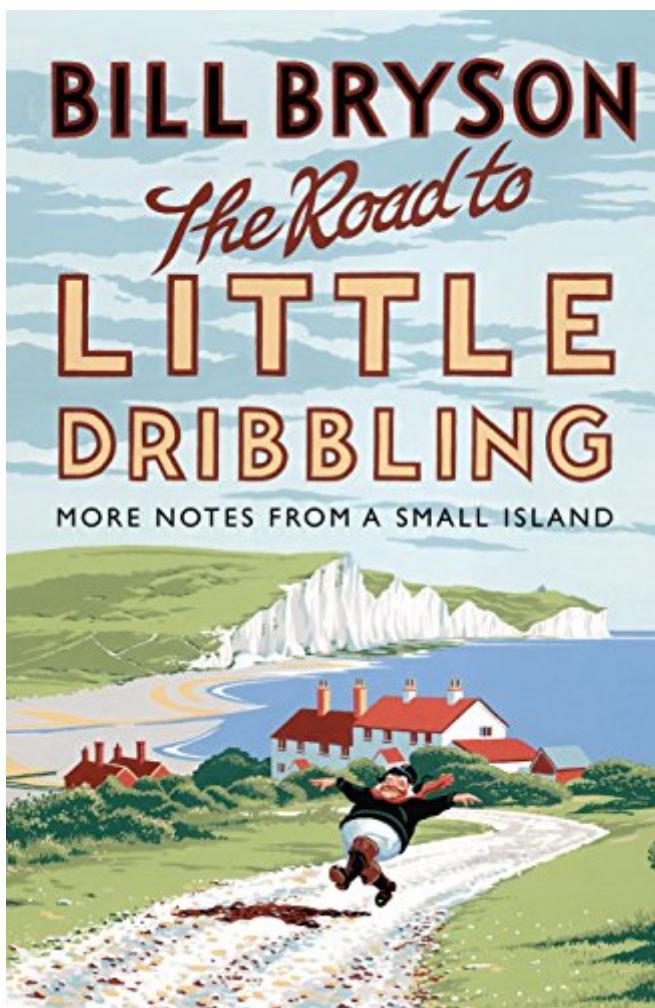


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The Road To Little Dribbling: More Notes From A Small Island (Bryson)



Synopsis

WINNER: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELLER READER AWARD FOR BEST TRAVEL BOOK OF THE YEAR 2016

WINNER: BOOKS ARE MY BAG READER AWARD FOR BEST AUTOBIOGRAPHY OR BIOGRAPHY 2016

Twenty years ago, Bill Bryson went on a trip around Britain to celebrate the green and kindly island that had become his adopted country. The hilarious book that resulted, *Notes from a Small Island*, was taken to the nation's heart and became the bestselling travel book ever, and was also voted in a BBC poll the book that best represents Britain. Now, to mark the twentieth anniversary of that modern classic, Bryson makes a brand-new journey round Britain to see what has changed. Following (but not too closely) a route he dubs the Bryson Line, from Bognor Regis to Cape Wrath, by way of places that many people never get to at all, Bryson sets out to rediscover the wondrously beautiful, magnificently eccentric, endearingly unique country that he thought he knew but doesn't altogether recognize any more. Yet, despite Britain's occasional failings and more or less eternal bewilderments, Bill Bryson is still pleased to call our rainy island home. And not just because of the cream teas, a noble history, and an extra day off at Christmas. Once again, with his matchless homing instinct for the funniest and quirkiest, his unerring eye for the idiotic, the endearing, the ridiculous and the scandalous, Bryson gives us an acute and perceptive insight into all that is best and worst about Britain today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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 dual 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 be 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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