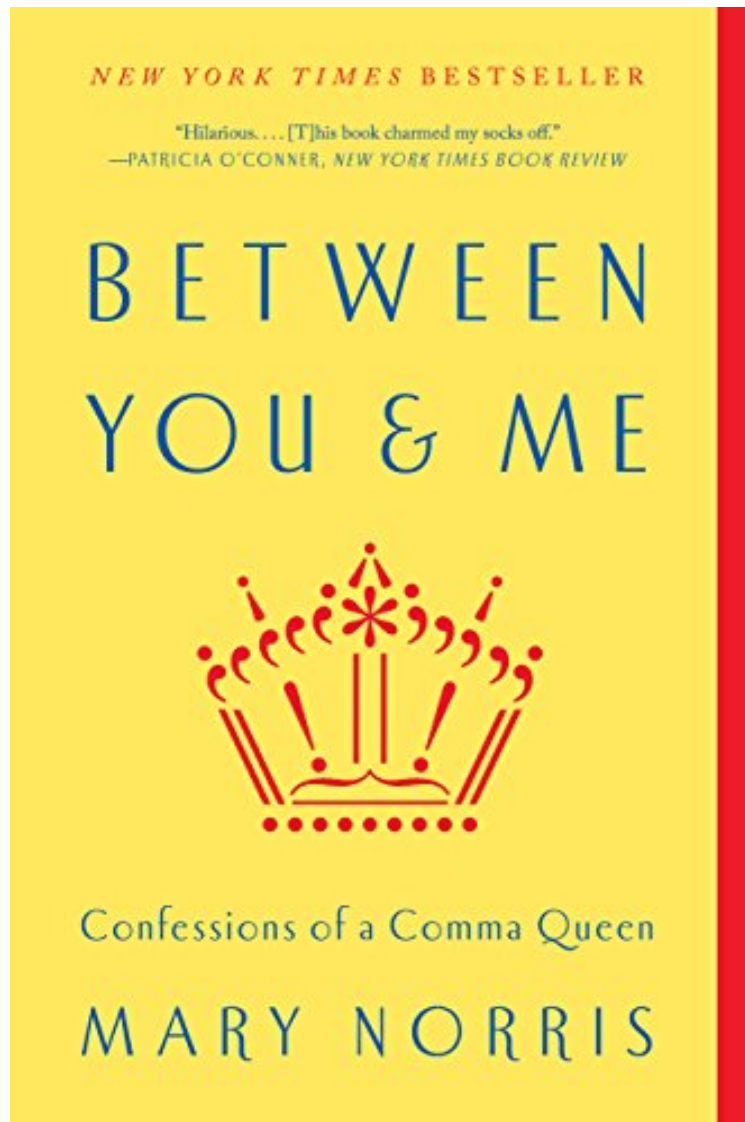


[Get free] Between You Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen

Between You Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen

Von Mary Norris

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Von Mary Norris : Between You Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Between You Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A severe, but highly helpful and invigorating readVon A userI personally am engaged in quite a bit of editing scientific texts; a task that has a slightly different flavor (the "in-house rules" are the SI conventions laid down by the various scientific academies and primarily the BIPM -- Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (SI maintenance agency) -- which, please note, the New Yorker does not always consistently apply in articles with engineering or scientific

content. Of course, her and other editors at the New Yorker have a host of other challenges: how to resolve disagreements about grammar and spelling and punctuation and ... with poets and other literati. Reading about how she learned to and how she now deals with these problems is the substance of the text. The book is of great value, because it describes how, although a language may be and is in flux, some logical consistencies must remain enforced, even as times change. (I wonder whether Ms. Norris would let this sentence construct pass.) But the value of the book extends beyond that. Parties in a population that have an agenda adhere to the paradigm that changing the rules of language will change the political outlook of the users of the language. Not that we have any historical evidence that this paradigm was ever successful; Nonetheless, it still goes on. (Read her chapter about when to use "he" and/or "she".) Irrespective of the historical evidence, editors in serious publications must deal with the political forces exerted and arguments presented by adherents to these paradigms. Chapters dealing with these editorial issues, even if you may not agree with the tenets of the paradigms, are not only an enjoyable read, but an insightful and educational one. Which is why I heartily recommend this book. Would The New Yorker allow me to use "which" in this construct? Would it allow this construct?;-) One cautious note: some technical terms are not defined and may not be known to the reader (as has happened to me). In line with the context of the text, this is fine, but don't be upset.

Kurzbeschreibung
Hilarious. . . . This book charmed my socks off. Patricia O'Conner, New York Times Book Review
Mary Norris has spent more than three decades in The New Yorker's copy department, maintaining its celebrated high standards. Now she brings her vast experience, good cheer, and finely sharpened pencils to help the rest of us in a boisterous language book as full of life as it is of practical advice. Between You Me features Norris's laugh-out-loud descriptions of some of the most common and vexing problems in spelling, punctuation, and usage: comma faults, dangles, "who" vs. "whom," "that" vs. "which," compound words, gender-neutral language and her clear explanations of how to handle them. Down-to-earth and always open-minded, she draws on examples from Charles Dickens, Emily Dickinson, Henry James, and the Lord's Prayer, as well as from The Honeymooners, The Simpsons, David Foster Wallace, and Gillian Flynn. She takes us to see a copy of Noah Webster's groundbreaking Blue-Back Speller, on a quest to find out who put the hyphen in Moby-Dick, on a pilgrimage to the world's only pencil-sharpener museum, and inside the hallowed halls of The New Yorker and her work with such celebrated writers as Pauline Kael, Philip Roth, and George Saunders. Readers and writers will find in Norris neither a scold nor a softie but a wise and witty new friend in love with language and alive to the glories of its use in America, even in the age of autocorrect and spell-check. As Norris writes, "The dictionary is a wonderful thing, but you can't let it push you around." *Pressestimmen*
For years I thought that, because Mary Norris and I are both from Cleveland, she shared her amazing knowledge of grammar only with me. Now I see she's letting the whole world in on it. I guess that's okay. Her book is so smart and funny and soulful and effortlessly illuminating, and she herself is so generous and great what else could she do? Still, I wish she'd told me. --Ian Frazier
"There is so much to be learned from Mary Norris's marvelous memoir: she tells us when to hyphenate a compound noun, shows whether to employ the subjunctive, and elucidates the suggestively named copulative verb. But she is no dry guardian of grammar, no punitive Poobah of punctuation. In giving an account of her journey from provincial obscurity to the glamour of New York and the New Yorker she offers a warm, tender, and funny coming-of-age story. (Or possibly it's a coming-of-age story. Mary could tell you.) --Rebecca Mead
"A delightful mix of autobiography, New Yorker lore, and good language sense. --Ben Yagoda
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"An educational, entertaining narrative
Unforgettable anecdotes
Countless laugh-out-loud passages
A funny book for any serious reader. "A delightful discourse on the most common grammar, punctuation, and usage challenges faced by writers of all stripes Norris writes with wit, sass, and smarts. "[P]ure porn for word nerds. --Allan Fallow
"Brimming with wit, personality and commas. . . . Norris' enthusiasm is infectious. She's as passionate about sharp pencils as she is about sharp writing. . . . Delightful. --Heller McAlpin
"Wonderfully confiding. --Miriam Krule
"Funny and endearing. --Joanna Connors
"[P]ure porn for word nerds. --Allan Fallow
Wonderfully confiding. --Miriam Krule
[A] winningly tender, funny reckoning with labor and language. --Megan O'Grady
Funny and endearing. --Joanna Connors
Laugh-out-loud funny and wise and compelling from beginning to end. --Steve Weinberg
Smart and funny and soulful and effortlessly illuminating. --Ian Frazier
Mary Norris brings a tough-minded, clear-eyed, fine-tuned wisdom to all the perplexities and traps and terrors of the English sentence. --Adam Gopnik
Mary Norris is a grammar geek with a streak of mischief, and her book is obscenely fun. --Marilyn Johnson
This is as entertaining as grammar can be. Very very. Read it and savor it. --Garrison Keillor
Mary Norris is the verbal diagnostician I would turn to for a first, second, or third opinion on just about anything. --John McPhee, in The New Yorker
Destined to become an instant classic . It s

hard to imagine the reader who would not enjoy spending time with Norris. "Ms. Norris, who has a dirty laugh that evokes late nights and Scotch, is...like the worldly aunt who pulls you aside at Thanksgiving and whispers that it is all right to occasionally flout the rules.--Sarah Lyall

Mary Norris has an enthusiasm for the proper use of language that's contagious. Her memoir is so engaging, in fact, that it's easy to forget you're learning things. Destined to become an instant classic.... It's hard to imagine the reader who would not enjoy spending time with Norris.

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