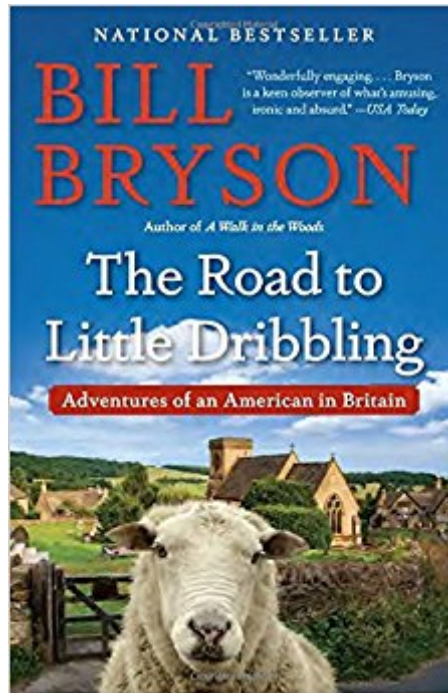




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The Road To Little Dribbling: Adventures Of An American In Britain



Synopsis

In 1995, Iowa native Bill Bryson took a motoring trip around Britain to explore that green and pleasant land. The uproarious book that resulted, *Notes from a Small Island*, is one of the most acute portrayals of the United Kingdom ever written. Two decades later, Bryson—now a British citizen—set out again to rediscover his adopted country. In these pages, he follows a straight line through the island—from Bognor Regis to Cape Wrath—and shows us every pub, stone village, and human foible along the way. Whether he is dodging cow attacks in Torcross, getting lost in the H&M on Kensington High Street, or—more seriously—contemplating the future of the nation—his natural wonders in the face of aggressive development, Bryson guides us through the old and the new with vivid detail and laugh-out-loud humor. Irreverent, endearing, and always hilarious, *The Road to Little Dribbling* is filled with Bill Bryson's deep knowledge and love of his chosen home.

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Customer Reviews

An Best Book of January 2016: *The Road to Little Dribbling* comes twenty years after Bill Bryson's *Notes from a Small Island*, in which he first described his love affair with his adopted Great Britain. That first book was laugh-out-loud funny, and so is this one. It opens with Bryson describing (hilariously) the perils of growing older, eventually revealing the author's successful passing of the Life in Britain Knowledge Test (thus, making him a British citizen). The rest of the book follows that pattern: Bryson describes getting older, and he describes Great Britain via a trip he took across the 700 mile long island. While he tried to avoid places he visited in *Notes*

from a Small Island

•he does revisit Dover

•those who read the first book will enjoy a welcome sense of the familiar

•even if Bryson appears to have grown a little more cynical and angry with age. But give the guy a break: the world is changing, even his beloved

“cozy and embraceable

• island. And as he writes in the book,

“I recently realized with dismay that I am even too old for early onset dementia. Any dementia I get will be right on time.

--Chris Schluep --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Wonderfully engaging. . . . Bryson is a keen observer of what’s amusing, ironic and absurd.

• USA Today

“Riveting. . . . Bryson is a master. . . . Almost as satisfying as being there yourself.

• Entertainment Weekly

“Bryson is a jovial companion and his typically funny self.

• Chicago Tribune

“A cheeky romp through Britain’s heart . . . affectionately celebrates, and devilishly skewers.

• San Francisco Chronicle

“Such a pleasure to once again travel the lanes and walking paths of Britain in the company of Bill Bryson! . . . It’s a rare book that will make me laugh out loud. This one did, over and over.

• Erik Larson, author of *The Devil in the White City*

“Genuinely hilarious. . . . At Bryson’s age, he can (and does) feel entitled not only to be done with such ugliness, but also to express his displeasure in ways most of us only dream of daring to do. And when he sees beauty and wonder in the world, he is rhapsodic

• even evangelical.

• Minneapolis Star Tribune

“Bryson’s capacity for wonder at the beauty of his adopted homeland seems to have only grown with time.

• The Washington Post

“Charming. . . . Traveling with Bryson is fun because he never sugarcoats the hassles, the overpriced crummy food that runs abundant in touristy places

• and the absolute delight of finding unexpected sights or happenstance meetings. . . . Here’s hoping Bryson remains cranky and curious for many years to come.

• The Christian Science Monitor

“Bryson is an entertaining travel companion. . . . He writes lyrically on the monuments at Stonehenge and Avebury. He is great on the joy of walking through the English countryside.

• The Wall Street Journal

“A gloriously funny read. . . . Bryson has no equal.

• Daily Express

“A funny and pleasant travelogue. Bryson can capture a place memorably with just a sharp phrase or two. . . . Wry and winning.

• NPR

“A prolonged and hilarious love letter describing Mr. Bryson’s 40-year relationship with his adoptive country. . . . A joyous tribute to British patience, stoicism, sense of fairness. . . . Generous, funny, modest and admirable . . .

• packed with great writing.

• The Washington Times

“Fascinating. . . .

A worthy successor and sequel to his classic *Notes From A Small Island*. . . . You could hardly ask for a better guide to Great Britain than Bill Bryson. • The Miami Herald • “The history of a love affair, the very special relationship between Bryson and Britain. We remain lucky to have him.” • Financial Times • “Is it the funniest travel book I’ve read all year? Of course it is.” • Michael Kerr, *The Daily Telegraph* (London) • “Everybody loves Bill Bryson. . . . He’s clever, witty, entertaining, a great companion . . . his research is on show here, producing insight, wisdom and startling nuggets of information.” • The Independent on Sunday

It is good Bryson, but not his best. Perhaps my reservation is that I don’t live in the UK and therefore couldn’t relate to some of the locations. Sections of the book were too repetitious and he seemed to revert to the fart jokes for shock value too often.

This was pleasant and adequate but I am a huge Bryson fan and I am not used to him being adequate. I have all of his travel literature, plus the *Short History* and the *Shakespeare*, all of which are outstanding, so this was a disappointment. I felt like he wrote it just to maybe fulfill a contract and not out of his usual love of life and travel. However, Bill Bryson remains one of my favorite authors and I look forward to his next book, whether travel or another of his non-fiction explorations - he is always worth another look.

My wife and I love Bill Bryson and have read all his books. I lived in England for a time and my wife is from Hertfordshire where Bill Bryson lived for a while. In his older works about Britain Bill does an amazing job of capturing what a lovely and charming place England can be. Over the past 15 years I, like Bill, have seen many changes to the culture and a decline in the charm factor. Where his prior works always left me in good spirits this book left me feeling a little sad. True, this may be because of the current state of things in England and it may be unfair to attribute this to the author, but I still think there is a lot to love about England that gets glossed over in this book. I think perhaps much of the charm is lost on somebody when England is home as it has been for Mr. Bryson for so long. I think I’ll go read *Notes from a Small Island* again and dream about the way things used to be.

I enjoyed Bryson’s descriptions as he traveled in England - he’s a brilliant writer but I was completely turned off by his use of profanity and bathroom humor. It ruined the book for me - it was so unnecessary. He sounds like a temperamental old grump who loves England quite a bit (he has

duel citizenship) and enjoys hiking thru little villages and exploring England's hidden treasures all the while complaining and cussing - what a foul mouth he has. What a gift for acquainting his readers with little known truths tho. Unlike his wonderful Australia travel book and even his journey on the Appalachian Trail, this book just had way too much profanity for me to consider sharing it with my family and friends - no need to ruin a perfectly good book with curses and private personal matters. Sorry - that's my opinion. Despite having said that -- I learned a great deal about England and Wales (no Ireland), those strange village names, and royal history. I read it thru but was glad when reading was completed.

Bill Bryson may have written one too many books and this is it. The engaging candour which flowed from the missteps of a modest everyman has deteriorated to the self-satisfaction and self-consciousness of a hugely popular writer now struggling to fill the page as he meanders through Britain. Still very readable the freshness has gone and it is a pedestrian piece filled with familiar Bryson mannerisms. I got the feeling that this was written to meet a contractual obligation. For the first time in his many books I found myself disliking the author's persona.

I am a huge fan of Bill Bryson's writing style and humor. However, in this book, I found his tone to be off-putting in that he is quite condescending and fairly intolerant of those less gifted than he. I agree with Mr. Bryson that America is rapidly stumbling into "idiocracy" but he really makes a point of it in his book "The Road to Little Dribbling". To be fair, he sends the same message about Britain but to a lesser extent. When compared to my favorite Bryson book, "In A Sunburned Country", I found this book to be far less humbling and humorous and far more arrogant on the part of the author. I did, however, learn a lot about Britain - facts I never knew - which made the book interesting to read. Also, I liked the way Bryson uses anecdotal stories to introduce each place he visits. The book is a fast read and fun, for the most part.

To being with, I'll buy and read anything Bill Bryson writes. He has earned that respect based on everything he has produced. I can say that about very few authors. This newest book was good as he takes us along on his travels through England and Scotland, sort of repeating the walk he did and wrote about many years ago. It was entertaining and I recommend it. I only gave it three stars because he seems a little crotchety this time. It's almost like he set out to find whatever negative aspect he could discover in each place he visited. I feel his earlier books were more balanced in terms of tone. Still, I learned more about this island nation and I was entertained. I can't wait for his

next book.

As an American ex-pat who spends a lot of time in England, I bought this (on the recommendation of a friend) to experience an American view of the charms and foibles of England. Instead, I got a self-serving, meandering bunch of boring anecdotes about his professional life in England, and gave up on the book halfway through. Wanted to love this, Bill - but I didn't.

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