

# Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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## **Loch Ness Monsters and Raining Frogs: The World's Most Puzzling Mysteries Solved.**

Jack, Albert (Author)

Mar 2009. 272 p. Random, paperback, \$15.00. (9780812980059). 001.94.

For those needing 10 minutes of reading refreshment—the time limit Jack places on reading each of these 31 articles—this lighthearted volume is prime. The open-ended “legends” Jack retells all have rational explanations, he says, despite their persistent status as pop-cultural mysteries. Jack plays up both mystery and reason in his presentations, seasoning them with sarcastic asides that should leave his audience chuckling at the relentlessness of believers in UFOs, antediluvian sea serpents, and Sasquatches. True-crime mavens are served by Jack’s takes on the deaths of Marilyn Monroe and media mogul Robert Maxwell as well as the disappearance of airline hijacker D. B. Cooper. Higher-browed enigma-mongers can turn to discussions of the Mona Lisa, Edgar Allan Poe, and Agatha Christie. Armchair mariners should appreciate deflations of the Bermuda Triangle and the ghost ship Mary Celeste. Jack ranges widely and irreverently through the seas of ephemera, providing certain fun for the right kind of reader.

— *Gilbert Taylor*