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## The London Companion (A Think Book)

*Jo Swinnerton*

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**Jo Swinnerton : The London Companion (A Think Book)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The London Companion (A Think Book):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The London companionBy Clare O'BearaThis neat little book has

been carefully edited to fit a few items on each page with nothing spilling over onto another page. Even the page numbers are used to tell us the percentage of theatres in Britain which are in London, or the year in which such a firm opened. Facts and lists about London cram each page, from films using Trafalgar Square to the original and new names of Tube stations whose names have been altered. The origin of the Tube map was when an unemployed draughtsman decided to make a better map than the existing one, with all lines vertical, horizontal or forty-five degrees. This iconic map was an instant hit. Excerpts from literature are given so we can see what people thought of London through the ages. I did take issue with one item in the list of song titles using London locations. 'Waterloo Sunset' is about London but 'Waterloo' by Abba, in the list, is about a battle in Belgium. I also saw no mention of the film 'Hidden City' which took us to visit the less scenic locations including the city dump. I like this dip-into read; the main fault is that the hardback's jacket is a pink paper like blotting paper, which picks up stains easily and can't be wiped clean. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great details for London-philes. By bensmomma. Fans of "Schott's Original Miscellany" will relish this book, which contains a host of trivia about London in a similar format to that original. Do you want to know which pubs are haunted? The original names and dates of establishment of various tube stations? Where Marx and Gandhi lived while in town? What are the most unusual items ever left behind on a bus or subway? (The list includes a vasectomy kit and two human skulls.) Then this is the book for you. It may be crass and perhaps even un-British to say so, but its wit and brevity make it perfect for your loo bookshelf, if you see what I mean.

If you love London, then this is your book, mate. Within these pages are hundreds of facts, figures, stories, quotes, jokes, and anecdotes—from its earliest times, when hippos swam the Thames and elephants lived in Trafalgar Square, right up to the present day. Find out whose head fell off London Bridge into his daughter's lap, what goes on at the Horseshoe and Faggott Cutting Ceremony, who sold Buckingham Palace to a tourist, which Londoner embalmed his wife and displayed her in a glass case in his living room, and how many policeman you can fit in Nelson's Column.

From the Publisher. Ever wonder what happens to the 36,000 tennis balls used at the annual Wimbledon championships? Or what was on the menu at Henry IV's coronation? Would you like to know how to master the Japanese art of packing a rucksack? Or how to say hello in 20 different languages? The delightfully eclectic, exceedingly collectable volumes in the Companion Series are bursting with useful trivia and quirky facts to amuse and amaze. Pleasingly designed, eminently browsable, downright addictive. About the Author. The editor, Jo Swinnerton, is a writer who has lived in London for 16 years, and has lived or worked in virtually every part of the city at some point - which has been the perfect