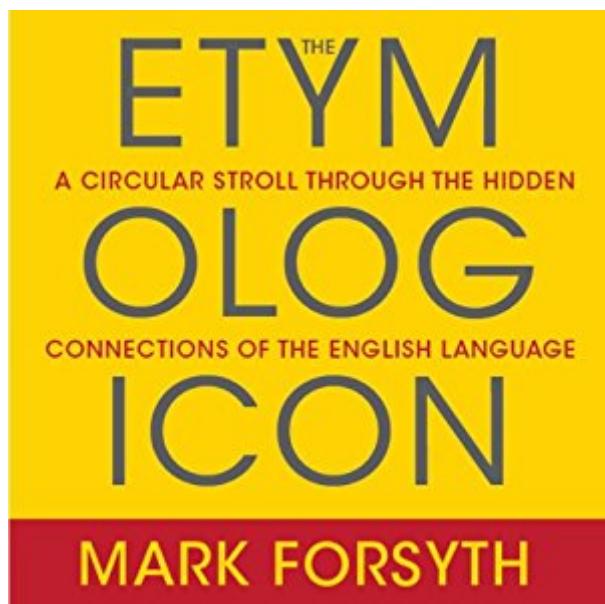


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The Etymologicon: A Circular Stroll Through The Hidden Connections Of The English Language



Synopsis

Do you know why...a mortgage is literally a death pledge? ...why guns have girls' names? ...why salt is related to soldier? You're about to find out...The Etymologicon

(e-t?-mÃfÆ'Ã Ä¤-lÃfÆ'Ã Ä¤-ji-kÃfÆ'Ã Ä¤n) is:^{*}Witty (wi-te\): Full of clever humor^{*}Erudite (er-?-dit): Showing knowledge^{*}Ribald (ri-b?ld): Crude, offensiveThe Etymologicon is a completely unauthorized guide to the strange underpinnings of the English language. It explains: How you get from "gruntled" to "disgruntled"; why you are absolutely right to believe that your meager salary barely covers "money for salt"; how the biggest chain of coffee shops in the world (hint: Seattle) connects to whaling in Nantucket; and what precisely the Rolling Stones have to do with gardening.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

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Customer Reviews

A wonderfully witty book which does not strain the attention of the armchair linguist and which is educative for the somewhat educated linguist and English etymologist. Mr. Forsyth (yes, Mr. Forsyth, I am old enough to be your great grandmother) presents the natural, organic development of language in small bites whose logic is easy to follow and easy to digest, although fair warning must be given that the reader might be prone to frequent convulsions of laughter. It is evident from this might tome in a small binding that Mr. Forsyth is a nonpareil in this field.

One of the best books I have read recently, hilariously informative. I got the audible version to go with it and the reader really manages to capture the dry wit of the author. This is a must for any lover of words.

Loved it. Even in my area of expertise where I thought I knew the backdrop against the terms, I was pleasantly surprised to be educated. Well written. The last two sections seemed to wander off, as if the author did not know how to end it.

More fun than a barrel of monkeys ---to use an old cliche. Forsyth starts with turn up for books (you'll never guess where it came from), and ends with turn up for books, and there's a connection with all the words in between. Who could believe that etymology could be so much fun. Found myself giggling like a school -boy many times during my reading (I would have said school -girl, but someone would have screamed sexist) . It's a hard book to put down. The one problem is that now when I'm reading, and see a word from the book not used from its etymologically beginnings, I have to stop and think about it

really swift-moving, fun read. every page has some factoid i want to text or email to my friends but i've tried keeping it to a minimum and only doing it once on the weekend. (this week's: the word "gun" is named after Queen Gunhilda, 14th c, Windsor Castle, site of the first cannon.)

I really have mixed emotions regarding this book. I did learn many things I didn't know but at about the 20% mark the persistent cutesy-cutesy, self-aware cleverness of the author became downright tedious. I wanted more meat and potatoes (along with vegetables), but this book is like dining on a bowl of frosting. The first bit is delicious but by the end you'll never be able to look at a cake again.

This amusing book explores some of the more obscure linkages between apparently unrelated English words. In doing so, it takes the reader on a merry tour of word origins, word borrowing, word change, and word almost everything. It is more of a "Hey look at this" book than a "these relationships suggest that ---" book, but if you are looking for fun with English words it is a good place to go. Would make a great stocking stuffer for word mavens.

Brilliant and entertaining view of the "english" language. This volume is put together from various online posts, but the author has worked to make it all appear seamless.

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