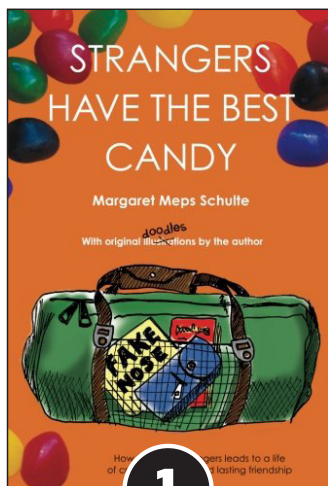


# PRESS RELEASE: EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 GMT FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2015

## Strangers beat witches to claim the Diagram Prize for Oddest Book Title of the Year 2014

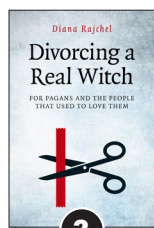


**Strangers Have the Best Candy**  
**Margaret Meps Schulte**  
(Choose Art, 9780991607600)  
A chronicle of Margaret Meps Schulte's experiences of talking to strangers.

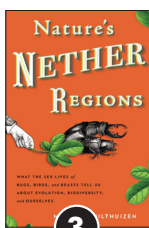
**26.1%**

In the closest Diagram Prize contest since public voting was introduced in 2000, Margaret Meps Schulte's travelogue ***Strangers Have the Best Candy*** (26.1% of the vote) narrowly beat Diana Rajchel's *Divorcing a Real Witch: For Pagans and the People Who Used to Love Them* (25.1%) to take the crown of the Oddest Book Title of 2014. Early bookies favourite, Melissa Margaret Schneider's *An Ugly Wife is a Treasure at Home*, did not make an impact with Diagram voters, coming sixth (8.1%); it beat only Ken Thompson's *Where Do Camels Belong?* (6.8%). *Nature's Nether Regions* by Menno Schilthuizen (13%) came third; Sandra Tsing Loh's *The Madwoman in the Volvo* (12.1%) fourth; and *Advanced Pavement Research* (edited by Bo Tian, 8.8%) fifth.

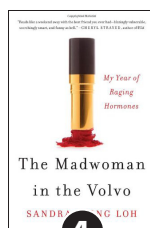
*Strangers Have the Best Candy* makes history as it is the first ever self-published book to win the award, after Diagram Prize rules were altered this year to allow self-published books to be considered. Traditionally no prize is given to the victorious author, but a bottle of "passable claret" is awarded to the person who nominated the winning entry. This year, in the spirit of self-publishing, Schulte nominated the book herself. Reaction from the triumphant author, and prize custodians, is below; full publication details of the shortlisted titles can be found overleaf.



**25.1%**



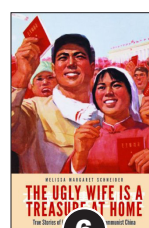
**13.0%**



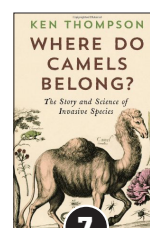
**12.1%**



**8.8%**



**8.1%**



**6.8%**



**Margaret Meps Schulte** hailed her success as a "miracle" and hinted that the book's global appeal had attracted the attention of agents and publishers, many of whom are tipping it to be the "hot book" at the forthcoming London Book Fair.

She said: "The Diagram Prize doesn't reward bad books, just quirky titles. Often, they are funny because they are targeted at very small audiences. *Strangers Have the Best Candy* targets a huge audience: people. Not since *The Stray Shopping Carts of Eastern North America* has the Diagram Prize been awarded to a book with such a potentially wide audience.

"What does the title mean? Strangers can have gifts for us, if we take the time to talk with them. The 'candy' might be a bit of information or a few kind words. It might be the start of a lifelong friendship. My willingness to talk with anyone has brought me once-in-a-lifetime experiences, flashes of insight, unexpected gifts, delicious meals and gracious hospitality."

"Quite frankly, I am relieved. With the public recently giving the Diagram crown to the likes of *How to Poo on a Date*, *Cooking with Poo* and *If You Want Closure in Your Relationship, Start with Your Legs*, I despaired for a populace becoming obsessed with smut and filth. I welcome the return to the clean, wholesome fun of the Diagram's roots (let us overlook the small matter of the second Diagram Prize [1979] being awarded to *The Madam as Entrepreneur: Career Management in House Prostitution*)."

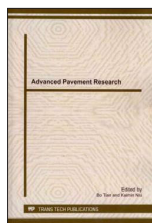
—Tom Tivnan, Diagram Prize co-ordinator

"I salute Margaret Meps Schulte for a title which combines award-winning oddity with what can only be described as very bad and potentially life-threatening advice. I also admire the sheer chutzpah and go-getting moxie of an author not afraid to put herself above the parapet—especially when a more than adequate bottle of wine is on offer."

—Horace Bent, *The Bookseller's* diarist

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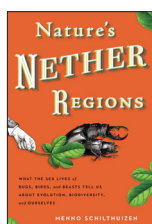
## Diagram Prize for Oddest Book Title of the Year 2014 shortlist in full



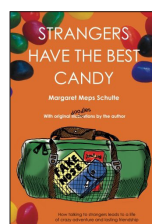
**Advanced Pavement Research: Selected, Peer Reviewed Papers from the 3rd International Conference on Concrete Pavements Design, Construction, and Rehabilitation, December 2-3, 2013, Shanghai, China** (*Trans Tech*, 9783037859575).  
**Bo Tian (ed.)**



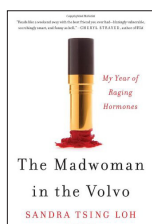
**Divorcing a Real Witch: For Pagans and the People That Used to Love Them** (*Moon Books*, 9781782796312)  
**Diana Rajchel**



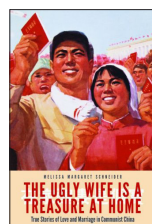
**Nature's Nether Regions** (*Viking*, 9780670785919)  
**Menno Schilthuis**



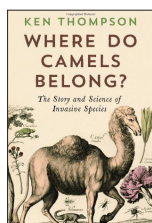
**Strangers Have the Best Candy** (*Choose Art*, 9780991607600)  
**Margaret Meps Schulte**



**The Madwoman in the Volvo: My Year of Raging Hormones** (*Norton*, 9780393088687)  
**Sandra Tsing Loh**



**The Ugly Wife is a Treasure at Home** (*Potomac*, 9781612346946)  
**Melissa Margaret Schneider**



**Where Do Camels Belong?** (*Profile*, 9781781251744)  
**Ken Thompson**

The public vote for The Diagram Prize for Oddest Book Title of the Year 2014 was hosted on *The Bookseller's* sister consumer site, *WeLoveThisBook.com*, running between Friday 27th February and Friday 20th March 2015.

This is the 37th edition of **The Diagram Prize for Oddest Book Title of the Year**. The prize was originally conceived in 1978 by Trevor Bounford and Bruce Robertson, co-founders of publishing solutions firm The Diagram Group, as a way to avoid boredom at the annual Frankfurt Book Fair.

The inaugural Diagram was awarded to *Proceedings of the Second International Workshop on Nude Mice*. *The Bookseller* and its diarist Horace Bent have been administering the prize since 1982.

Two very dark years—1987 and 1991—had no award owing to the lack of odd titles published. Previous winners of this prestigious literary prize include: *How to Avoid Huge Ships* (1992), *Greek Rural Postmen and Their Cancellation Numbers* (1996), *The Big Book of Lesbian Horse Stories* (2003), *Cooking with Poo* (2012) and last year's winner, *How to Poo on a Date* (2013).

There is no monetary award for the victor, but a "passable bottle of claret" is traditionally given to the person who nominates the winning entry. A rule change for this year's prize was initiated: to include self-published titles for the first time.

More information on the prize, including a full list of previous winners, can be found via the prize's surprisingly accurate Wikipedia page ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bookseller/Diagram\\_Prize\\_for\\_Oddest\\_Title\\_of\\_the\\_Year](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bookseller/Diagram_Prize_for_Oddest_Title_of_the_Year)).

*The Bookseller* is the world's leading business magazine and website for the book industry and has been published since 1858. *WeLoveThisBook.com* is *The Bookseller's* sister consumer website.

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