



Maphead: Charting the Wide, Weird World of Geography Wonks

By Ken Jennings



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Record-setting *Jeopardy!* champion and *New York Times* bestselling author Ken Jennings explores the world of maps and map obsessives, “a literary gem” (*The Atlantic*) now available in paperback.

Ken Jennings takes readers on a world tour of geogeeks from the London Map Fair to the bowels of the Library of Congress, from the prepubescent geniuses at the National Geographic Bee to the computer programmers at Google Earth. Each chapter delves into a different aspect of map culture: highpointing, geocaching, road atlas rallying, even the “unreal estate” charted on the maps of fiction and fantasy. Jennings also considers the ways in which cartography has shaped our history, suggesting that the impulse to make and read maps is as relevant today as it has ever been.

From the “Here be dragons” parchment maps of the Age of Discovery to the spinning globes of grade school to the postmodern revolution of digital maps and GPS, *Maphead* is filled with intriguing details, engaging anecdotes, and enlightening analysis. If you’re an inveterate map lover yourself—or even if you’re among the cartographically clueless who can get lost in a supermarket—let Ken Jennings be your guide to the strange world of mapheads.

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Maphead: Charting the Wide, Weird World of Geography Wonks By Ken Jennings Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #53634 in Books
- Brand: Scribner
- Published on: 2012-04-17
- Released on: 2012-04-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .80" w x 6.00" l, .70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 304 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Books of the Month, September 2011 Ken Jennings, best known for his epic winning streak on *Jeopardy!* in 2004, returns to the writing world with *Maphead*, a charming, funny, and of course, informational book about the world of maps and the people who love them. Even if maps are not your thing, Jennings writes about them with such affection and humor that the topic becomes fascinating; the clever captions for the maps in the book alone are worth the read (the first map in the book compares shapes of places that were “separated at birth” and are therefore soul mates. Included: Lake Michigan and Sweden). From the politics of geocaching to the ups and downs of the contestants participating in the National Geographic Bee (which, according to Alex Trebek, should have its own prime-time show like the spelling bee), Jennings captures the excitement and wonder of places. --*Caley Anderson*

Review

“Jennings is a very witty, insightful writer and has written an entertaining and educational book about maps and the geeks who obsess over them.” —Pauline Frommer, travel writer and founding editor of Frommers.com

“It’s a fun read that’s not just for wonks.” —*The Salt Lake Tribune*

“[A] spirited layman’s history of cartography.” —*Harpers*

About the Author

Ken Jennings won seventy-four games and \$2.52 million on *Jeopardy!*, both U.S. game show records. His book, *Brainiac*, about his bizarre *Jeopardy!* adventures and the phenomenon of trivia in American culture, was a national bestseller. He currently lives outside Seattle, with his family and a deeply unstable Labrador retriever named Banjo.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Raymond Childers:

This Maphead: Charting the Wide, Weird World of Geography Wonks is great reserve for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who have always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. That book reveal it data accurately using great plan word or we can declare no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but challenging core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having Maphead: Charting the Wide, Weird World of Geography Wonks in your hand like finding the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no book that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen second right but this e-book already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt that will?

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