

## Book Review

Elaine S. Wiener

Twisted True Tales from Science: Insane Inventors

Stephanie Bearce

Prufrock Press Inc.

paperback, \$8.95, 150pp.

ISBN-13: 978-1-61821-570-3

Surprise! Another Stephanie Bearce book appeared unexpectedly in the mailbox. This one is called "Twisted True Tales From Science: Insane Inventors." The "Medical Mayhem" book was worth many *Eeeeeooooos*...and so is this one. Our kids are going to just love knowing so many truths about science and medicine without blinking twice while we grownups are going to continue thinking "Eeeeeooooo."

Just look at the Table of Contents:

Don't Try This At Home

Insane Inventors

No-Nose Tycho

Needle-Eye Newton

Sir Laughing Gas

Puking for Science

Shy Scientist

Step Right Up to the Science Circus

Inventor's Lab: Make an Electromagnet

Inventor's Lab: Build Your Own Flashlight

Strange Days of Science

The AC/DC War

A Heart for Science

Dr. Doggenstein

Human Crash Test Dummy

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Dr. Disgusting

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Take the Plunge

Hero Inventor

X-ray Queen

Nikola Tesla's Death Ray

Madam Curie Fights a War

Inventor's Lab: Get Glowing

Inventor's Lab: Trick Your Eyes

Inventor's Lab: Make a Bottle Squirt Gun

Inventor's Lab: Build a Moving Force  
Machine

## Insanely Fun

Stephanie Bearce tells us that “Modern humans take inventions for granted. They sleep on a nice comfortable mattress that isn’t full of bugs and rodents because inventors in the 1800s discovered that tightly packed cotton keeps out unwanted critters.”

She goes on to give many examples of inventions that were logical or even were accidents. And it is amazing that so many scientists experimented on themselves. We are told that the legend about Newton and the apple is not true. You will have to read this book to find out what the truth is!!

I enjoyed the story of Henry Cavendish who loved his books, his laboratory, and hated people!! He came from English nobility but was so shy that he even had trouble talking to his family. Cavendish experimented with chemistry, among many other things, and became the first scientist to ever isolate the element hydrogen. “His research was nearly 100 years ahead of other scientists,’ but many of his discoveries were not credited to him until nearly 60 years after his death. He was so shy that he didn’t want to publish his work.”

*Twisted True Tales From Science: Insane Inventions* is full of true stories that most of us have never heard before. Because of Stephanie Bearce we are entertained and at the same time more educated than we have ever been. These scientists/inventors thought in ways so different from the usual. And this is a good reminder to those who work with gifted children that wonderful brains need freedom to think in original ways.

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