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Like many books on a niche subject,  
Severed explores heads from different  
angles, using history, culture and

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science. It's split into fairly long chapters on Shrunken Heads, Trophy Heads (war), Deposed Heads (execution), Framed Heads (art), Potent Heads (religion), Bone Heads (skulls), Dissected Heads (medical) and Living Heads.

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From shrunken heads to trophies of war; from memento mori to Damien Hirst's With Dead Head; from grave-robbing phrenologists to enterprising scientists, Larson explores the bizarre, often

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gruesome and confounding history of the severed head. Its story is our story.

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A decidedly different take on the importance of keeping your head. Throughout history, the human head has held a morbid fascination for scientists

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and the general public alike and, by taking quirky aspects of our interest in the detached, Frances Larson takes us on a whirlwind tour of the macabre in a hugely interesting and very readable book.

**Severed: A History of Heads Lost  
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'Severed: A History of Heads Lost and Heads Found' by Frances Larson (W.W. Norton & Company, INC., 2014).. This book aims to describe the historical significance, context and impact of human heads as collectable items and to discuss preserved heads as specimens of interest, revulsion and fascination.

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## **“Severed: A History of Heads Lost and Heads Found ...**

Severed: A History of Heads Lost and  
Heads Found Summary A “wide-ranging  
and thoughtful” (Wall Street Journal)  
exploration of the varied obsessions that  
the “civilized West” has had with  
decapitated heads and skulls.

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Arguments for a Celtic cult of the severed head include the many sculptured representations of severed heads in La Tène carvings, and the surviving Celtic mythology, which is full

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of stories of the severed heads of heroes and the saints who carry their own severed heads, right down to Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, where the Green Knight picks up his own severed head after Gawain has struck ...

## **Decapitation - Wikipedia**

The severed head is therefore a symbol

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of power and of justice, but you might also end up with one from a strangely perilous hobby. 10 The Headless Pirate The Victual Brothers were a group of European privateers who roamed the Baltic Sea.

## **10 Strange And Fascinating Facts About Decapitation ...**

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Severed: A History of Heads Lost and Heads Found by Frances Larson, book review: Decapitation, then and now. Though Larson's elegant history of head-taking precedes the advent of Islamic State ...

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The severed mokomokai heads of the Maori were carved, boiled, smoked, oil, and then paraded around like war trophies. Wikimedia Commons H.G.

Robley with his collection of Mokomokai heads. In the American Museum of Natural History in New York City lies a collection of 30 mokomokai, or the severed, tattooed heads of Maori

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## **The Story Behind These Severed Heads Is Even More ...**

Cromwell's head, like Cromwell grows grim after awhile, but other heads abound. Enjoyable history is hard to find, skip the old talking history heads and find a severed one. In the next book I

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would include David Milch's Al Swearingen's long, heartfelt talks with the severed Sioux head. And those skull stealing bastards, from Skull and Bones.

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A severed head was found in Economy, Pennsylvania, on December 12, 2014,

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and from there, one of the most unusual stories ever would unfold. Red balls had been placed in the elderly woman's orbital sockets, from which the eyes had been removed, and the head was entirely embalmed, so much so that it looked like a "ruined Roman statue," not a real person.

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## **10 Horrific Discoveries Of Severed Heads And Their Stories ...**

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serious and seriously entertaining  
exploration of the dark and varied  
obsessions that the “civilized West” has  
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## **Severed: A History of Heads Lost and Heads Found ...**

Mounted heads have a long and public history. It was another story in France, 2,300 years ago. A new study describes the art of the severed head as practiced by the Celts, an Iron Age tribe ...

## **A brief history of displaying**

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**opponents' severed heads ...**

Bites, brawls and severed heads:  
football's history of violence June 25,  
2014 6.45am EDT. Ariel Hessayon,  
Goldsmiths, University of London.  
Author. Ariel Hessayon

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