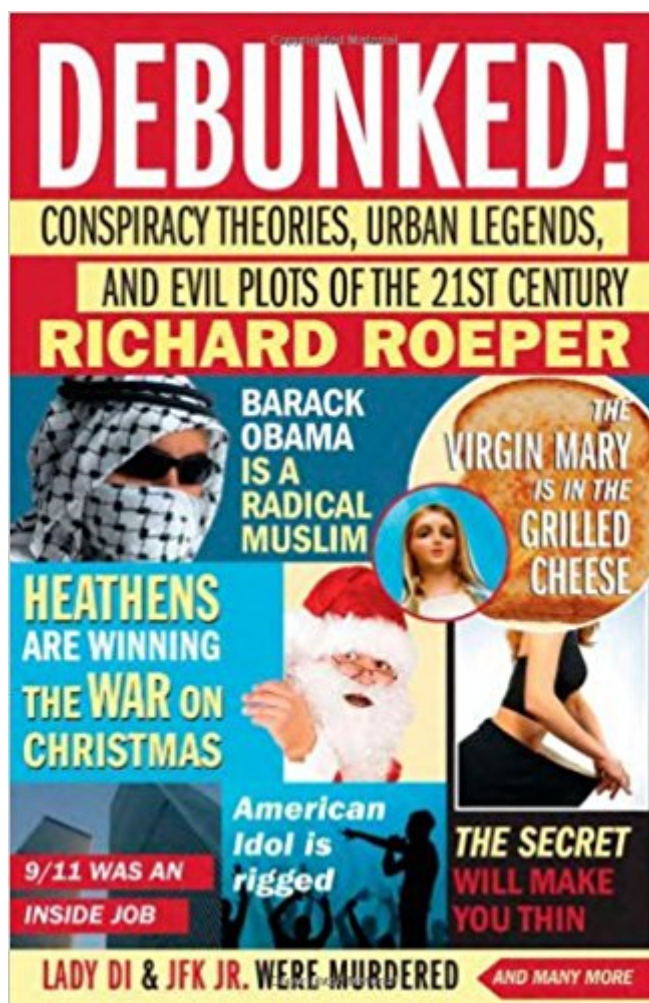


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Debunked!: Conspiracy Theories, Urban Legends, And Evil Plots Of The 21st Century



Synopsis

You know what's really going on, don't you? Flight 93 secretly landed in Cleveland, where the passengers were whisked off to a NASA facility. Nostradamus predicted JFK Jr.'s plane crash, which was engineered by the One World Government. Online poker sites are rigged to knock out the short stacks. Donald Rumsfeld was behind the bird flu panic. That's what it's like to live inside the mind of the 21st-century conspiracy theorist, who believes that all you have to do is look at the signs and you'll see what's really going on. And thousands if not millions of people actually believe this is the way the world works. Debunked! is a breezy but fact-filled dissection of more than two dozen of the most popular urban legends and conspiracy theories of the 21st century. As he did in *Urban Legends* and *Hollywood Urban Legends*, and as he has done in dozens of columns for the *Chicago Sun-Times* over the last decade and a half, Richard Roeper lays out the basics of each conspiracy theory, quotes some of the true believers; and then tears the theory apart with his bare hands. This book will provide you with invaluable ammunition for the next time you communicate with someone from that other, shadow world; that place where secret tribunals pull the strings and influence the outcome of everything from terrorist attacks to professional sporting events.

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Customer Reviews

Newspaper columnist and TV movie reviewer Roeper takes on a variety of widely believed myths about pop culture, politics, sports, business, and even religion. He approaches his

targets – whether – a conspiracy theories surrounding the death of Princess Diana or those – a mysterious faces appearing on food products – a – from a commonsensical point of view, asking simply, Where – a, is the evidence? For instance, you – a, have heard that it wasn't the airplanes crashing into the World Trade Center on 9/11 that caused the towers to fall, but rather that the collapse – a resulted from – a the towers being rigged with explosives in advance. Perfectly logical, except that the biggest piece of evidence in support of the theory (that jet fuel doesn't burn at a temperature high enough to melt steel) is irrelevant (because the steel of the towers wouldn't need to melt, just weaken and buckle). Along with pointing out why much-loved legends are asinine, Roeper isn't above going for laughs (and getting most of them). Recommend this one to fans of Al Franken's Lies (and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them) or the works of noted skeptics James Randi, Robert Baker, and Michael Shermer.

--David Pitt

"Along with pointing out why much-loved legends are asinine, Roeper isn't above going for laughs (and getting most of them)." – Booklist "[Roeper's] hyped up on information and lays it all out there in easy-to-follow logic." – Chicago Sun-Times "Roeper injects lots of humor and fun into his dissections and isn't afraid to get on his soapbox." – Pop Syndicate "A very entertaining book." – blogcritics.org

Light easy reading, but a bit superficial. Doesn't quite hit the sweet spot between too light and too much info. Too many arguments boiled down to "c'mon, really?" Still, fun to re-visit the creative conspiracy theories.

This book is more witty than analytical, but its a good, quick read that points out that just about every conspiracy theory is riddled with problems and errors. If you want a more analytical look at the place of conspiracy theories in contemporary American Life, I suggest Jonathan Kay's Among the Truthers.

Absolutely delightful book! Sorry it ended. His opinions, wording, use of imagery, stories - all made the reading witty and well done!

I bought this when i used to read roeper every day (i find his columns lacking ever since he decided to take on 3+ jobs at once) and it is his writing at its best. so many great arguments, makes you

wonder about people sometimes

This was a fun informative read. It makes you shake your head to think that so many people buy into the strangest theories about how something happened rather than going to the most practical and common place. I guess people don't want simple and common place. My only complaint about the book was that some of the theories got a lot of explanation...almost too much. I was surprised to find several urban legends and conspiracy theories that I had never heard of. I guess those believers would say I had my head in the sand. Recommended.

Roeper had me hooked from his FOXNEWS interview about his book - though in the book he makes his distaste for FOXNEWS apparent. However I really was hoping for more - more on the JFK assassination hype, more on Roswell "cover-up," and other moronic conspiracy theories. His film reviews should also cover the "Parallax View" which is another far-fetched "evil government cover-up conspiracy" flick which is even worse than "Capricorn I" if that were possible. His point about the "9/11 truth"-squaders is well-taken - if there had been any conspiracy the same ruthless government would have had all of these morons buried in a mass grave under a toxic nuclear waste dump! ! !

I just got the book today, great read, I like the chapter on the war on christmas, keep up the good work.

I only read a little of this book, but it was enough to prove it was a waste of paper. All Roeper does is take a list of topics of widely-varying importance, from the 9/11 attacks to Katrina to the Virgin Mary in a grilled cheese sandwich, and supposedly says what really happened. But all he does is make a shallow cover of each topic, using rushed and poorly-argued and unsourced "evidence". He talks about various rumors that came out of what happened during Hurricane Katrina, but simply says they are based on racism because many victims were black, and he fails to say what really happened. He also claims the media isn't liberally-biased by listing a few conservative news outlets and columnists-but fails to give an overall picture of the media. Essentially Roeper editorializes rather than educates, and could at least have provided some sources for his arguments rather than saying "this is so!" with no real evidence. The National Enquirer does a better job.

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