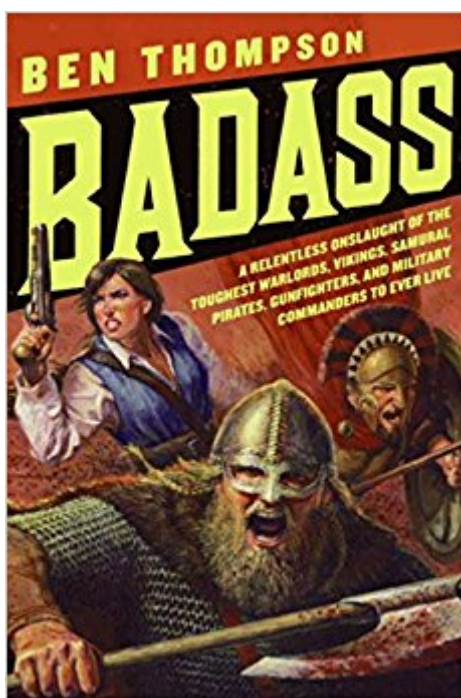


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# Badass: A Relentless Onslaught Of The Toughest Warlords, Vikings, Samurai, Pirates, Gunfighters, And Military Commanders To Ever Live (Badass Series)



## Synopsis

The badassess populating the pages of *Badass* are the most savagely awesome— historical figures to ever strap on a pair of chain mail gauntlets and run screaming into battle. Author Ben Thompson— considered by many to be the Internet—'s foremost expert on badassitude— has gathered together a rogues— gallery of butt-stomping rogues, from Julius Caesar and Genghis— Khan to Blackbeard, George S. Patton, and Bruce Lee.— Their bone-breaking exploits are illustrated by top artist from the fields of gaming, comics, and cards— •DC Comics illustrator Matt Haley and Thomas Denmark, illustrator for the collectible card game *Magic: The Gathering*. This is not your boring high school history— this is tough, manly, unrelentingly *Badass*!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An unstoppable collection of the most hardcore figures who ever strapped on chain mail and ran screaming into battle Throughout history— from the bone-crushing age of antiquity to the sack-tearing modern era— there have been larger-than-life ass-kickers with a natural talent for unleashing their epic bloodlust on anyone who crossed them. They built empires, smashed armies, and ravaged civilizations for wealth, glory, and ultimate supremacy. Sometimes villains, sometimes heroes, sometimes criminally insane, they had one thing in common: They were all . . . *Badass!*  
**Chandragupta Maurya** An Indian warlord who commanded an army of drunken war elephants and employed an elite detachment of highly trained female bodyguards  
**Peter Francisco** An

unsung hero of the American Revolution, this powerful giant battled the British with a massive five-foot-long broadsword  
Wolf the Quarrelsome  
A mysterious barbarian leader who only appears in history twice  
and both times he's kicking someone's ass  
Bhanbhagta Gurung  
A fearless Gurkha who won the Victoria Cross by clearing out six Japanese foxholes with nothing more than grenades, a bayonet, and a knife  
From Alexander the Great to George S. Patton, from Genghis Khan to Bruce Lee, this pantheon of ass-kicking awesomeness should inspire you to quit your stupid job and dive headfirst into a new career as a professional badass.

Ben Thompson has run the warhammer of a website [badassoftheweek.com](http://badassoftheweek.com) since 2004, and has written humorous history-related columns for outlets such as Cracked, Fangoria, Penthouse, and the American Mustache Institute. Even though he's never flown a jetpack over the Atlantic Ocean or punched someone so hard that his head exploded, he is considered by many to be the world's foremost expert on badassitude. He is the author of *Badass* and *Badass: The Birth of a Legend*.

I love reading history books, as long as they were not approved by the Texas Board of Education (because then they aren't worth a damn, apparently). However, I understand that not everyone shares my love of historical events. A lot of history books are pretty dry, at best. At worst, they are downright boring. This is not that kind of a book. This is one of the coolest history books I've ever read. I had originally bought it for my nephew, but once I actually started perusing the pages I realized that his mother would have a massive coronary if she saw the language. Even if said language adds to the ambience. The author, Ben Thompson, runs a site called [...]. He searches the history books for badasses. Not all of the badasses are men, nor are they all from the 20th century, which is refreshing. Thompson relates the stories with gusto, like a teenaged/college aged boy would describe a videogame boss fight to his friends--and this generates interest. The stories of these people maintain that interest. The humor seals the deal. There may be a bit of 'embellishment' in relating the stories, but this doesn't detract in the least. And each chapter is only at most five pages long--perfect for a short attention span or when you only have a minute here or there to read. So of course, I read the whole thing in a couple of hours, with a pause here and there. This might be a good book for a person who doesn't read a lot to improve their reading skills with a high interest book. It would be perfect for a reader who has trouble with maintaining attention when reading. In short, this is a perfect book to encourage reading in older teenaged boys. The language is really the only thing I think that a parent might take issue with, but since the profanity is a part of the schtick and not specifically gratuitous, I wouldn't have a problem if my 15 year old

decided to read it.

This book (as well as the others by Ben Thompson) are that amazing combination of history, excitement, swearing, and general awesomeness that makes my 6th grader UNABLE to put the book down. Talk about getting a kid to LOVE reading... holy smokes. Our copies of Ben's earlier books are all ratty (and one has lost its cover) because my son has read them so many times. This book arrived TODAY and he's already nearly finished it. This is a page turner and super fun to read. Plus it's packed with real history - the short stories about real battles get my kid interested and then he's off doing more research on the same topics. What a way to encourage reading! There is a bit of swearing in the book (and some rude jokes - mostly involving crushed testicles, etc), but nothing super offensive. I think it's perfect for middle schoolers and up. (And also for adults - my husband and I both love these books!) Ben has done a nice job of having a mixture of people in history, so there are badass females too. I appreciate him giving equal badass opportunities! All in all, this is a super fun book to read. This is the perfect book for "reluctant readers" who may find most books dull. THIS BOOK IS NOT BORING!! :) Our whole family loves it. Lots of excitement, lots of humor, lots of history.

My son had got a copy of this for a friend at Christmas. So when I saw it was available on Kindle I had to get a copy. First I want to say there were about two or three typos I saw when reading, but was a very minor problem. Overall I have to say that I enjoyed this book. It was great fun reading about some badasses from history. I have a degree in history and I find that books like this can sometimes spark an interest in history by showing that it is not all dry facts. Sometimes you just have to read about the people of history not just the facts, Jack. True some of these characters I have heard of but it was good to get in touch with old friends from history. Also there were some new faces to meet. If someone was to ask me about this book I would say read it and find out about some of the crazy badass people in history.

This book had the potential for perfection. I will give 4 stars for introducing me to an array of neglected, unappreciated historical characters from around the world that simply kicked ass. I love the international flavor of the chapters. Not out of political correctness but because there are some warriors in India, Egypt, and Scandinavian countries that have yet to receive their proper due. This is a great book for teenagers to read to get interested in history. I must give a huge caveat about the writing style of the author. The amount of embellishment, hyperbolic metaphors, overused slang,

and obsession with penises takes away from real-life stories that need none of the above. This is coming from someone who loves profanity and a punk runk ethos. But what do you expect from a book called Badass. Thanks for the great chapters on Peter Francisco, Wolf the Quarrelsome, Horatio Nelson, Bass Reeves, Carlos Hathcock, and Jon Netanyahu. Worth the price of admission....

Put simply, this is a book where the author writes about 40 badasses from history, and he does so with colorful language, pop references and plenty of humor. I enjoyed it thoroughly not only because it was entertaining, but also because I learned a lot about various historical figures and events. I found myself doing quite a bit of historical research. The fact that various Sikh badasses showed up in the book was an even bigger bonus. I fully intend to purchase the second book he wrote. This isn't for everyone -- in fact I would guess that he's around my age (born 1972) based on his pop references -- but the best thing about this book is that you can simply check out his website [...]and know whether or not you will like the book, because they're the same writing style. 9/10.

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