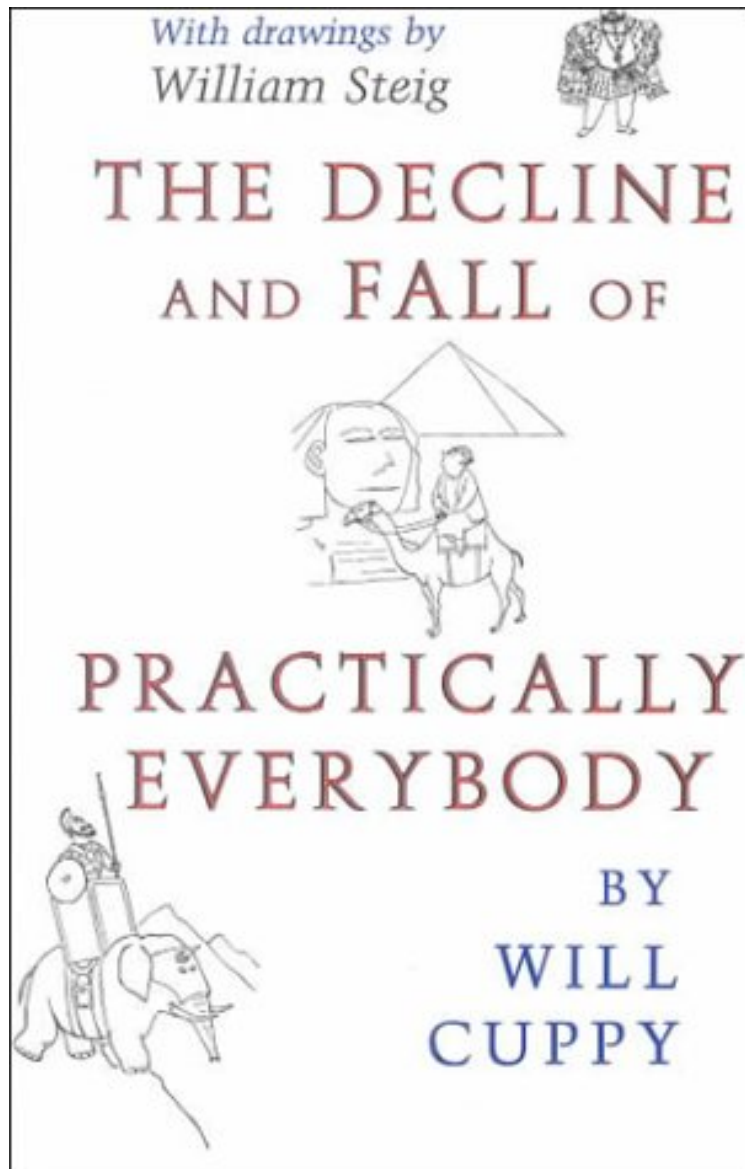


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## The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody

*Will Cuppy*

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**Will Cuppy : The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great tongue-in-cheek romp through history for adolescents through adultsBy seagullGot this for my history-buff 14 year old son who has a dry sense of humor much like the author's. He reads it at the breakfast table before school and can't resist reading me passage after passage-- when he can stop

laughing, that is. I think it helps that he knows at least some of the historical figures mentioned from other sources. Gotta buy the paperback edition because the footnotes are integral to the humor (all based on history!) and they are harder to access on the Kindle. Looking forward to Cuppy's other works. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I first learned of this book in my 9th grade ...By Stuart R. I first learned of this book in my 9th grade history class (1966) when my teacher read selected selections from it, usually, I think, on Friday afternoons. It really helped to make these famous people from history real, with all of their idiosyncrasies and/or failings for all to see. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A distinctive comic history written by a satirical genius. By Ron Vincent Will Cuppy died before he finished this masterpiece of pointed prose. Every chapter has sentences that are witty and sharper than a scalpel. He has a gift for comic insight that reminds a reader of Mark Twain, H.L. Mencken, and Art Buchwald. Cuppy labored for sixteen years researching this gem and an editor managed to organize and publish his sparkling wit after Cuppy's tragic death. Cuppy plays no favorites, takes no prisoners, and rewards his audience on every page. Read the footnotes at the bottom of the text- you will howl with laughter unless you've had your larynx removed or are on a ventilator.

So you think you know most of what there is to know about people like Nero and Cleopatra, Alexander the Great and Attila the Hun, Lady Godiva and Miles Standish? You say there's nothing more to be written about Lucrezia Borgia? How wrong you are, for in these pages you'll find Will Cuppy footloose in the footnotes of history. He transforms these luminaries into human beings, not as we knew them from history books, but as we would have known them Cuppy-wise: foolish, fallible, and very much our common ancestors. When it was first published in 1950, *The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody* spent four months on *The New York Times* best-seller list, and Edward R. Murrow devoted more than two-thirds of one of his nightly CBS programs to a reading from Cuppy's historical sketches, calling it "the history book of the year." The book eventually went through eighteen hardcover printings and ten foreign editions, proof of its impeccable accuracy and deadly, imperishable humor.

About the Author Will Cuppy wrote a weekly column of reviews of mystery books for the *New York Herald Tribune* and various freelance journalism for other newspapers and magazines. His other books include *How to Tell Your Friends from the Apes* (1931), *How to Get from January to December and how to become Extinct*. He died in 1949.