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How to Behave Badly in Renaissance Britain

Ruth Goodman

Keynote

Historian and popular TV presenter Ruth Goodman offers up a history of offensive language, insulting gestures, insolent behaviour, brawling and scandal in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries – with practical tips on just how to horrify the neighbours.

Description

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

Lucy Worsley

From royalty to peasantry, every age has its bad eggs, those who break all the rules and rub everyone up the wrong way. But their niggling, 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.

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, varlet, flap, saucy fellow, strumpet, ninny-hammer or stinkard
- why quoting Shakespeare was very poor form
- the politics behind men kissing each other on the lips
- why flashing the inside of your hat could repulse someone
- 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!

Sales Points

- Ruth Goodman is a social historian and TV broadcaster/presenter
- A TV regular, Ruth has appeared on some of BBC2's most successful shows, including *Victorian Farm*, *Edwardian Farm*, *Wartime Farm*, *Tudor Monastery Farm*, *Inside the Food Factory* and most recently, *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*
- Contains 100 black and white images throughout the text
- Ruth will be available for PR

Reviews

- 'I absolutely love this book. Exuberant, absorbing . . . there's scarcely a detail of Victorian life Ruth has not tried.' - A. N. Wilson on 'How to be a Victorian', *Mail on Sunday*
- 'Shocking, exciting, wonderful.' - Clive Anderson on 'How to be a Victorian', *BBC Radio 4*
- 'Most historians simply research the past; she lives it . . . This book is packed with delicious kernels of knowledge . . . all served up by the most delightfully eccentric author I've ever encountered. Seldom have I had so much fun reading history. Seldom have I learnt so much.' - Gerard DeGroot on 'How to be a Tudor', *The Times*

Author Biography

Ruth Goodman is a social historian and has presented a number of BBC series, including *Victorian Farm*, *Wartime Farm*, *Tudor Monastery Farm* and, most recently, *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 will be available for PR.