



The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain

By Bill Bryson

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The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain By Bill Bryson

A loving and hilarious—if occasionally spiky—valentine to Bill Bryson’s adopted country, Great Britain. Prepare for total joy and multiple episodes of unseemly laughter.

Twenty years ago, Bill Bryson went on a trip around Britain to discover and celebrate that green and pleasant land. The result was *Notes from a Small Island*, a true classic and one of the bestselling travel books ever written. Now he has traveled about Britain again, by bus and train and rental car and on foot, to see what has changed—and what hasn’t.

Following (but not too closely) a route he dubs the Bryson Line, from Bognor Regis in the south to Cape Wrath in the north, by way of places few travelers ever get to at all, Bryson rediscovers the wondrously beautiful, magnificently eccentric, endearingly singular country that he both celebrates and, when called for, twits. With his matchless instinct for the funniest and quirkiest and his unerring eye for the idiotic, the bewildering, the appealing, and the ridiculous, he offers acute and perceptive insights into all that is best and worst about Britain today.

Nothing is more entertaining than Bill Bryson on the road—and on a tear. *The Road to Little Dribbling* reaffirms his stature as a master of the travel narrative—and a really, *really* funny guy.

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The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain By Bill Bryson Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon 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 Schluelp*

Review

Praise for *The Road to Little Dribbling*:

"Although he's now entering what he fondly calls his 'dotage,' the 64-year-old Bryson seems merely to have sharpened both his charms and his crotchets. As the title of *The Road to Little Dribbling* suggests, he remains devoted to Britain's eccentric place names as well as its eccentric pastimes."

—**Alida Becker, *The New York Times Book Review***

"[Y]ou could hardly ask for a better guide to Great Britain than Bill Bryson. Bryson's new book is in most ways a worthy successor and sequel to his classic *Notes From A Small Island*. Like its predecessor, *The Road to Little Dribbling* is a travel memoir, combining adventures and observations from his travels around the island nation with recounting of his life there, off and mostly on, over the last four decades. Bryson is such a good writer that even if you don't especially go in for travel books, he makes reading this book worthwhile."

—**Nancy Klingener, *Miami Herald***

"...Bryson's capacity for wonder at the beauty of his adopted homeland seems to have only grown with time.... Britain is still his home four decades later, a period in which he went from lowly scribe at small-town British papers to best-selling travel writer. But he retains an outsider's appreciation for a country that first struck him as 'wholly strange ... and yet somehow marvelous.'"

—**Griff Witte, *Washington Post***

"Such a pleasure to once again travel the lanes and walking paths of Britain in the company of Bill Bryson! He's a little older now, and not necessarily wiser, but he's as delightful and irascible a guide as anyone could ever wish to have, as he rediscovers this somewhat careworn land and finds it as endearing (mostly) as ever. It's a rare book that will make me laugh out loud. This one did, over and over."

—**Erik Larson, author of *Dead Wake* and *The Devil in the White City***

"There's a whole lot of “went to a charming little village named Bloke-on-Weed, had a look around, a cup of tea, and moved on” in Bryson's most recent toddle around Britain. Writing 20 years after his bestselling *Notes from a Small Island*, Bryson concocts another trip through his homeland of 40 years by determining the longest distance one could travel in Britain in a straight line... This being Bryson, one chuckles every couple

of pages, of course, saying, 'yup, that sounds about right,' to his curmudgeonly commentary on everything from excess traffic and litter to rude sales clerks. One also feels the thrum of wanderlust as Bryson encounters another gem of a town or pip of a pub. And therein lies the charm of armchair traveling with Bryson. He clearly adores his adopted country. There are no better views, finer hikes, more glorious castles, or statelier grounds than the ones he finds, and Bryson takes readers on a lark of a walk across this small island with megamagnetism."

—**Booklist**, starred review

"Fans should expect to chuckle, snort, snigger, grunt, laugh out loud and shake with recognition... a clotted cream and homemade jam scone of a treat."

—**Sunday Times**

"At its best as the history of a love affair, the very special relationship between Bryson and Britain. We remain lucky to have him."

—**Matthew Engel**, *Financial Times*

"Is it the funniest travel book I've read all year? Of course it is."

—**Daily Telegraph**

"We have a tradition in this country of literary teddy bears—John Betjeman and Alan Bennett among them—whose cutting critiques of the absurdities and hypocrisies of the British people are carried out with such wit and good humour that they become national treasures. Bill Bryson is American but is now firmly established in the British teddy bear pantheon... The fact that this wonderful writer can unerringly catalogue all our faults and is still happy to put up with us should make every British reader's chest swell with pride."

—**Jake Kerridge**, *Sunday Express*

"The truly great thing about Bryson is that he really cares and is insanely curious... Reading his work is like going on holiday with the members of Monty Python."

—**Chris Taylor**, *Mashable*

"There were moments when I snorted out loud with laughter while reading this book in public... He can be as gloriously silly as ever."

—**The London Times**

"The observation, the wit, the geniality of Bryson's inimitable words illuminate every chapter."

—**Terry Wogan**, *Irish Times*

"Everybody loves Bill Bryson, don't they? He's clever, witty, entertaining, a great companion... his research is on show here, producing insight, wisdom and startling nuggets of information... Bill Bryson and his new book are the dog's bollocks."

—**Independent on Sunday**

"Stuffed with eye-opening facts and statistics..... Bryson's charm and wit continue to float off the page....Recognising oneself is part of the pleasure of reading Bryson's mostly affable rants about Britain and Britishness."

—**Daily Mail**

"His millions of readers will probably enjoy this just as much as its predecessor."

—**Observer**

"We go to him less for insights—though there are plenty of these—and more for the pleasure of his company. And he can be very funny indeed. Almost every page has a line worth quoting."

—*Glasgow Herald*

"At last, Bill Bryson has got back to what he does best—penning travel books that educate, inform and will have you laughing out loud... I was chuckling away by page four and soaking up his historic facts to impress my mates with. Sure to be a bestseller."

—*Sun*

"Bryson has no equal. He combines the charm and humour of Michael Palin with the cantankerousness of Victor Meldrew and the result is a benign intolerance that makes for a gloriously funny read."

—*Daily Express*

About the Author

Bill Bryson's bestselling books include *A Walk in the Woods* (now a major motion picture starring Robert Redford and Nick Nolte), *Notes from a Small Island*, *I'm a Stranger Here Myself*, *In a Sunburned Country*, *A Short History of Nearly Everything* (which earned him the 2004 Aventis Prize), *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*, *At Home*, and *One Summer*. He lives in England with his wife.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Yael Whitehead:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources in it can be true or not require people to be aware of each facts they get. How individuals to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Reading a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information especially this *The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain* book because book offers you rich information and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Tamiko Harmon:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled *The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain* your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unknown for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a reserve then become one contact form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get before. The *The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain* giving you another experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful facts for your better life with this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Philip Martin:

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Jeff Brown:

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