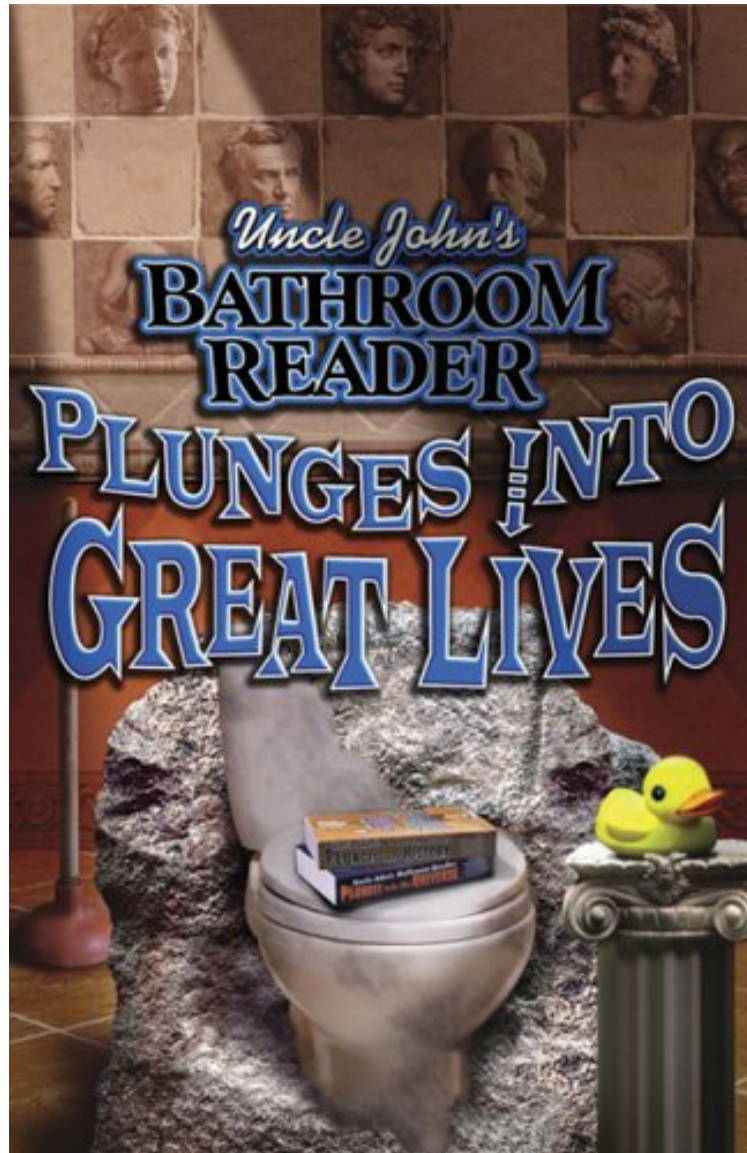


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Philo T. Farnsworth is not a household word despite the fact that he invented something found in most every household: television. Farnsworth is just one of hundreds of subjects in this hefty comic compendium that plumbs the depths in a survey of great lives. Readers also learn about Tsai Lun, the Chinese eunuch who invented paper and by extension, toilet paper. Other clever unknowns include the inventors of Velcro, Bakelite, and the microwave oven. Of course, not all of the great lives here are anonymous. The Fun with Heretics section includes Thomas Paine and Rousseau, revealing some unexpected peculiarities. Liberace, Pancho Villa, and Freud happily coexist in this sometimes raunchy romp. Among the topics? Philosophers Who Got Killed, Child Geniuses (and its evil twin, High School Dropouts), and much more.