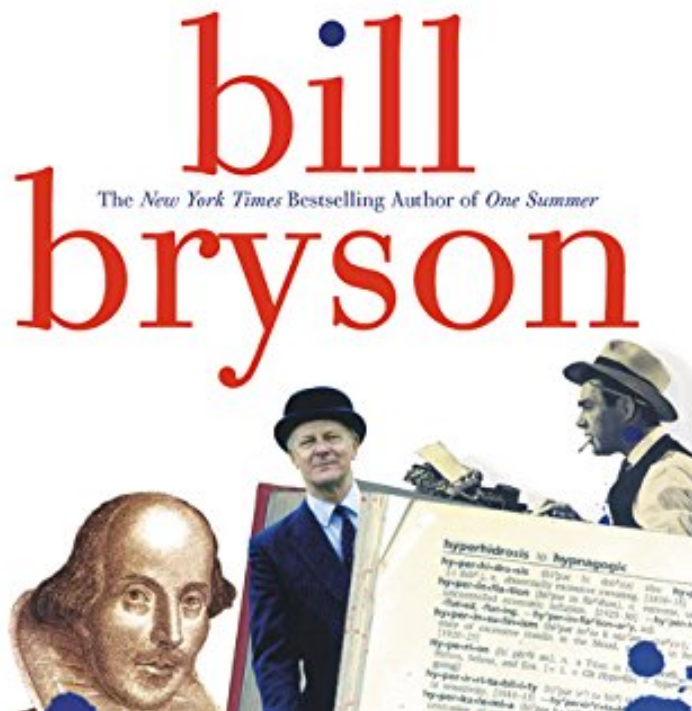
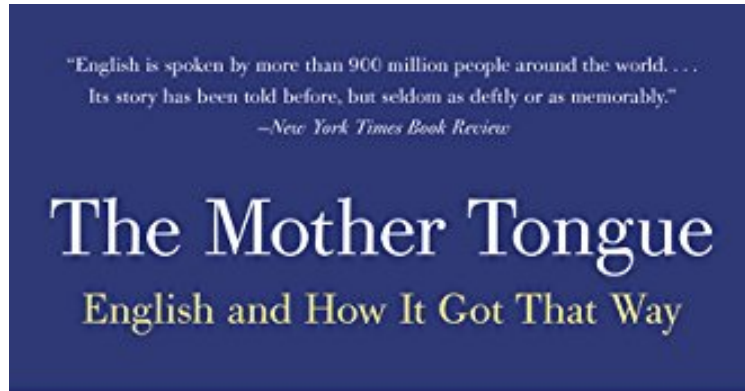


[Pdf free] The Mother Tongue - English And How It Got That Way

The Mother Tongue - English And How It Got That Way

Bill Bryson

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#14020 in Books Bryson, Bill 1990 2001-10-23Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .72 x 5.311, .45 #File Name: 0380715430272 pagesHarper Perennial | File size: 24.Mb

Bill Bryson : The Mother Tongue - English And How It Got That Way before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mother Tongue - English And How It Got That Way:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not So Hot or Is Just Me?By Pete W.I am a BIG fan of Bryson's books, especially his travel monologues. Lots of fun and educational, too. As narrator he imparts a special touch. Unfortunately I am underwhelmed by his several works -- recent ones, I guess -- that he turns over to someone else to

do the narration. The Mother Tongue is one of these and I stopped listening after three or so discs. I found the audiobook quite boring, just list after list of words under various categories (e.g., words which the English have borrowed untouched from the US vocabulary, etc.) Maybe this book does better as a book to be read than as an audiobook but this is the second book (can't recollect name of first one) which Bryson did not narrate which I found of much less interest than all the others. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining and informative By Mark from Haifa I learned a lot about the English language from reading this book, even though I had already read other books on the subject. I recommend it even though it is somewhat out of date, having been written about 30 years ago. Also, I get the impression that the author is not a scholar of the field, but rather has done an excellent job of presenting the work of others in a most accessible and entertaining manner. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. While my graduate degree is in Economics, I've long ... By Doc While my graduate degree is in Economics, I've long been interested in language. Having read two of his books now, I can say that he strikes me as being a Renaissance Man. While the book contains a bit more detail than I wanted, it's generally very well written and interesting. Anyone who wants to know more about language in general and both British and American English in particular would do well to read this book.

With dazzling wit and astonishing insight, Bill Bryson—the acclaimed author of *The Lost Continent*—brilliantly explores the remarkable history, eccentricities, resilience and sheer fun of the English language. From the first descent of the larynx into the throat (why you can talk but your dog can't), to the fine lost art of swearing, Bryson tells the fascinating, often uproarious story of an inadequate, second-rate tongue of peasants that developed into one of the world's largest growth industries.

.com Who would have thought that a book about English would be so entertaining? Certainly not this grammar-allergic reviewer, but *The Mother Tongue* pulls it off admirably. Bill Bryson--a zealot--is the right man for the job. Who else could rhapsodize about "the colorless murmur of the schwa" with a straight face? It is his unflagging enthusiasm, seeping from between every sentence, that carries the book. Bryson displays an encyclopedic knowledge of his topic, and this inevitably encourages a light tone; the more you know about a subject, the more absurd it becomes. No jokes are necessary, the facts do well enough by themselves, and Bryson supplies tens per page. As well as tossing off gems of fractured English (from a Japanese eraser: "This product will self-destruct in Mother Earth."), Bryson frequently takes time to compare the idiosyncratic tongue with other languages. Not only does this give a laugh (one word: Welsh), and always shed considerable light, it also makes the reader feel fortunate to speak English. From Publishers Weekly Bryson's blend of linguistic anecdotes and Anglo-Saxon cultural history proves entertaining but superficial. "While his historical review is thorough. . . he mostly reiterates conventional views about English's structural superiority," said PW. "He retells old tales with fresh verve . . . but becomes sloppy when matters of rhetoric and grammar arise." Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal YA-- Bryson traces the English language from the Neanderthal man of 30,000 years ago to the present. Interestingly, he contrasts the language as it developed simultaneously in various locations. He also presents examples of the evolution of words and their spellings. The book is well researched and informative; the thorough index will aid novices in the exploration of the language.- Diane Goheen, Topeka West High School, KS Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.