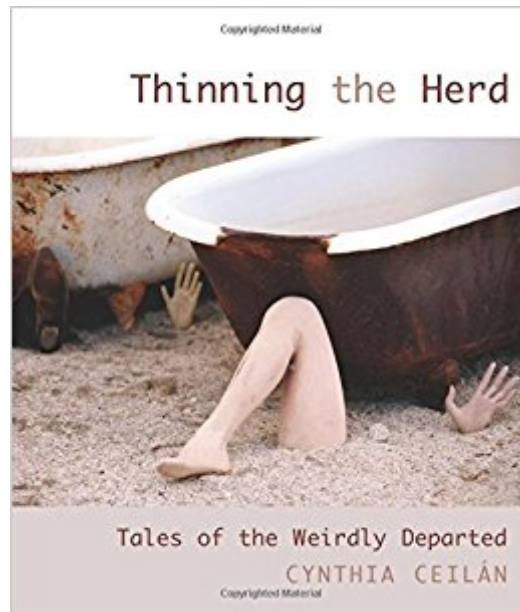




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Thinning The Herd: Tales Of The Weirdly Departed



Synopsis

Dark humor about those who have removed themselves from the gene poolAn original and irreverent compendium of accidental deaths caused by astonishing stupidity, embarrassing irony and/or really bad luck, in the tradition of The Darwin Awards. Author Cynthia Ceilan includes details about:
*the hospital in India that faced a strange epidemic when patients kept dying on Fridays
*and then discovered the weekly housekeeper was disconnecting life support systems in order to plug in her vacuum cleaner
*Conqueror Attila the Hun, who died of a nosebleed on his wedding night
*Jean-Louis Toubon, who choked to death on his girlfriend's edible panties
*and many more!

Book Information

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#429 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Death
#2192 in Books > Deals in Books

Customer Reviews

...Because "Thinning the Herd" by Cynthia Ceilan would certainly deserve such a ranking..If this isn't among the most badly researched, ineptly written books of its kind than I don't know what is..Much of what Ceilan reports as fact ISN'T ! To give JUST A FEW examples; On page # 56 Ms. Ceilan makes the following observation about Oliver Cromwell.."Two and a half years after the death of Oliver Cromwell in 1658 he was exhumed, tried, found guilty of treason AND EXECUTED ALL OVER AGAIN.."..the fact is that Cromwell died of illness while still a power in Great Britain, and was not "executed"...except of course after he was already dead and the monarchy had been restored On page # 51 Ms. Ceilan writes that Zachary Taylor, 12th president of the United States "..Died of uncontrollable diarrhea"..the facts, such as they are known, suggest typhoid fever, however it was long thought that Taylor may have been poisoned..this led to a 20th century exhumation of his

corpse which disproved the poisoning stories.."uncontrollable diarrhea"while it MAY have been a contributing factor in Taylor's final illness has not been claimed by any reputable historian to be the cause of his deathOn page # 46 ms Ceilan writes that Ohio politician Clement Vallandigham accidentally shot himself to death in 1846..Curious how a man who died in 1846 could be declared a hostile"copperhead" by the Lincoln administration in the 1860s and exiled to confederate territory because of thisOn page # 43 ms Ceilan writes that noted mobster Al Capone died of syphills"while serving time in a maximum security prison"when in fact he died of this illness at his vacation home in Florida..These are just four examples of Ms Ceilan's shoddy and inept research..

Imagine my surprise to find my uncle's name in "Thinning the Herd." I am a niece of Second Lieutenant Lloyd "Pete" Herbert Hughes. This is the entire paragraph found on Pete on page 86 of this book:"Medal of Honor winner Lloyd Hughes, a B-24 bomber pilot during World War II, managed to destroy enemy oil refineries in Romania even though his plane was severely damaged in the battle. He returned to the base a hero, but his plane exploded on landing."The author got a few things right, but to be included in "Thinning the Herd" she could have at least gotten the way he died correct, which was not returning to base a hero only to have his plane explode on landing. First of all, Pete was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously. He was a Medal of Honor recipient, not a "Medal of Honor winner." Secondly, he did not return to base.Second Lieutenant Lloyd "Pete" Herbert Hughes was a 22 year old pilot when he flew his fifth and last bombing mission in the Ploesti Raid, an extremely low level bombing mission over the Campina oil refinery, labeled "Red Target." Campina was about 18 miles north of Ploesti, Romania. He died while trying to land his bomber in the dry river bed of the Prahova River. Six men died in the crash, two died of their wounds soon after and two were taken prisoner. They were the brave, young crew of a B-24 D heavy bomber, air craft number 42-400753 J, nicknamed "Ole Kickapoo." They were in the Army Air Forces, 9th Air Force, 2nd Air Division, 389th Bomb Group, 564th Squadron.Quoting his Medal of Honor citation:"With full knowledge of the consequences of entering this blazing inferno when his airplane was profusely leaking gasoline in two separate locations, 2d Lt.

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