

Quicklet on Bill Bryson's Notes From a Small Island (CliffNotes-like Summary)

Vivian Wagner



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ABOUT THE BOOK

Bill Brysons Notes from a Small Island is a quirky, funny book filled with amazing and intriguing details about Britain. I love this book, just as I love all of Brysons writing. It reminds me of the first book I read by him A Walk in the Woods because it, too, is a travel story that has him ambling around the countryside and reporting his observations.

In fact, he has such a likable voice and an engaging manner that he could walk around the block and still make it fun to read. Thats the wonderful thing about Bryson, and its why I love him. He has a wry sense of humor that makes anything interesting, funny, and endearing, and this book about Britain is no exception. Youll read it and laugh, and at the same time youll learn a lot about this country, its history, its politics, and its people. Youll also learn a lot about Bryson himself, and thats enjoyable, as well.

The thing about Bryson is that he sees everything through the lens of his own perspective, but that personal perspective never obscures the subject that hes looking at. The more you learn about him, the more you understand his take on his subject matter. That is exactly what happens in Notes from a Small Island.

MEET THE AUTHOR

professional writer Vivian Wagner has wide-ranging interests, from technology and business to music and motorcycles. She writes features regularly for ECT News Network, and her work has also appeared in American Profile, Entrepreneur, Bluegrass Unlimited, and many other publications. She is also the author of Fiddle: One Woman, Four Strings, and 8,000 Miles of Music (Citadel 2010). For more about her, visit her website at www.vivianwagner.net.

EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK

Notes from a Small Island was published in 1997 as a kind of love story about the country Bryson was getting ready to leave. Its told as a travel narrative, and in order to write it as such, he travels around the country as a tourist, trying to see it with fresh eyes after having lived there for a number of years as a resident. The book opens with him arriving in England via Calais, just as he arrived years before, and it continues by following him on his journey through the country.

As Publishers Weekly says in a review of the book, 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.

Buy a copy to keep reading!

CHAPTER OUTLINE

Quicklet on Bill Bryson's Notes From a Small Island

- + Personal Introduction
- + About the Author
- + About the Book
- + Overall Summary
- + ...and much more

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