

Seven Interesting Ways Keith Richards Should Have Died (and probably did).

Keith Richards is a living legend; but part of that legend is the fact he's living at all. While Paul McCartney denied rumors of his death the moment he was confronted with them, Keith Richards often had to consult a doctor before issuing a statement.

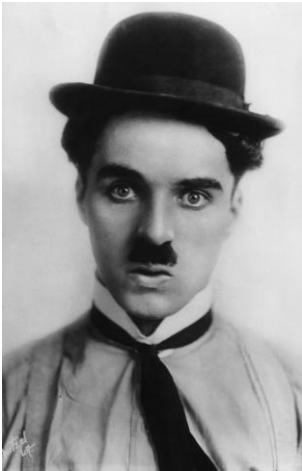
Many stories have been exaggerated, often by this writer, while others suspect that some of the downplaying of stories, on the part of Richards and his people, may not be the truth of the matter either.

Because of the confusion between fact and myth where Richards is concerned, we've decided to delve deep into our own lack of integrity and simply pick out those stories that amuse us most, then exaggerate them ourselves.

1. Hitler tried to have Richards assassinated at birth.

Yes, Adolf Hitler did bomb baby Keith Richards' home and send his cot flying out the window. That much is fact. Whether or not he did it on purpose is a matter of conjecture. An unnamed source (It's just me, really), told me yesterday that Hitler, a man whose bloodlust could get no satisfaction, and who held a deep belief in the supernatural, was told by a psychic that a great man would rise up in England, that he would cause chaos wherever he went, simply by turning up, and that he would die and rise from the dead at least twice a year, then laugh about it during interviews.

Seething with jealousy, Hitler went after the future Rolling Stone and landed a perfect shot on his family home. His mistake? He bombed Richards' home at night, unaware that Keith Richards doesn't sleep at night and wasn't in. Silly Nazi.



Hitler (pictured) enjoyed a short period of intense popularity before everybody in the world decided to kill him.

2. Richards' life saved by a thick, rubbery sole (No, not Mick Jagger).

Richards almost died in an accidental attempt to develop visual effects during live shows. During a gig in Sacramento in 1965, while the Stones were launching, ironically enough, their hit *The Last Time*, the guitarist decided to turn a microphone in his direction by hitting it with his guitar. The result was a large blue flash that thrilled fans and fried Richards' insides. The near fatal shock knocked him unconscious. He claimed to have been saved by the thick, rubbery sole on his new shoes. Although health and safety officials later tried to spoil all the fun, the fix was in for better visual effects during live shows.



Richards' "The Right To Fry" campaign failed after he forgot all about it.

3. Rock legends don't burn out, they burn up.

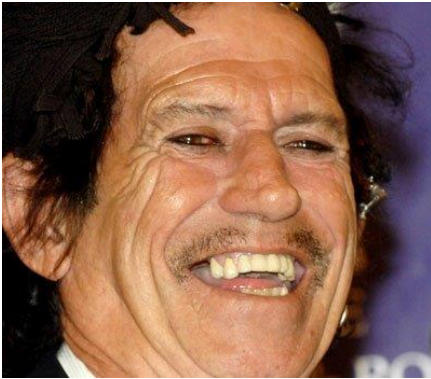
After failing to fry himself from the inside out, Richards made a few attempts to fry himself from the outside in. A logical step, if you're Keith Richards. After almost dying a number of times after falling asleep with a lit cigarette in hand, Richards topped his own list by (allegedly) setting fire to his Redlands Estate. Perhaps the fact his home had a thatched roof on top and Keith Richards inside should have served as a warning, but no. The house went up in flames and Richards, along with family members, ran to safety, before Richards decided to run back in for his cigarettes and other valuables. He blamed a mouse.



Richards contemplates the right of firefighters to tell him to smoke outside.

4. A friend in need is a friend who paralyzes you with Strychnine.

Rock stars find it easy to make friends. Many of these hangers-on want to bestow gifts on their idols: give them drugs, have sex with them, iron their trousers before they go on stage. That kind of thing. Richards mainly went for the drugs and the trouser thing. And the sex. Although he always claimed to be a responsible drug-user, aside from burning down the occasional building, his new friends often weren't. While in Switzerland, one new friend, who turned out to be naughty, put Strychnine in his dope, leaving Richards paralyzed, but conscious. *'I could see and hear people waving their hands around and saying, "He's dead! He's dead!"'* claimed Richards. *'And I kept thinking, "I'm not dead, I'm not dead".'* To this day, arguments rage about who was right.



Some people still believe Richards was murdered in Switzerland after being mistaken for Colonel Gaddafi.

5. Does Keith Richards feed on the blood of virgins? Or what?

One rumor that dates back to around '73, is that Richards once swapped all his toxic blood for a nice, virgin supply, courtesy of a 'specialist'. (Dracula, anyone?) It turns out that some claim he did undergo Hemodialysis in Switzerland (Uh-oh, it's them again!), involving a filtering process to protect his kidneys. It's also claimed he was put to sleep

for two days while undergoing the procedure. Either that or they just gave him some more Strychnine to teach him a lesson.



The walking dead head: Richards on his way to Switzerland in June, 1873.

6. Books on the brain: heavy reading becomes heavy bleeding for wobbly rocker.

A little knowledge can be a dangerous thing; but for Keith Richards, just reaching for the books becomes life-threatening. With a home library filled with combustible literature, you'd be forgiven for thinking we have another fire story for you. But no. This time Richards almost topped himself simply by standing on a chair and reaching for a heavy volume. Of course, he slipped and down came centuries of wisdom and learning that bounced straight off his head and left him with three broken ribs and a tour postponement for the group. Would somebody please buy this man a Kindle?



Sticks and Stones may break my bones, but words... fail me.

7. Rolling Stone Breaks Bones In Cigarette Gasper Plaster Caster Disaster!

The tabloids had a lot of fun with this one, some claiming that Richards had fallen from a 40-foot tree while sneaking a cigarette on a dedicated anti-smoking resort on the island of Fiji. Wow. Others feel that Richards' explanation that he fell less than seven feet from a tree because his hands were wet after swimming, is just as daft. Many fans went into panic mode, while others peed themselves laughing. One panicked fan claimed John Lennon appeared to her that night and said: *'No-one, I think, is in my tree. Especially*

Keith Richards. He isn't in anybody's.' Richards was later discovered to have fractured his skull, so shame on you, Lennon.



All we are saying, is give Keith a branch.