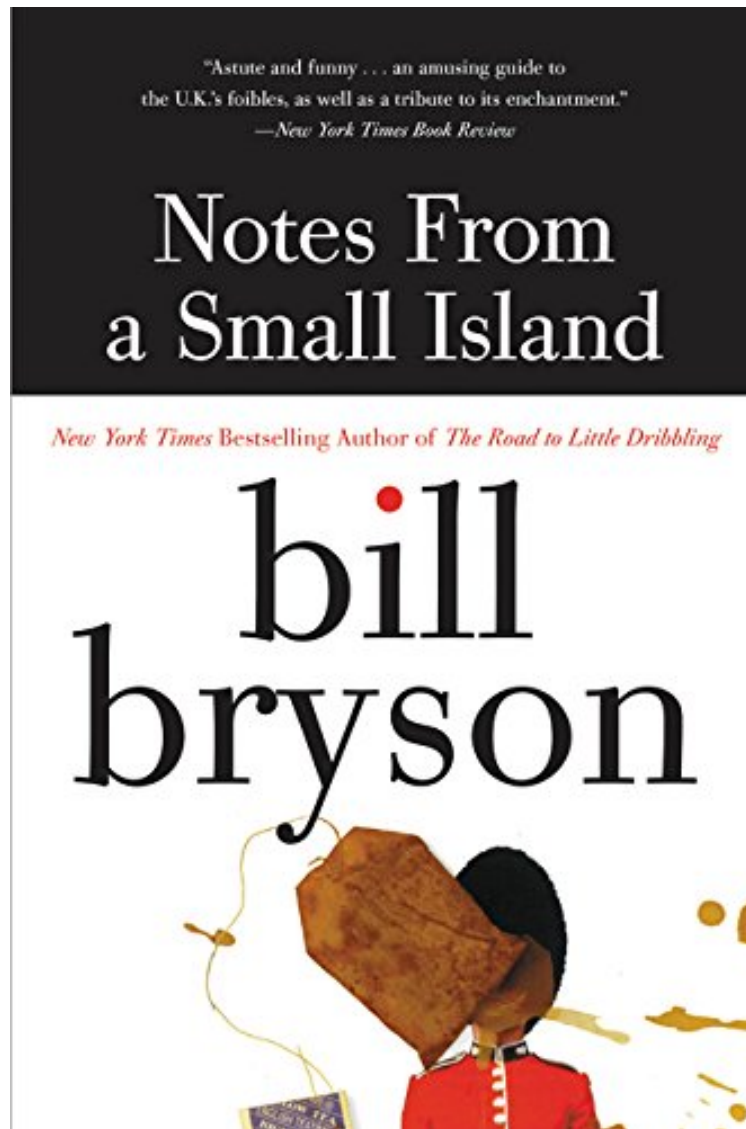


Notes from a Small Island

Bill Bryson

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Bill Bryson : Notes from a Small Island before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Notes from a Small Island:

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Written for an British audience, maybe? By Dale J. Woodford I've never been to England and this book won't inspire me to take a trip there. The book is very well written (the only reason I was able to finish reading it) but, Bill's intimate knowledge of the country sometimes left me standing on the outside looking in. I was often disappointed when Bill's description of a place was rendered as if the reader had some

familiarity with the setting. Be prepared for pages of dreary, grey rain and lots of cold mucking about. Mr Bryson's wit and ability to poke gentle fun at an entire people, individuals and himself save this book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Trek through the British Countryside By Customer As usual, Bill Bryson both educates and entertains as he moves through his travelogue. In this adventure he takes the reader to both familiar and unfamiliar parts of the British Isles, often seeking sites that he has read about but that few tourists would ever even know about. His narrative is sparked with his characteristic sense of humor, and he "paints" vivid pictures of both the country and the people he encounters. While I would not consider this his best work (My personal favorite is In a Sunburned Country), it is an enjoyable read. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Nice Enough for Bedtime Reading By Quinbus A pleasant, slightly dated ramble through Britain, often on foot, with evocations of his first visit many years before, by an American who lived and worked in England for decades and who loves the place. Pleasant, well written, discursive, mildly funny, pretty pleasing. Mostly of interest, I would guess, to Brits and Anglophiles.

Before New York Times bestselling author Bill Bryson wrote *The Road to Little Dribbling*, he took this delightfully irreverent jaunt around the unparalleled floating nation of Great Britain, which has produced zebra crossings, Shakespeare, Twiggie Winkies Farm, and places with names like Farleigh Wallop and Titsey.

.com Reacting to an itch common to Midwesterners since there's been a Midwest from which to escape, writer Bill Bryson moved from Iowa to Britain in 1973. Working for such places as Times of London, among others, he has lived quite happily there ever since. Now Bryson has decided his native country needs him--but first, he's going on a roundabout jaunt on the island he loves. Britain fascinates Americans: it's familiar, yet alien; the same in some ways, yet so different. Bryson does an excellent job of showing his adopted home to a Yank audience, but you never get the feeling that Bryson is too much of an outsider to know the true nature of the country. *Notes from a Small Island* strikes a nice balance: the writing is American-silly with a British range of vocabulary. Bryson's marvelous ear is also in evidence: "... I noted the names of the little villages we passed through--Pinhead, West Stuttering, Bakelite, Ham Hocks, Sheepshanks ..." If you're an Anglophile, you'll devour *Notes from a Small Island*. From Publishers Weekly Before his return to the U.S. after a 20-year residence in England, journalist Bryson (*Made in America*) embarked on a farewell tour of his adopted homeland. His trenchant, witty and detailed observations of life in a variety of towns and villages will delight Anglophiles. Traveling only on public transportation and hiking whenever possible, Bryson wandered along the coast through Bournemouth and neighboring villages that reinforced his image of Britons as a people who rarely complain and are delighted by such small pleasures as a good tea. In Liverpool, the author's favorite English city, he visited the Merseyside Maritime Museum to experience its past as a great port. Interweaving descriptions of landscapes and everyday encounters with shopkeepers, pub customers and fellow travelers, Bryson shares what he loves best about the idiosyncrasies of everyday English life in this immensely entertaining travel memoir. Author tour. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Bryson, who hails from Iowa, has spent the last 20 years living in England and writing about the often nettlesome relationship between his two countries, especially regarding their shared language (*Made in America*, LJ 2/1/95). His latest work is "a kind of valedictory tour around the green and kindly island" before he moved with his family back to the United States. With Paul Theroux's *Kingdom by the Sea* in hand, Bryson braves the inhospitably soggy fall weather to trudge from Dover, London, coastal villages, Wales, Scotland, and back home to Yorkshire on a helter-skelter seven-week journey that only a reader well versed in the geography of the region will follow, since there are no maps to aid the (American) reader. In fact, Bryson is writing here more for his British fans, who no doubt roar with mirth as he gently pokes fun at their excessive forbearance and fondness for Cagney and Lacey repeats. He is hilarious when transcribing a conversation with unsuspecting locals, especially in Glaswegian pubs, but merely dumb when he indulges in a curious (is it British?) bathroom humor. His portrait is certainly heartfelt, and one wonders, as he chokes up describing a stately, vanishing old England, if he will truly find happiness watching the 67 television channels in his native land. For all travel collections. Amy Boaz, "Library Journal" Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.