



# **The Concise Guide to Sounding Smart at Parties: An Irreverent Compendium of Must-Know Info from Sputnik to Smallpox and Marie Curie to Mao**

*David Matalon, Chris Woolsey*

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**Banish awkward silences, boring weather talk, or (worst of all) the embarrassing conversation gaff with this pithy, hilarious guide to effortless party banter.**

We've all been there. You're at a party, surrounded by the most important people in your life. You're cool. You're casual. You're witty and urbane. Until suddenly, quite unexpectedly, things take a turn for the worse when a subject thought to be common knowledge is lobbed your way. A hush falls over the room and every head seems to swivel expectantly in your direction.

[ART: SET THESE OFF IN A DIFFERENT COLOR?]

"Rasputin. Sure, Rasputin. The Russian guy, right? Who . . . who . . . whooooo was Russian."

"Che Guevara? You mean the dancer?"

"Oh my God! Mao Tse-tung? They have the best chicken with cashews!"

*The Concise Guide to Sounding Smart at Parties* was written with just this moment in mind. In fourteen pain-free, laughter-filled chapters, authors David Matalon and Chris Woolsey brush away years of cobwebs on subjects as wide-ranging as the typical round of *Jeopardy*: war, science, politics, philosophy, the arts, business, literature, music, religion, and more.

Armed with *The Concise Guide to Sounding Smart at Parties*, you'll know that Chicago Seven wasn't a boy band, Martin Luther never fought for civil rights, and Franz Kafka isn't German for "I have a bad cold." You'll be the smart one who's the center of conversation—and nothing beats that feeling.

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**Maritza Kress:**

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**Jennifer Smith:**

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