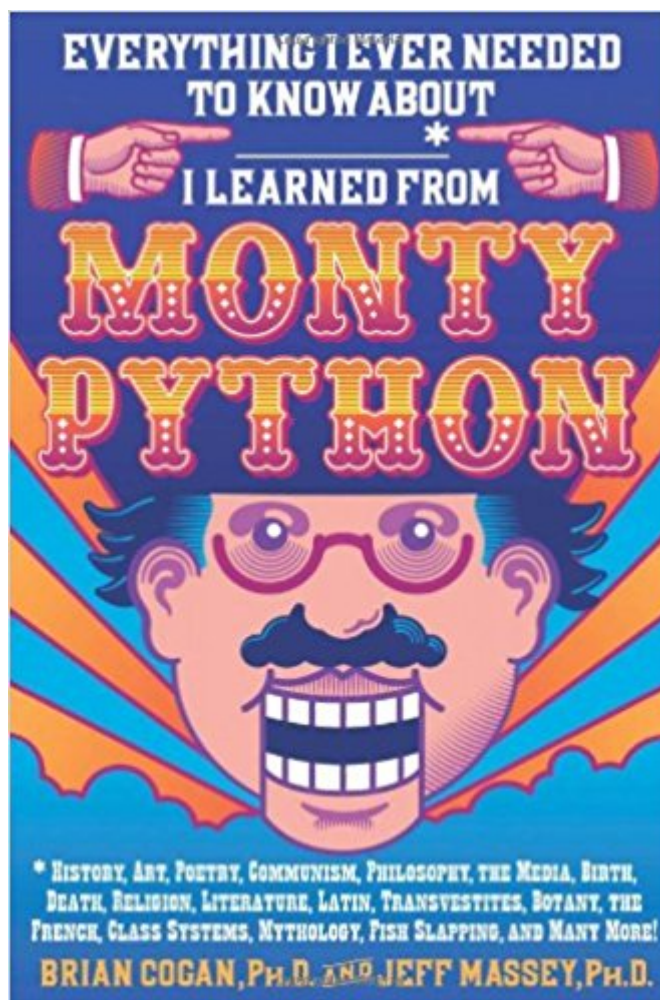


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# Everything I Ever Needed To Know About \_\_\_\_\_ \* I Learned From Monty Python: \*History, Art, Poetry, Communism, Philosophy, The Media, Birth, Death, ... Mythology, Fish Slapping, And Many More!





## Synopsis

A comprehensive and hilarious guide to understanding the many Monty Python jokes and allusions. Throughout their five seasons on British television (and well into the troop's movie sequels and assorted solo projects), Monty Python became a worldwide symbol not only for taking serious subjects and making them silly, but also for treating silly subjects seriously. Monty Python provided a treasure trove of erudite "in" jokes, offering sly allusions to subjects as diverse as T.S. Elliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" (as part of a commercial for a weight loss product) and how to conjugate Latin properly (as explained by a Roman centurion to a Jewish zealot painting anti-Roman graffiti on a wall). It was this combination of the uniquely highbrow but silly humor that inspired countless followers (Saturday Night Live, to name one). This hilarious and helpful guide puts Python's myriad references into context for the legion of fans, scholars, and pop culture aficionados that still strive to "get" Monty Python.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

• The authors clearly know their Python, and they also know how much the Pythons themselves knew about virtually everything, up to and including the Spanish Inquisition. • The New York Times • The authors get the jokes as well as the anger behind many of them...With helpful books like this one, readers may be more alert to the persistent absurdities of modern life and to the bracing anarchy preached by Monty Python. • The Washington Post • Excellent...The focus on the important bits, the ones that really break the wall down, is where this work really shines. •

•San Francisco Book Review• A clever concept [and] an interesting take on the Pythons. •  
•Kirkus Reviews• Here devoted Python fans Cogan and Massey suggest that what made the show unique was its many in-jokes and references to history, philosophy, politics, pop culture, the arts, the sciences, and . . . well, pretty much everything[...]. Their argument is undeniably persuasive: as anyone who's spent the best years of his or her life becoming a word-perfect reciter of Python sketches will tell you, there's a lot to be learned, if you just pay attention. •  
•Booklist• Monty Python fans will applaud the efforts of fellow fans Cogan and Massey who introduce the surreal comedy group to the uninitiated by exploring the historical, political, literary, artistic, and even religious contexts for many of the troupe's sketches. •  
•Publishers Weekly• As a lifelong Python fanatic, I've read just about everything ever written about them. How refreshing to see a new take on the phenomenon "the educational value of Monty Python! Everything I Needed to Know About \_\_\_ I learned from Monty Python proves something that I always suspected "Monty Python is good for you. Well written, thoroughly researched and often very funny, I couldn't put this book down. (Note to authors: please make the paperback version less sticky) •  
•Jason Lamb. cohost The Morning Zone, The Zone 91-3, Victoria, BC, Canada

DR. BRIAN COGAN is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Communication at Molloy College. The author of The Encyclopedia of Punk, he has also written numerous articles on punk rock, comic books, and the intersection of politics and popular culture. DR. JEFF MASSEY is professor of English at Molloy College. He is the vice president of MEARCSTAPA, the coeditor of Heads Will Roll!: Decapitation in the Medieval and Early Modern Imagination, and the author of sundry articles.

great book... very satisfied

What can I say... it's Monty Python!

Insightful, intellectual, and filled with insights into the mind and enormous cultural contributions made by the Pythons. If you're a Python fan, you need to read this book.

He saw this in the bookstore awhile before I bought it for him. I know nothing of the book but all I know is he is very happy with it.

Enjoyed the read. Entertaining look at MPFS and plenty of other information gleaned from the background of their skits. Makes me want to stream some of the skits and movies.

Good

Monty Python, through both their TV show and movies, ruined me for life. Seriously, I was on the fast track to being one of those super-unctuous, silly persons who worries about what luxury items I own and what my status in life is amongst my peers. Monty Python robbed me of that...thank the heavens. And this new book reminds me of why I still love them after all these years. "Everything I Ever Needed to Know About \_\_\_\_\_ \* I Learned From Monty Python," by Brian Cogan and Jeff Massey, shouldn't work. Indeed, I was cynical when I first came across it. It can't be good, can it? Well, it is. From all the stuff you didn't know you learned from MPFC (and there's quite a bit) to the many times I found myself laughing at well-remembered skits due to references to them in the book (no one remembers Johann Gambolputty...I'm sorry, my time is short...of Ulm), this is a great read for diehard Python-heads and newbies alike. It's informative, educational, and funnier than it should be if it's the other two things. The authors here have done a public service, and it behooves you to get this book as soon as you get back from the cheese shop with no actual cheese or the pet shop with ex-parrots. My nipples exploded with delight when I got good and into this book, and yours will too. Trust me, me doctor...I'm sorry, this review has gone on quite enough. It's too silly. Right, stop that...(seriously, this is a funny and informative book. You won't regret giving it a chance...)

The authors of "Everything I Ever Needed to Know About \_\_\_\_\_ \* I Learned From Monty Python" are PH.Ds (well la-di-da, I'm off to play the grand piano) and they attempt to make sense of the silliness and absurdity of the British comedy group. They might have an easier time finding Venezuelan Beaver Cheese. My daughter bought me this book for my birthday because she had grown up with me saying things like, "Rene Descartes/semaphore/Spanish Inquisition/bouzouki music" "I learned this from Monty Python!" She bought the book during her college program semester at Disneyworld at a shop in the United Kingdom in Epcot so it must be the real deal (Walt even paid for the postage to have it shipped). The book is loosely divided into seven parts (note: There is nooooo Part 4!) ranging from subjects such as history, art and sports. Although the subjects spill over into other chapters, the authors manage to link (That's a link!) them back to the topic at hand rather ingeniously. Covered are skits from Monty Python's Flying Circus, Monty Python movies, Spamalot and even

Monty Python comedy albums. (As a teenager, the album The Monty Python Matching Tie and Handkerchief completely blew my mind. I played the second side of the record album once and several weeks later played it again-and it was completely different material! There were double grooves and it depended on where you put the stylus as to which material you heard. You could have slapped me with a fish and knocked me into the water!) There are also quotes from the Pythons themselves making this a particularly strange and satisfying book. Fans of Monty Python will love this book. Casual fans and persons completely unfamiliar with Monty Python will just be confused (as well as their cats) but that is as it should be. I loved this book and now I'm going to grab my Monty Python's Flying Circus complete series DVDs and get silly all over again. •

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