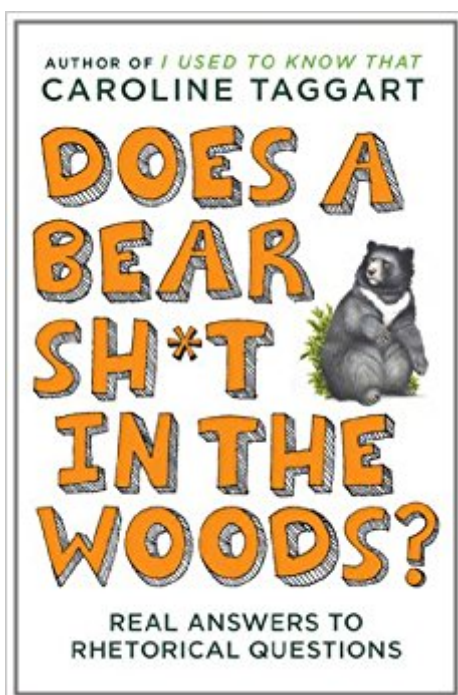


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Does A Bear Sh*t In The Woods?: Answers To Rhetorical Questions



Synopsis

Serious answers to rhetorical questions--what's not to like? For those of us who have long wondered where bears go to take care of their business, if the Pope is actually Catholic, or whether anyone is really made of money, Caroline Taggart provides the answers to these and a host of previously unanswerable questions. From the most profound questions of philosophy to queries of geography and science, this deadpan book is full of hilarious information you never knew you needed including: What's love got to do with it? How many roads must a man walk down before you call him a man? Where does the time go? Can a leopard change his spots?

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Customer Reviews

Rhetorical questions are, by their very nature, are not meant to be answered. Things like "is the pope Catholic", "et tu Brute", and "Do you know the way to San Jose" are such an accepted part of the rhetorical lexicon, no one ever intends to have such questions answered. But what if someone went and gave us actual answers to such questions? No, that question was not rhetorical, and this book clearly answers it. I love books that are odd or unusual, that have an interesting gimmick, or is just a little offbeat, so this book was a perfect fit for me. I found the writing to be very clever, and while I may not have been rolling on the floor laughing, more than one time this book got me chuckling and giggling. The humor is very dry, so be prepared for that. I will say that this is probably not a book you want to sit down and read in one sitting. At some point, you may get a little overwhelmed with the rhetoric, and it may lose its funny factor. But this is a great book to keep around and read in snippets for full impact. If you have anyone in your family who likes sophisticated

and smart humor, they would appreciate this book.

Well, does it? Who knows really - probably hunters, loggers, and zoologists. Oh yeah, and apparently Caroline Taggart, the author of this goofy little book about the answers to rhetorical questions. Rhetorical questions, for those of you who are out of the intellectual loop, are questions that are asked - usually for dramatic oratorical effect or emphasis - for which no answer is expected. This is my definition, not anyone else's, hence the lack of attribution. I love rhetorical questions - I rather love words, as I've pointed out before, and I think rhetoric is a fabulous way to play with language. In Taggart's words (from the Afterword): "Rhetoric was an integral part of a classical education, not only in Ancient Greek times but right up to the Middle Ages in much of Europe. Nowadays you would study it at university if you were taking a philosophy course, but probably would not come across it otherwise." Well, I was a philosophy major, and that is where I first ran into the rhetorical wall. And yes, yes, I know what you're thinking: "what a useful degree, Jill-Elizabeth, brilliant choice." Actually, it was - on both counts. Those philosophy classes taught me how to reason, argue, and think; they taught me how to pick apart dense intellectual (and quasi-intellectual) arguments and to distill them down to their essential components. All skills I found useful in law school, various jobs, and even in writing. So to all my critics, I have only one (rhetorical question) thing to say: "Who's the wise guy now?" Anyway, back to the book. The book is a cute aggregation of a series of rhetorical questions from literature, music, and popular culture, with answers provided. Some of the answers are clever and designed to amuse, some contain actual information, and some are just plain silly. It's a fun little book that will teach you a few fun little facts to trot out at cocktail parties or whenever else you might need small talk. There is no author biography provided, but Taggart appears to be British from some of her linguistic choices, and the book is deliciously snarky a few times. I wish it had been snarkier, frankly - snark being one of my favorite components of any book that falls within the "trivia/humor" book category. It was a little too light and fluffy at times for my tastes; I could have used less of the "well, that's really up to the speaker to decide" type of answers (admittedly applicable to more than a few rhetorical questions, but neither particularly informative nor entertaining in a book intended to be humorous) and of the references to pop music and more of the historical/literary references with actual facts and information to explain their origins and meanings. But that may just be me. I don't tend to love books on pop culture, largely because I don't always get all the references. I'm no luddite, mind you, but I don't love a lot of what the masses of the population seem to - I never got into reality television or gameshows or dance music, can't stand People Magazine or Us Weekly or tabloids. I don't like practical jokes or pranks

or shows like Jackass or Funniest Home Videos that delight in them. And so when a book uses those as references or source material, I do the same thing I do when my friends (or strangers) talk about those things: I smile politely and turn my brain to other things. I found myself doing that once or twice here, admittedly. The book was cute though, and the premise was a clever and kitschy one - and I do enjoy clever and kitschy. Don't expect to walk away with a profound understanding of the meaning of life, but you can expect to walk away with a grin and having giggled more than once. And really, isn't that what humor/trivia is about?

By definition, Taggart says, rhetorical questions are all the ones which someone somewhere felt worth answering but have been left without a satisfactory response. I think of them as questions where a response is not needed or expected. Where does time go? Is the Pope Catholic? Were you born in a barn? The answers Taggart provides are not only humorous but very informative. This book was a fun entertaining read. I am a big fan of the sitcom The Big Bang Theory. Jim Parsons plays the wonderful Sheldon Cooper. Reading this book it struck me these questions were answered in much the same way as Sheldon would. This book is definitely a perfect escape! 5 stars!! Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Plume, A Division of the Penguin Book Group. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. Receiving a complimentary copy in no way reflected my review of this book. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

A funny take on answering those questions that have been out in the world left unanswered because we all weren't sure if there was truly an answer for any of them. A collection of questions sorted by topic with answers that range from short and simple to more with a philosophical approach. My favorite question and answer was - "Is it me or is it hot in here?" With the answering mentioning menopause - I started laughing out loud because I have been around a woman in the middle of menopause and the hot flashes were something else. A cute little read that I enjoyed in one sitting, but others may enjoy a question or two a day. While others may even enjoy leaving it on their toilets for their guests to enjoy. I think these questions and answers could even be enjoyed as a group - while enjoying other's takes on how the questions were answered. Definitely a delightful little read.

This book interested me. I read it in one sitting. Not usually my kind of book but it intrigued me. The

book is informative and held my interest all the way through. It's also funny and witty. And an easy read. Pick up this book if you want answers to the questions that haven't yet been answered, UNTIL NOW.

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