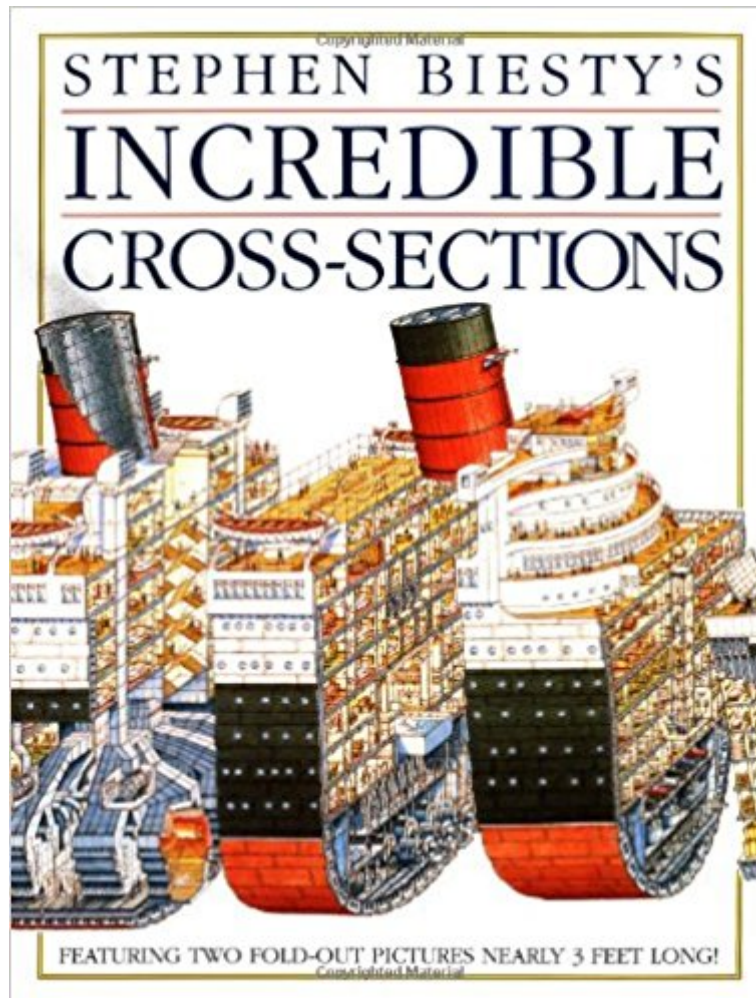


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Stephen Biesty's Incredible Cross-Sections



Synopsis

The original and still the best, the IRA Children's Choice Book Incredible Cross-Sections is available again--now at a lower price! Spread after spread of amazing, original cross-section drawings take readers inside 18 of the world's most fascinating structures--from the Empire State Building to the Hale Observatory. And two of the remarkable illustrations--the Queen Mary and the Flying Scotsman steam train--fold out to a length of nearly three feet!

Book Information

Age Range: 8 and up

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf (July 7, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679814116

ISBN-13: 978-0679814115

Product Dimensions: 14.2 x 10.9 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #95,307 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > How Things Work](#) #217 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reference](#) #5391 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction](#)

Customer Reviews

For once "incredible" isn't an overstatement. This dazzling book offers spread after spread of cutaway illustrations that reveal the hidden architecture of 18 celebrated structures, from a Gothic cathedral to a coal mine to the space shuttle. Details are so intricate that the reader will be tempted to reach for a magnifying glass--somehow Biesty conveys a sense of both the proverbial forest and its trees. Two foldouts, each nearly three feet in length, suggest the majestic scale of their subjects: respectively, the ocean liner Queen Mary and a steam train built in 1928. Laid out in the unmistakable Dorling Kindersley style, the artwork is then linked to paragraphs of quirkily explanatory text (one item about galleons proclaims that sailors killed 4000 rats on an Atlantic crossing in 1622; the jumbo jet information includes a description of how air is vented from toilets and how waste is disposed of). Sites are pan-Atlantic--the Empire State Building is shown along with the London Underground--so readers won't mind that the featured auto factory attaches the steering wheel to the "wrong" side of the car. There's not a single misstep in this endlessly

entertaining endeavor. All ages. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Biesty, who specializes in historical and architectural cutaway drawings, dissects 18 buildings, vehicles, etc. (castle to space shuttle), to show their veins, sinews, and bones. Each meticulous drawing fills a colorful oversize double spread; two (the Queen Mary and a steam train, The Flying Scotsman) fold out to 40 inches. Introduced by brief texts and surrounded by captions incorporating historical lore, facts, and anecdotes, they contain hundreds of minute details of construction and function. Readers may get as compulsive about this fascinating book as they do about Waldo (one challenge here is to find figures sitting on toilets--there are at least ten). The drawings don't yield all their secrets easily: considerable effort is needed to piece together what's going on in the automobile factory or on the North Sea oil rig. Still, this pictorial information will be absorbed in a more integrated way than from a linear text. In one or two places captions point to the wrong area of a drawing, and they are occasionally marred by silly puns. One error: 747's don't normally use microwave ovens-- they're far too inefficient for bulk food, and could interfere with the radio. Overall: vastly entertaining and instructive. Index. (Nonfiction. 8-80+) -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

So sad this out of print. What a great book. I loved this when I was a kid and now my kids love it too. Great little book.

this is an awesome book for the growing engineer. Also consider the Ultimate Book of Cross Sections. I'd consider that one a bit better, but they're both top notch.

Just like I remembered, and the kids can't put them down. These books are the reason I got into engineering and then nursing!

What can I say? This book is a classic of my childhood. It's such a pleasure to look at the details in each illustration and imagine myself walking in each nook and cranny of the cross-sections with my mind's eye. A wonderful book for those with great imagination and a desire to learn and for the naturally visual learner (such as myself). I've enjoyed this book as a child and now as a 25 year-old adult. The book itself was in okay condition, little dirty, a small rip on one page--but it was used and the seller did inform me of it's condition. In conclusion, this book is a must!

A classic I grew up with and was happy to find again for my 5 year old. He requests it all the time.

Another of Stephen Biesty's amazingly interesting books! This book is fun, entertaining, and educational all at the same time. One of those books your child will turn to again & again--one of the best!

Best book every kid should have one. Hours of fascinating exploring.

Absolutely loved these books. I plan on getting these Biesty books for my grandnieces and grandnephews for special days. They are so informative and interesting. Anyone can learn from these.

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