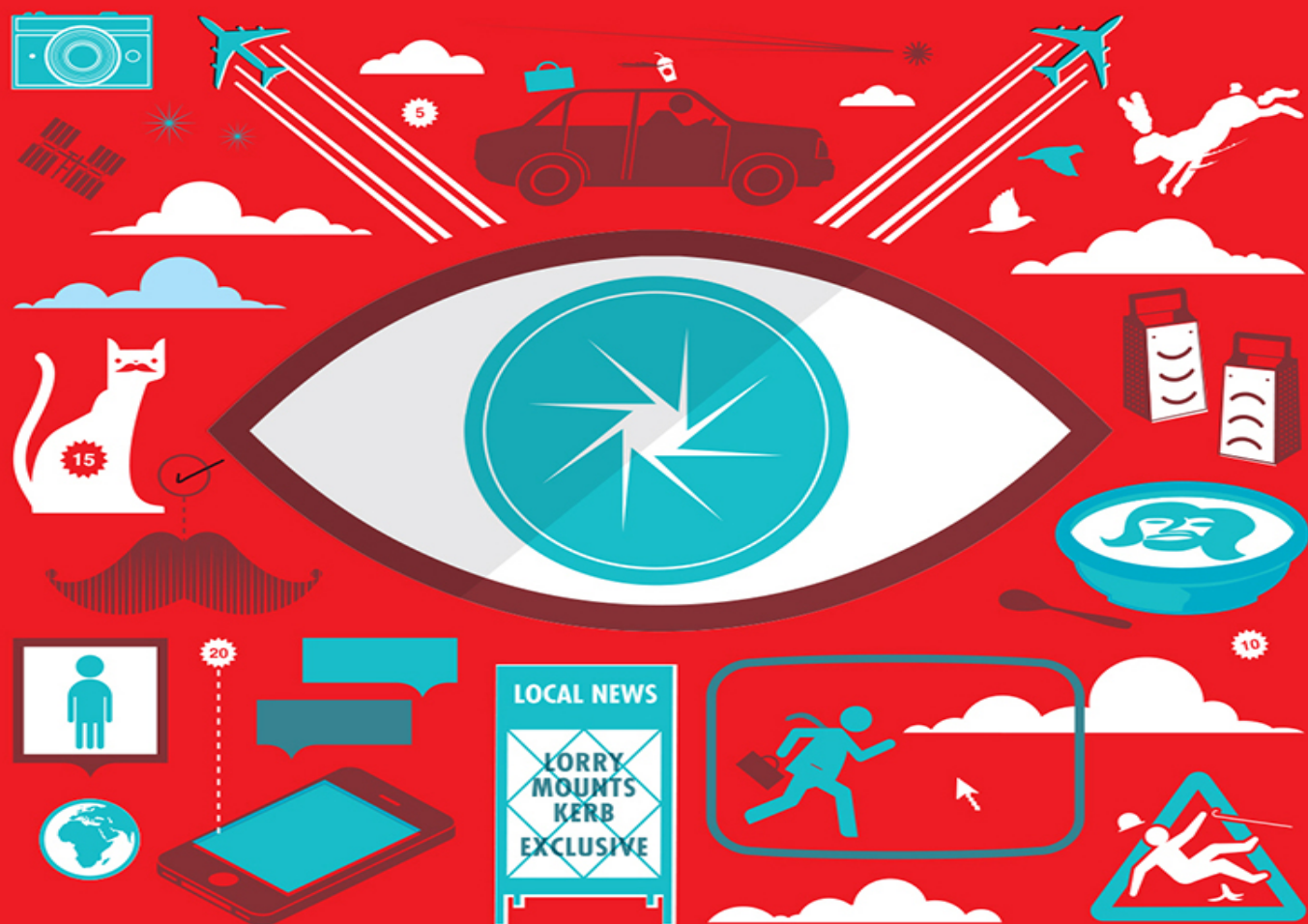


A COLLECTION OF THE
EVERYDAY WEIRD & WONDERFUL



THE MODERN DAY SPOTTER'S GUIDE



RICHARD HORNE



Contents

Cover

About the Book

About the Author

Also by Richard Horne

Dedication

Title Page

Introduction

How to use the Book

What you Need

The List

Rules

Disclaimer

1. Spot something left on the roof of a car
2. Spot an escaped animal
3. Spot an unusual-shaped cloud
4. See the face of Jesus in your soup
5. Spot a commuter miss their stop
6. Spot an amusing place name
7. Spot a photo bombing
8. Spot a movie mistake
9. Spot a wild animal using public transport
10. Spot a modern-day shooting star
11. Spot someone in a time warp
12. Spot a living statue on a break
13. Spot a wardrobe malfunction

14. Spot an invisible foe attack
15. Spot someone using unusual transport
16. Spot an amusing news headline
17. Spot a thieving seagull
18. Spot an embarrassed parent
19. See your name on a gravestone
20. Spot a dancing plastic bag
21. Spot an awkward date
22. Spot an amusingly shaped vegetable
23. Spot an amusing auto-correction
24. Spot something unusual on a bus shelter
25. Spot a public typo
26. Spot a food malfunction
27. Spot interesting facial hair
28. Spot a celebrity lookalike
29. See a face in an everyday place
30. Spot a competitive parent
31. Spot something unusual on Google Street View
32. Spot a bird-poo victim
33. Spot a dropped photo
34. Spot someone with techno rage
35. Spot an inappropriate T-shirt
36. Spot a pigeon with one foot
37. Spot a battle against the wind
38. Spot a prank
39. Spot something you've dreamt about
40. Spot a bad hair day
41. Spot a good deed

42. Spot the inexplicable
43. Spot an identical or odd couple
44. Spot an optical illusion
45. Spot a public meltdown
46. Spot an 'X' in the sky made by vapour trails
47. Spot a moment of pure slapstick
48. Spot a film set in action
49. Spot a cat with a moustache
50. See a lightning strike
51. Spot lost treasure
52. Spot someone's double
53. Spot a memorable wedding moment
54. Spot someone incognito
55. Spot something hanging on overhead wires
56. Spot a criminal act (and someone thwarting it)
57. Spot someone on their way to a fancy-dress party
58. Spot a bad tattoo
59. Spot someone go against the flow
60. Spot a lost tourist
61. See a pet that looks like its owner
62. Spot an act of road rage
63. Spot a drunken adventurer
64. Spot an invasion
65. Spot someone you know on the news
66. Spot a sporting blunder (or wonder)
67. See a multiple rainbow
68. Spot a Christmas overdose
69. Spot the next big thing

70. Spot the ultimate epic win and fail

Appendix

Achievements

Your Spots

Useful Links

Acknowledgements

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THIS BOOK BELONGS TO



ABOUT THE BOOK

See things a little differently. Once you start to spot, you won't be able to stop.

- Spot an awkward date
- See a multiple rainbow
- Spot a pigeon with one foot
- See the face of Jesus in your soup

Life is in the details – don't let them pass you by.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Richard Horne is a graphic designer, illustrator, author, screen and gocco printer. He has written, illustrated and designed six other books, five in the popular *101 Things To Do* series and *A is for Armageddon*, an illustrated catalogue of disasters. He also illustrated the bestselling book, *The Dangerous Book for Boys*, winner of the 2007 book of the year at the British Book Awards.

He lives in Norwich, UK.

ALSO BY RICHARD HORNE

A is for Armageddon: An Illustrated Catalogue of Disasters

101 Things To Do Before You Die

101 Things To Do Before You're Old and Boring

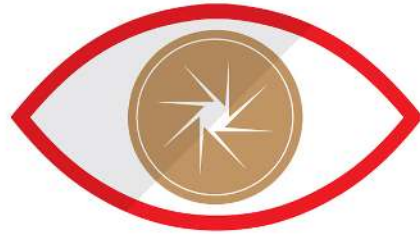
101 Things You Need To Know ... and Some You Don't

101 Things You Wish You'd Invented and Some You Wish No
One Had

101 Things To Do to Become a Superhero or Evil Genius

FOR

HELEN, MARLIE & LUKAS



RICHARD HORNE

THE MODERN DAY **SPOTTER'S** GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

Unusual, uplifting and downright ridiculous events are happening all the time, and may easily be missed as you journey through your familiar surroundings as part of the daily grind. By taking a closer look at the environment around you, you'll hopefully spot something that's worth sharing. It might be something that makes you laugh or smile, groan or sigh; it might prompt you to do something you wouldn't normally do, or change the way you think. *The Modern Day Spotter's Guide* is a way to chart and celebrate these often fleeting but noteworthy moments.

In this book you'll find categories to cover all aspects of modern life, from the media and transport, to nature, animals and, of course, those most fascinating of creatures, people. With a little help from those you know, as well as hundreds you don't, you'll be able to achieve many of the sightings mentioned in this guide, as your fly-on-the-wall lens allows you to observe a glorious array of unique habits, strange quirks, varied routines and accidental escapades.

Research for *The Modern Day Spotter's Guide* has been ongoing my whole life. The list was compiled using sightings and stories documented from the day-to-day world around

me. On telling others about the idea for the book, I found that they had also borne witness to things that helped shape the list. For instance, I heard a lot of stories about seeing *something left on the roof of a car* (see here). A friend's mum once left the frozen Christmas turkey on the roof of her car, driving all the way home while it slowly defrosted in the breeze. Soon after hearing this story, I met another friend who had just become the owner of a new pair of gloves that had fallen at her feet after being jettisoned from the roof of a car that sped past.

The general public have also inspired me over the years, offering a daily serving of interesting and amusing insights into the numerous peculiarities of our species ... but it hasn't all been one-way traffic. If you take a little something you should give a little something back and, unfortunately for me, I have participated in some embarrassing mishaps on far too many occasions, some of which I won't be mentioning here.

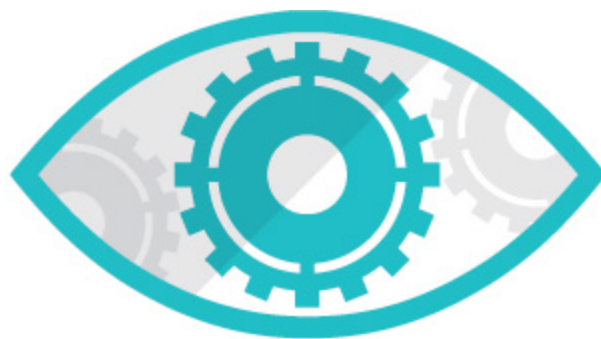
Among the stories I am willing to share is the time I once strode confidently down the street wearing a pair of the newest and bluest jeans around, worn on the day they were bought, so new, in fact, that the long white size stickers on the backs of the legs could be seen far and wide as the sunlight hit them on the two-mile walk into work. This embarrassing moment went on to inspire *Spot a wardrobe malfunction* (see here).

When it comes to amusing accidents, the time I planned a scene-stealing entrance on my BMX backfired spectacularly when a perfectly timed snapping of the brake cable sent me and the bike cruising, at speed, straight into the lake my mates were meeting by. Thankfully for me, this was a time just before every member of society had a smart phone permanently in front of their face to capture my *epic fail*

(see here). If this incident were to happen tomorrow, then you can bet my foolish antics would be uploaded to YouTube and shared on Facebook and Twitter within minutes, immortalising my humiliation for ever.

This tale is a perfect example of schadenfreude. Schadenfreude is a German word that simply means 'harm' and 'joy', and roughly translates as gaining pleasure from someone else's misfortune. I've been subject to a lot of schaden in my time on this planet so far, but I've also had my fair share of freude too. So be prepared to participate in, as well as witness, the things in this book. Whether it be coincidence, accident, stupidity or nature that plays the storymaker, the protagonist could very easily be you.

Above all, the idea is to have fun. To appreciate life's rich tapestry and enliven the apparently dull and ordinary. To come away with an armful of anecdotes and a wealth of experience. It is not about laughing at the misfortune of others, but about being able to laugh at ourselves and our futile struggle for dignity when nature, events and situations spiral out of our control. We are all in this together, after all.



HOW TO USE THE BOOK

Events worth spotting and jotting rarely come with an advance warning, so try to be prepared for the unexpected. Familiarise yourself with the seventy spots listed in this book. The pages have been prepared for you to quickly document what you saw, where and when it happened and, if possible, how or why on earth it did.

SPOTS

Don't take the title of each spot too literally. The list has been chosen for you to have fun with, and where you see underlined lighter text in the title of a spot, feel free to substitute those words with something different, something you have seen, as shown below.

See the face of Elvis Presley in A pineapple slice

In the example opposite, for instance, *See the face of Jesus in your soup* (see here), there's no need to disregard other famous cameos as you eat. Tom Cruise, Michael Jackson or Napoleon will all do just as nicely. Nor should you spend the rest of your life eating only soup. Keep an eye out for famous faces hiding in tomatoes, slices of salami, melted

cheese and burned toast. If a food or drink product can form a well-known face, then you'll have a valid spot.

There is potential for crossover between some spots in this list, but the idea is to see as wide and interesting a variety of incidents as possible. So if you do see something that could be categorised in more than one way, please choose the spot that best fits and look out for something a bit different in nature for the other one.

For example, if you really were to see the face of Tom Cruise in your slice of salami, it would be a valid entry for either the *face in an everyday place* spot (see here) or the *face of Jesus in your soup* spot. However, as it fits the criteria of the second one more precisely, that would be the best place for it, and you can have fun trying to find an altogether different kind of face for the *everyday place* spot.

SEE

If something mentioned in *The Modern Day Spotter's Guide* should happen before your eyes, try to record the moment with a drawing or photograph that encapsulates the incident in a nutshell and stick this in your witness report, as shown in the example on the next page. Hopefully you'll have the necessary equipment to hand during a spotting episode (see **WHAT YOU NEED**, here), but if you don't happen to have either a camera or this book with you, make a mental note of as many of the details of the event as you can, and fill out your witness report at the earliest opportunity.

Spot a face in an everyday place



WITNESS REPORT

Your witness reports can be as detailed as you like. In some cases, a single photo or drawing may be enough. There are some reports that ask for more information, encouraging you to record what you saw by answering simple questions about the event. There is always a space on the right to log any other details you wish to remember.

Here is a glossary of some of the infographics you may come across in these report forms. Sometimes you will need to tick more than one:

Who did this involve?

Male	Pensioner(s)	Toddler	Work colleague(s)	Friend(s) or family	Pet(s)/ animal(s)	An object
Female	Kid(s)	Baby	Stranger(s)	Youth(s)	A vehicle	Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

POINTS

A points system has been designed to challenge you to go for the better or rarer spots, and to encourage you to share and compete with other known Modern Day Spotters. Depending on the precise nature of your spot, you can earn 5, 10, 15 or 20 points, and you can tick more than one option as applicable. For example:

See someone's double

Award points for:

- 5 Same hair ☒
- 10 Same facial features ☒
- 15 Same physique ☒
- 20 All of the above ☒

If you end up ticking all the boxes, award yourself the grand total of 50 points. In the example shown, 20 points are given for doing 'All the above', but that still means you get a grand total of 50 points.

$$5 + 10 + 15 + 20 = 50 \text{ points}$$

TASK

For an extra 25 or 50 bonus points, try to complete the accompanying task for each spot. Here is the task for *See someone's double* (see here):

On the right-hand page, at the bottom of the form, you can record your results for the task. You will generally be able to

award yourself 25 points for giving the task a go, but 50 points are available for accomplishing the task with flair:

TASK

Mistaken identity

If you are mistaken for someone else, play along for as long as you can.

TASK Mistaken identity

I tried but I couldn't convince them 25

They fell for it. I'm also known as 50

FINAL TOTALS

Once you've witnessed one of the spots in the book, and filled out the relevant form, enter your combined score in the **YOUR TOTALS** pages at the back. Do this each time you complete a spot, and remember to keep a note of the date you completed it too.

52	12 10 13	See someone's double	75
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SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE

If you think your spot deserves to be shared, upload it to the *Modern Day Spotter's Guide* website: www.spottersguide.co.uk or the facebook page: www.facebook.com/theMDSGbook.

Any references to 'writing in this book' refer to the original printed version. Readers should write on a separate piece of paper in these instances.



A sharp pair of eyes. If your eyesight is a little lacking, glasses, contact lenses, magnifying glasses and binoculars (used with discretion) are also acceptable tools in your hunt for the perfect spot.

A camera or smart phone. These items are essential for capturing a lasting record of your spots, be they interestingly shaped objects, mis-spelled signage or mysterious and amusing behaviour.

Stationery. If you don't have the book to hand, write down what you see immediately with the help of paper, pens or pencils. The longer you take to write it down, the more detail you may forget. If a camera is unavailable, draw what you see with these implements.

Members of the public, nature and inanimate objects. Now that you're ready to start spotting, you just need to wait for your star performers to appear.



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