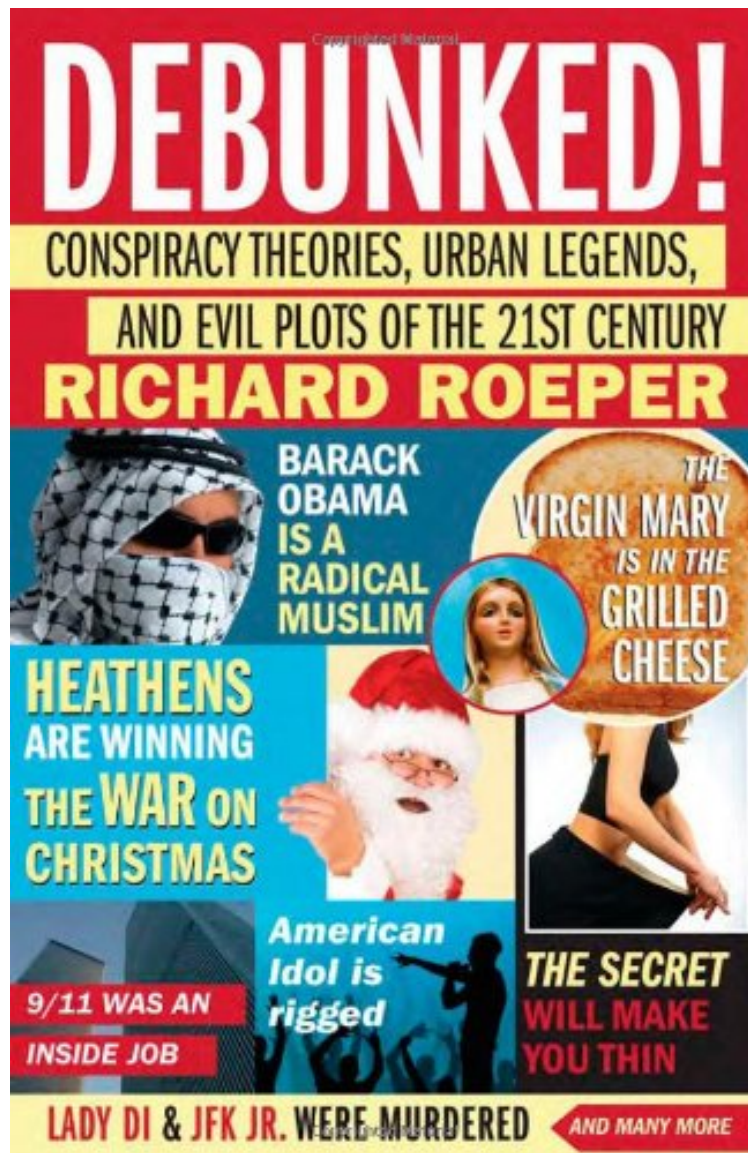


Debunked!: Conspiracy Theories, Urban Legends, and Evil Plots of the 21st Century

Richard Roper

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Richard Roper : Debunked!: Conspiracy Theories, Urban Legends, and Evil Plots of the 21st Century before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Debunked!: Conspiracy Theories, Urban Legends, and Evil Plots of the 21st Century:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Maybe a little too light By Jeff Simmons Light easy reading, but a bit

superficial. Doesn't quite hit the sweet spot between too light and too much info. Too many arguments boiled down to "c'mon, really?" Still, fun to re-visit the creative conspiracy theories. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Good, quick, and enjoyable read
By History Reader
This book is more witty than analytical, but its a good, quick read that points out that just about every conspiracy theory is riddled with problems and errors. If you want a more analytical look at the place of conspiracy theories in contemporary American Life, I suggest Jonathan Kay's *Among the Truthers*. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very enjoyable!
By Julie Distel
Absolutely delightful book! Sorry it ended. His opinions, wording, use of imagery, stories - all made the reading witty and well done!

You know what's really going on, don't you? Flight 93 secretly landed in Cleveland, where the passengers were whisked off to a NASA facility. Nostradamus predicted JFK Jr.'s plane crash, which was engineered by the One World Government. Online poker sites are rigged to knock out the short stacks. Donald Rumsfeld was behind the bird flu panic. That's what it's like to live inside the mind of the 21st-century conspiracy theorist, who believes that all you have to do is look at the signs and you'll see what's really going on. And thousands if not millions of people actually believe this is the way the world works. *Debunked!* is a breezy but fact-filled dissection of more than two dozen of the most popular urban legends and conspiracy theories of the 21st century. As he did in *Urban Legends and Hollywood Urban Legends*, and as he has done in dozens of columns for the *Chicago Sun-Times* over the last decade and a half, Richard Roeper lays out the basics of each conspiracy theory, quotes some of the true believers and then tears the theory apart with his bare hands. This book will provide you with invaluable ammunition for the next time you communicate with someone from that other, shadow world that place where secret tribunals pull the strings and influence the outcome of everything from terrorist attacks to professional sporting events.

From *Booklist* Newspaper columnist and TV movie reviewer Roeper takes on a variety of widely believed myths about pop culture, politics, sports, business, and even religion. He approaches his targets whether conspiracy theories surrounding the death of Princess Diana or those mysterious faces appearing on food products from a commonsensical point of view, asking simply, *Where's the evidence?* For instance, you've heard that it wasn't the airplanes crashing into the World Trade Center on 9/11 that caused the towers to fall, but rather that the collapse resulted from the towers being rigged with explosives in advance. Perfectly logical, except that the biggest piece of evidence in support of the theory (that jet fuel doesn't burn at a temperature high enough to melt steel) is irrelevant (because the steel of the towers wouldn't need to melt, just weaken and buckle). Along with pointing out why much-loved legends are asinine, Roeper isn't above going for laughs (and getting most of them). Recommend this one to fans of *Al Franken's Lies* (and the *Lying Liars Who Tell Them*) or the works of noted skeptics James Randi, Robert Baker, and Michael Shermer. -- David Pitt "Along with pointing out why much-loved legends are asinine, Roeper isn't above going for laughs (and getting most of them)." *Booklist*