



## Raucous Royals: Test your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce Which Royal Rumors are True

By Carlyn Beccia

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What is in a rumor? Carlyn Beccia invites us to look more closely at all rumors and consider how the truth can become twisted over time in this one-of-a-kind combination of nonfiction picture book, graphic novel, and tabloid magazine.

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*By Carolyn Beccia*

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## **Raucous Royals: Test your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce Which Royal Rumors are True** By Carolyn Beccia Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

### **From School Library Journal**

Grade 4–8—This lighthearted look at historical rumors about European rulers from Vlad Dracula to George III is full of humor, interesting facts, and insightful perspectives. Some of the rumors turn out to be true (Henry VIII's weight), some are false (Louis XIV's bathing habits), and several are still undecided (Richard III as a murderer). Examining their veracity is a clever hook that leads into a fascinating look at how gossip, literature, and other unreliable sources can be taken as truth over time. The author provides just enough introductory context and shares well-chosen anecdotes and facts in an engaging conversational style. Varied approaches keep each section fresh: a mock casebook presents the "rumor suspects" regarding the death of Catherine the Great, for example, and opposing arguments from fictional historians show both sides of the question of Peter the Great's actual "greatness." Comic portraits and other illustrations add to the irreverent tone. Mary I reaches from her picture frame to grab the crown of Elizabeth in one scene, and a lineup of males against a wall demonstrates Napoleon's taller-than-average stature, among other funny examples. The conclusion offers tips on how to use research to gauge the accuracy of historical rumors, and a bibliography cites multiple sources for each figure covered in the book. This humorous approach to history has strong booktalk potential, and also serves as a compelling introduction to the notion that separating fact from fiction can be challenging and fun.—*Steven Engelfried, Multnomah County Library, OR*

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### **From Booklist**

This entertaining collective biography looks at rumors about a dozen royal figures and presents evidence of each tale's truth or falsehood. The discussion begins with Prince Dracula (a real vampire?) and Richard III (a hunchback? murdered his nephews?), spotlights five colorful Tudors, then moves on to six later figures, including Marie Antoinette ("Let them eat cake?") and Catherine the Great (crushed by her horse?). Noting the invention of the printing press in 1440, Beccia draws an intriguing connection between today's rumor-filled tabloids and fifteenth-century pamphlets smearing Vlad Dracula (aka Vlad the Impaler). Nicely designed and fully illustrated with caricatured digital images sometimes inspired by period portraits, the book looks inviting and the lively text is consistently entertaining. The final section suggests how students can research historical rumors. A bibliography and a few source notes are appended. Though other history books have more substance, choose this one to engage readers in critical thinking about the "facts." Grades 4-7. --Carolyn Phelan

### **Review**

"The energy and gleefully gossipy nature makes this a fine companion for Krull's Lives of . . . series, while its verve particularly recommends it as an entree into historiography and critical thinking."—The *Bulletin*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Sam Holmes:**

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yep, you can

choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or read a book allowed Raucous Royals: Test your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce WhichRoyal Rumors are True? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have different opinion?

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