



Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs

By Ken Jennings

Download now

Read Online 

Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs By Ken Jennings

One day back in 2003, Ken Jennings and his college buddy Earl did what hundreds of thousands of people had done before: they auditioned for Jeopardy! Two years, 75 games, 2,642 correct answers, and over \$2.5 million in winnings later, Ken Jennings emerged as trivia's undisputed king. *Brainiac* traces his rise from anonymous computer programmer to nerd folk icon. But along the way, it also explores his newly conquered kingdom: the world of trivia itself.

Jennings had always been minutiae-mad, poring over almanacs and TV Guide listings at an age when most kids are still watching Elmo and putting beans up their nose. But trivia, he has found, is centuries older than his childhood obsession with it. Whisking us from the coffeehouses of seventeenth-century London to the Internet age, Jennings chronicles the ups and downs of the trivia fad: the quiz book explosion of the Jazz Age; the rise, fall, and rise again of TV quiz shows; the nostalgic campus trivia of the 1960s; and the 1980s, when Trivial Pursuit® again made it fashionable to be a know-it-all.

Jennings also investigates the shadowy demimonde of today's trivia subculture, guiding us on a tour of trivia hotspots across America. He goes head-to-head with the blowhards and diehards of the college quiz-bowl circuit, the slightly soused faithful of the Boston pub trivia scene, and the raucous participants in the annual Q&A marathon in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, "The World's Largest Trivia Contest." And, of course, he takes us behind the scenes of his improbable 75-game run on Jeopardy!

But above all, *Brainiac* is a love letter to the useless fact. What marsupial has fingerprints that are indistinguishable from human ones?* What planet has a crater on it named after Laura Ingalls Wilder?*** What comedian had the misfortune to be born with the name "Albert Einstein"?**** Jennings also ponders questions that are a little more philosophical: What separates trivia from meaningless facts? Is being good at trivia a mark of intelligence? And is trivia just a waste of time, or does it serve some not-so-trivial purpose after all?

Uproarious, silly, engaging, and erudite, this book is an irresistible celebration of

nostalgia, curiosity, and nerdy obsession—in a word, trivia.

* **The koala**

** **Venus**

*** **Albert Brooks**

From the Hardcover edition.

 [Download Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive ...pdf](#)

Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs

By Ken Jennings

Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs By Ken Jennings

One day back in 2003, Ken Jennings and his college buddy Earl did what hundreds of thousands of people had done before: they auditioned for Jeopardy! Two years, 75 games, 2,642 correct answers, and over \$2.5 million in winnings later, Ken Jennings emerged as trivia's undisputed king. *Brainiac* traces his rise from anonymous computer programmer to nerd folk icon. But along the way, it also explores his newly conquered kingdom: the world of trivia itself.

Jennings had always been minutiae-mad, poring over almanacs and TV Guide listings at an age when most kids are still watching Elmo and putting beans up their nose. But trivia, he has found, is centuries older than his childhood obsession with it. Whisking us from the coffeehouses of seventeenth-century London to the Internet age, Jennings chronicles the ups and downs of the trivia fad: the quiz book explosion of the Jazz Age; the rise, fall, and rise again of TV quiz shows; the nostalgic campus trivia of the 1960s; and the 1980s, when Trivial Pursuit® again made it fashionable to be a know-it-all.

Jennings also investigates the shadowy demimonde of today's trivia subculture, guiding us on a tour of trivia hotspots across America. He goes head-to-head with the blowhards and diehards of the college quiz-bowl circuit, the slightly soused faithful of the Boston pub trivia scene, and the raucous participants in the annual Q&A marathon in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, "The World's Largest Trivia Contest." And, of course, he takes us behind the scenes of his improbable 75-game run on Jeopardy!

But above all, *Brainiac* is a love letter to the useless fact. What marsupial has fingerprints that are indistinguishable from human ones?* What planet has a crater on it named after Laura Ingalls Wilder?** What comedian had the misfortune to be born with the name "Albert Einstein"?*** Jennings also ponders questions that are a little more philosophical: What separates trivia from meaningless facts? Is being good at trivia a mark of intelligence? And is trivia just a waste of time, or does it serve some not-so-trivial purpose after all?

Uproarious, silly, engaging, and erudite, this book is an irresistible celebration of nostalgia, curiosity, and nerdy obsession—in a word, trivia.

* **The koala**

** **Venus**

*** **Albert Brooks**

From the Hardcover edition.

Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs By Ken

Jennings Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #88810 in Books
- Brand: VRAND
- Published on: 2007-10-30
- Released on: 2007-10-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.20" h x .60" w x 5.50" l, .50 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

 [Download Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs By Ken Jennings

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Did you know that Trivia was a Roman name for the goddess Hecate or that *Jeopardy!* tapes a week's worth of shows in a single afternoon? Jennings's record-setting 2004 six-month stint on the syndicated TV quiz show won him \$2.5 million and instant fame as he landed on Letterman, Leno, *Sesame Street* and Barbara Walters's "Ten Most Fascinating People" list. Sprinkling trivia questions throughout his first book, the former computer programmer is a charmingly self-deprecating guide to the subculture of esoterica as he relates how he answered his first trivia question about the Wright brothers at four and made his chops on the ego-driven college quiz bowl circuit; confides how he mastered the "tricky" *Jeopardy!* buzzers; bonds with professional trivia writers; and describes being bested by the puzzler "Most of this firm's seven thousand seasonal white-collar employees work only four months a year" (Jennings answered FedEx; H&R Block is correct). You don't have to be a couch potato to answer this: what's an eight-letter word for a highly entertaining, fast-paced read that demystifies "America's most popular and most difficult quiz show" while pondering how trivia is a cultural phenomenon that offers a tidy alternative to life's messiness as well as instant camaraderie between people from different walks of life? (*Sept. 12*)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

Although reality shows and other mindless drivel seem to dominate the TV landscape, it's reassuring that *Jeopardy!* still remains as a last vestige of academic pursuit in a sea of pop culture. This book provides a behind-the-scenes look at this holy grail of trivia contests. Jennings, perhaps the most famous *Jeopardy!* winner of all, completed a record 74-game winning streak over a six-month period in 2004, shortly after the five-game limit was lifted. Steeped in the world of trivia, he offers an in-depth history of the young sport, with its roots in English pub contests, the quiz shows (and accompanying scandals) of the 1950s, and the collegiate quiz-bowl circuit, where nerds reign supreme. Jennings informs and astounds us and manages to cram in enough fun facts to keep any trivia nut happy. *David Siegfried*
Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

About the Author

Ken Jennings was born in Seattle but spent much of his childhood in Seoul, South Korea. A graduate of Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, he worked as a computer programmer until becoming an unlikely celebrity due to his unprecedented record-breaking streak on the television quiz show *Jeopardy!* He lives outside Salt Lake City with his wife and son. For more information, visit www.ken-jennings.com.

To schedule a speaking engagement, please contact American Program Bureau at www.apbspeakers.com

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lucille Renner:

Here thing why this Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all reading a book is good nonetheless it depends in the content from it which is the content is as tasty as food or not. Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs giving you information deeper since different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no guide that similar with Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs. It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your eyes about the thing that will happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your way home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the paper book maybe the form of Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs in e-book can be your alternate.

Sunday Richey:

Do you really one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt if you are in the book store? Try to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't determine book by its deal with may doesn't work at this point is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not as fantastic as in the outside search likes. Maybe you answer is usually Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs why because the great cover that make you consider with regards to the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content is usually fantastic as the outside or even cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly show you to pick up this book.

Sunny Weaver:

This Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs is great book for you because the content that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This book reveal it facts accurately using great plan word or we can point out no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but tough core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs in your hand like having the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no book that offer you world with ten or fifteen tiny right but this e-book already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt that will?

Anne Shibata:

Guide is one of source of know-how. We can add our know-how from it. Not only for students but in addition native or citizen will need book to know the change information of year to year. As we know those ebooks have many advantages. Beside most of us add our knowledge, may also bring us to around the world. Through the book Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs we can take more advantage. Don't that you be creative people? To get creative person must choose to read a book. Simply choose the best book that appropriate with your aim. Don't always be doubt to change your life with that book Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs. You can more attractive than now.

**Download and Read Online Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious,
Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs By Ken Jennings
#OQZMX4LSYD3**

Read Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs By Ken Jennings for online ebook

Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs By Ken Jennings Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs By Ken Jennings books to read online.

Online Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs By Ken Jennings ebook PDF download

Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs By Ken Jennings Doc

Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs By Ken Jennings Mobipocket

Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs By Ken Jennings EPub

OQZMX4LSYD3: Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs By Ken Jennings