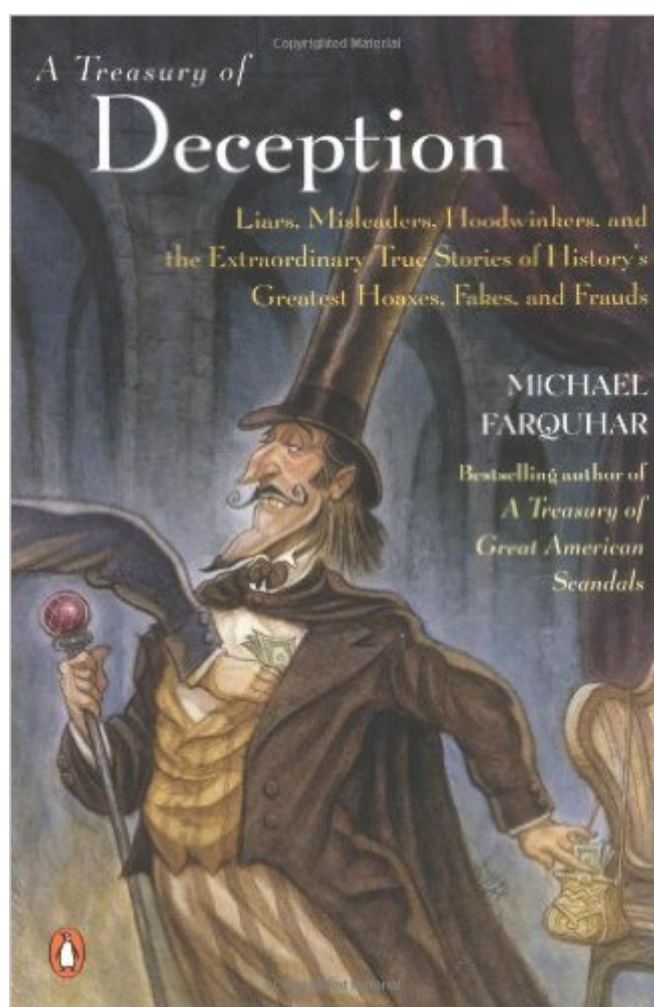


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A Treasury Of Deception: Liars, Misleaders, Hoodwinkers, And The Extraordinary True Stories Of History's Greatest Hoaxes, Fakes And Frauds



Synopsis

We may say that honesty is the best policy, but historyâ€”to say nothing of business, politics, and the mediaâ€”suggests otherwise. In this infinitely citable book, the author of two bestselling treasuries of scandal recounts some of the greatest deceptions of all time. With what forged document did the Vatican lay claim to much of Europe? Who wrote Hitlerâ€™s diaries? Why do millions still believe the vague doggerel that Nostradamus passed off as prophecy? Organizing his material by theme (con artists, the press, military trickery, scientific fraud, imposters, great escapes, and more), Michael Farquhar takes in everything from the hoodwinking of Hitler to Vincent â€œthe Chinâ€• Giganteâ€™s thirty-year crazy act. A Treasury of Deception is a zestful, gossipy exposÃ©â€”and celebrationâ€”of mendacity. A Treasury of Deception also includes: Ten tricksters from scripture Ten great liars in literature Ten egregious examples of modern American doublespeak Ten classic deceptions from Greek mythology

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Customer Reviews

The famous and the anonymous infamous are included in this light account of great liars of history. There are commoners who claim to be kings when they are conveniently absent. Leading the pack is the story of imperious, obnoxious Anastasia, reputed daughter of Czar Nicholas of Russia, subject of an Ingrid Bergman movie. Anastasia was committed to mental institutions late in life and is still believed by diehards to be the lone surviving Romanov despite DNA tests that proved the contrary. There are scientific frauds like the lady who gave birth to bunnies or the Piltdown Man, the numerous literary frauds like the Hitler diaries and Clifford Irving's hoax biography of Howard

Hughes. There's the story of the evil Elders of Zion hoax about supposed Jewish plans for world domination invented by the Czar's secret police to justify their pogroms (and a perennial favorite of microcephalic antisemites ever since), the Southern slave who mailed himself to freedom in New England, the reprehensible Jerry Falwell blaming 9/11 on gays, lesbians, pagans, and others he didn't like, journalistic hoaxes, and more. Enough to inspire any liar. One of Farquahr's more entertaining stories is from Nazi Germany, although actually widely regarded itself as a hoax based on Berlin water-cooler storytelling. The story is that a few years before the war began, Nazi intelligence, which anticipated war with Stalin's Soviet Union, called in all the letters from the Russians that had been accumulated in the beurocracy's files. By judicious culling, they assembled a sheaf of documents which required only a couple outright forgeries to convey a tale of conspiracy involving the Soviet Army's appeal for German neutrality in an overthrow of Stalin.

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