

Depraved English

Peter Novobatzky

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Peter Novobatzky : Depraved English before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Depraved English:

18 of 21 people found the following review helpful. lexicography yes, humor noBy Marty GardnerThis book brought me a handful of half-hearted chuckles, but not one serious belly laugh. Beyond the "oh my goodness" smirking over a book containing so many "unmentionables", there just really isn't much to it.It's a small book, with big type, lots of white space and illustrations, so there aren't really that many words here. And the authors therefore felt the need to pad it further with sample sentences showing the words in "humorous" context. These examples were almost always predictable and rarely added anything to the definition."beray /bee RAY/ v. - To splatter with feces. 'After getting berayed yet again, Ted the zookeeper made a grim vow: one day he would get even with those damn monkeys.'"Did you laugh? I didn't.This book is all very tasteful and proper - the illustrations are 18th century etchings, the representative characters all named Percy and Roderick - and I found this decidedly boring.For my money, the British "Roger's Profanisaurus" (available at .co.uk) left this stilted volume in the dust.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent--Buy Insulting English in addition to this bookBy Golden Web ColoradoThere's a word for it, whether it's an egregious social blunder, preverted sexual practice, or demented personality trait, you'll find a word for it in either book. The humor value is worth more than the word value in some cases.4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. "Wordsworth" KnowingBy A Customer"Depraved English" is a marvelous book, for both young and old. It would come as no surprise to hear that the SAT folks in Princeton were scanning it for a more interesting "800" score challenge!In any case, it certainly would have enhanced my appreciation of the Wordsworthian Lyrical Ballads if a word or two from "Depraved English" had been incorporated into this famous work. "The Rime of

the Ancient Mariner" would have had an additional timeless vigor and gusto! Like a fellow reviewer mentions, I too, first came across the word "callipygian" ("having nicely shaped buttocks") in my college (sic) "daze". My source was another literary gem entitled "Mrs. Byrnes' Dictionary of Unusual, Obscure and Obsolete Words" (which I believe is unfortunately no longer available). And of course, don't forget "steatopygic" (an extreme accumulation of fat on the buttocks). I reckon that the beauty of life is that each, in their own right, are words of the "pygophilous". Whatever your passions, whatever your tastes, "Depraved English" is a full course meal for word epicureans. Bonne Appetite!