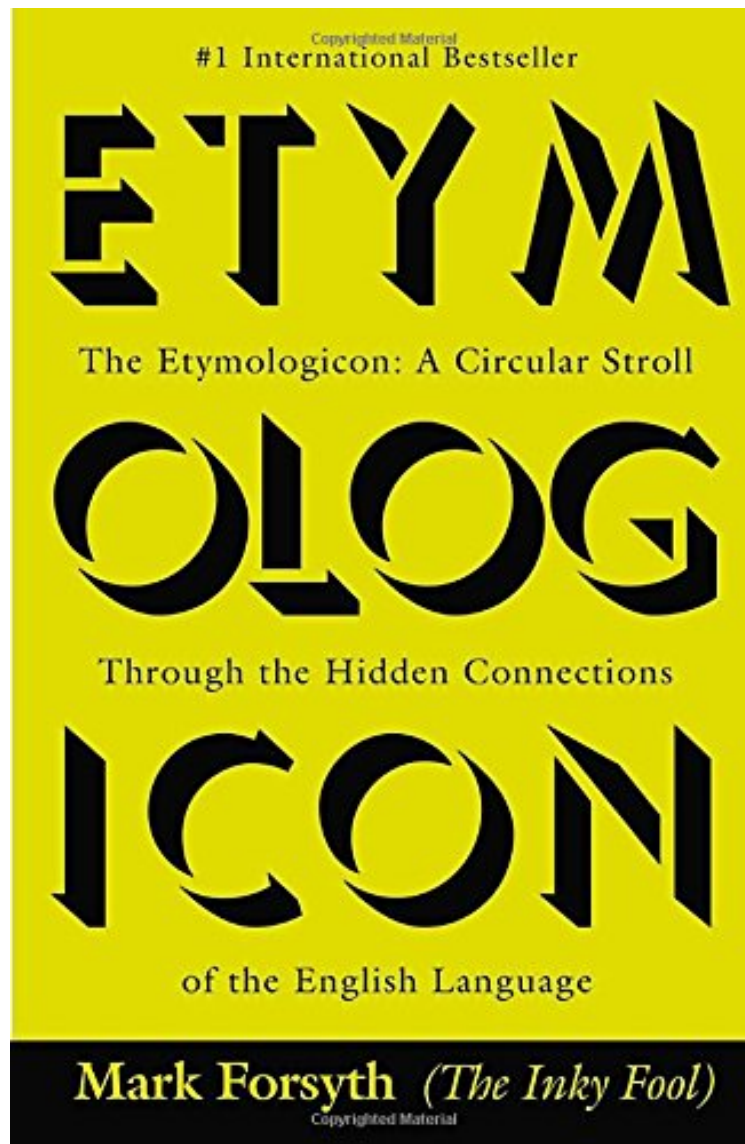


The Etymologicon: A Circular Stroll Through the Hidden Connections of the English Language

Mark Forsyth

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Mark Forsyth : The Etymologicon: A Circular Stroll Through the Hidden Connections of the English Language before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Etymologicon: A Circular Stroll Through the Hidden Connections of the English Language:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you like words and word origins, this is the book for you! By Book Lover
If you like words and word origins, this is the book for you! Mark Forsyth has a clever way with words and a British sense of humor that keep this book from becoming just another dry reference book. I was fascinated to learn that the words "black" and "white" have the same root word (the Old German "blakke") which became "black" in English and "blanc" in French, which is the root of our word for "blank". The confusion started when the Old Germans couldn't decide whether burning wood turned black (like charcoal) or white (like ashes) so after a while they got bored with it and went to sack Rome. That is the sort of explanation you find in this book. There are some rather saucy words in there, too. He keeps it clean, but it is not for the ultra-prudish. That being said, I enjoyed this book so much that I couldn't put it down. I recommend it highly!
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A wonderfully witty book which does not strain the attention of ... By AMSA
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 come in a small binding that Mr. Forsyth is a nonpareil in this field.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. One of the best books I have read recently
By Kindle Customer
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.

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?-m-l-ji-kn) is: *Witty (wi-te\): Full of clever humor*Erudite (er-?-dit): Showing knowledge*Ribald (ri-b?ld): Crude, offensive
The Etymologicon is a completely unauthorized guide to the strange underpinnings of the English language. It explains: how you get from grunted to disgrunted; 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.

The stocking filler of the season...how else to describe a book that explains the connection between Dom Perignon and Mein Kampf.--The Observer
Crikey...this is addictive!--The Times
Mark Forsyth is clearly a man who knows his onions.--Daily Telegraph
About the Author
Mark Forsyth is a writer, journalist, proofreader, ghostwriter, and pedant. He was given a copy of the Oxford English Dictionary as a christening present and has never looked back. He is the creator of The Inky Fool, a blog about words, phrases, grammar, rhetoric, and prose.