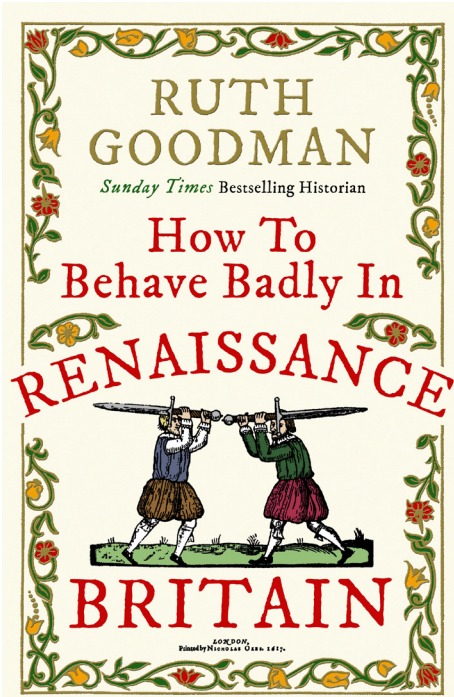


**'Ruth is the queen of living history - long may she reign!'**

*Lucy Worsley*



# HOW TO BEHAVE BADLY IN RENAISSANCE BRITAIN

**Ruth Goodman**

*Sunday Times Bestselling Historian*

**Published Thursday 5th April 2018 | Michael O'Mara Books  
£20.00 | Hardback**

Historian and popular TV presenter Ruth Goodman offers up a lively and revealing history of offensive language, insulting gestures, insolent behaviour and scandal in the sixteenth and seventeenth-centuries - with practical help on how to horrify the neighbours

From royalty to peasantry, every age has its bad eggs, those who break all the rules, ignore social conventions and rub everyone up the wrong way. This book is an examination of how bad behaviour can be more illuminating than the world of the respectable, law-abiding citizen. Their anti-social and irritating ways not only tell us about what upset people, but also what mattered to them, how their society functioned and what kind of world they lived in. Ruth investigates how it is those who push against the boundaries of cultural etiquette who most accurately define where the lines are drawn.

In this brilliantly nitty-gritty exploration of real life in the Tudor and Stuart age, you will discover:

- How to choose the perfect insult, whether it be draggletail, saucy fellow, strumpet, ninny-hammer or stinkard
- Why quoting Shakespeare was very poor form
- The best way to mock accents, preachers, soldiers and pretty much everything else besides

Ruth Goodman draws upon advice books and manuals, court cases and sermons, drama and imagery to outline bad behaviour from the gauche to the galling, the subtle to the outrageous. It is a celebration of drunkards, scolds, harridans and cross dressers in a time when calling a man a fool could get someone killed, and cursing wasn't just rude, it worked!



Ruth Goodman is a social historian and popular TV presenter. She has presented a number of BBC series, including *Victorian Farm*, *Wartime Farm*, *Tudor Monastery Farm* and *Full Steam Ahead*. She is also a regular expert presenter on *The One Show*. As well as the books accompanying her many series, she has written the critically acclaimed *How to be a Victorian* and *How to be a Tudor*.

**Ruth is available for interview and to write pieces**

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