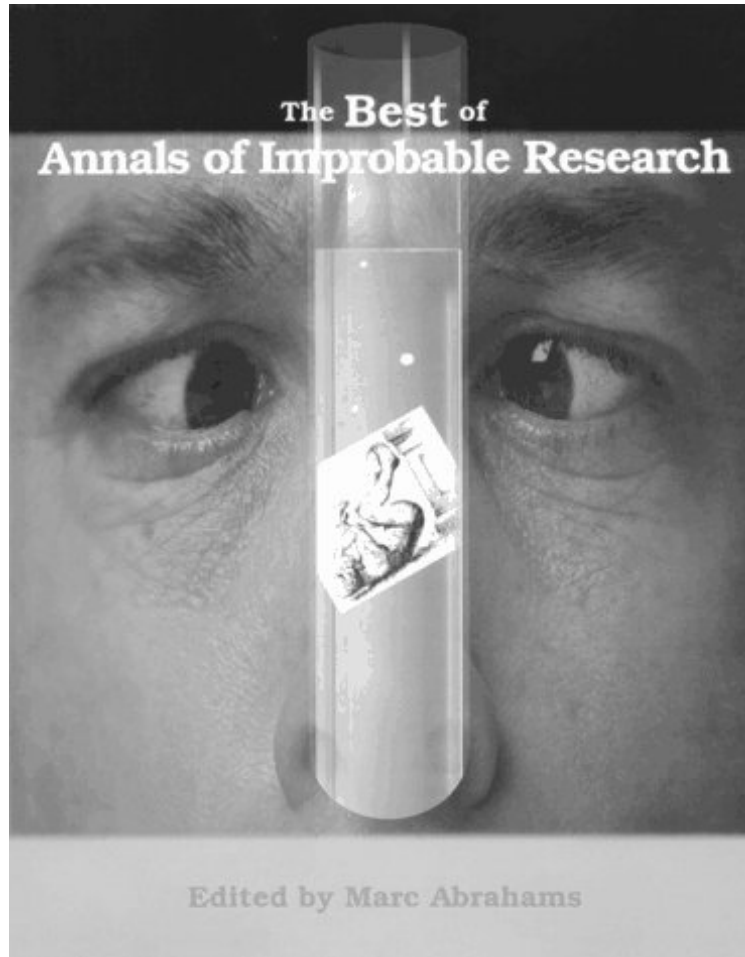


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The Best of Annals of Improbable Research

Marc Abrahams

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Marc Abrahams : The Best of Annals of Improbable Research before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Best of Annals of Improbable Research:

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. The Ubiquitous Holy GrailBy Robert I. HedgesAs a scientist and technical professional I couldn't put this book down. I have kept up with the the Annals of Improbable Research for many years and this truly reflects some of the best efforts of scientists the world over. In this volume we have works by legitimate Nobel prize winners, and lesser known works such as "Gummy Worm on a Sidewalk" by Kate and Jesse Eppers, ages 12 and 10, respectively. (In their conclusion they noted that: "We came to a conclusion that three out of five people will accidentally step on a gummy worm thrown on a sidewalk." Brilliant.)Highlights for me include: "The Laser Cheese Raclette", "The Effects of Peanut Butter on the Earth's Rotation," and, of course, "Internet Barbie and the Time Caplet." There are too many to go into, but almost all are delightful. I guess the only minor critique would be of the couple of pages of limericks, which I find a bit trying, particularly when the subject matter is "Mastodon,

Mother, and Babe."Overall a wonderful, humorous look at scientists and science through a very different lens than most are used to.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not all books have characters in the sense that Tolstoy's novels did.By travel light and smilingThe questionnaire attached to this review is very inappropriate. Because of the nature of this work, it thereby becomes fitting.Somone in really ought to open the cover of some of these works to find out what they are asking us to review.This work is a collection of articles done by people once attached to a periodical called the Journal of Irreproducible ResultsThat was science at play.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read for those interested in scientific researchBy SLHVery entertaining!

The "Annals of Improbable Research" (AIR) is often described as the "Mad Magazine of Science". It is a bi-monthly magazine and an Internet Website. It is best known for hosting the "Ig Nobel" ceremony, honouring real scientists who have conducted funded research, yet whose achievements "cannot and should not be reproduced". This book will cover the Ig Nobel Prizes, their history, some highlights, and the 1996 Awards. Additional material about "Big Science" will include contributions by actual Nobel Laureates and articles that treat real science with a wry spin. The volume closes with suggestions for education and teaching of science, underscoring the need for the educated person to understand some basic science and to nurture the natural curiosity of children when they encounter science. It is for anyone interested in science humour.

.com "Science is too human, too much fun, and too important not to laugh at it." The Annals of Improbable Research (and its predecessor, the Journal of Irreproducible Results) has been making fun of science and scientists for decades. This latest compendium includes a listing of the Ig Nobel prizes, annually awarded "for scientific achievements which cannot or should not be reproduced," and some of the prizewinning papers, such as "Failure of Electric Shock Treatment for Rattlesnake Envenomation" and "Of Mites and Man." There are also plenty of groundbreaking original studies from AIR: "How Dead Is a Doornail?" "Furniture Airbags," and "The Medical Effects of Kissing Boo-Boos." As the book's warning label states, the result is a highly reactive mix: "Contents are unexpectedly educational and informative, especially in patients who suffer allergic reactions to science, technology, literature, or art. Can be highly addictive." Let the buyer beware. --Mary Ellen Curtin "If you have any interest in modern scientific research you'll find yourself guffawing from the first page of this book to the last."--Martin Gardner