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# Suffering Scientists; Shocking Electricity

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News to Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

3

After a while, series (even award-winning series) fatigue sets in. Without checking publication date I could not be sure whether I had seen **Electricity** before or not. Treatment, delivery and jokes are so uniform to the 'Horrible Science' series that its commendable consistency works, eventually, slightly against it. However this rib-tickling intro to sparkology does not take long to engage the reader with facts like 'You can make electricity from farts' and in 1990 a power surge blew up every television set in Piddlehinton. There is much else, too, as this new member joins its predecessors with a warm welcome.

**Suffering Scientists**, however, is a cut above the rest. As science is driven by human curiosity, so the humans who are driven are curiosities in themselves. Ever since the Eureka Streaker jumped out of his bath, the people behind the principles of science have fascinated their students, mainly because personal details are not *de rigueur* in text books. Here is the 'human story' supplement to much of the history of science as we know it. Find a textbook name (Lavoisier, for instance) and flip through here until you get to him and why he was imprisoned for so long. Here is a volume jammed with quirky personal details of the men and women whose names are science milestones. A real joy to read, but less so to consult; why, oh why is there NO INDEX? - serendipity is all very well, but if you have got milestones, you need signposts as well.

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