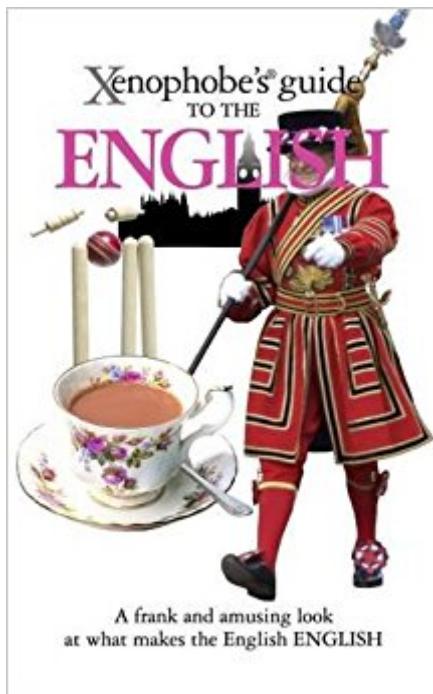


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Xenophobe's Guide To The English



Synopsis

Never overstep the markModeration—a treasured ideal—means a lot to the English. Their respect for it is reflected in their shared dislike of any person who “goes too far.Ã¢â€žâ¢ Irrational rationalityThe English can admire something without enjoying it, or enjoy something they suspect is fundamentally reprehensible. You can never be sure which stance they are going to take—the reassuringly reasonable, or the wildly irrational.Ã¢â€žâ¢ I'm fine, reallyStoicism, the capacity to greet life's vicissitudes with cheerful calm, is an essential ingredient of Englishness.Ã¢â€žâ¢ Push-me, pull-youTwo equally fundamental but contradictory English characteristics are a love of continuity and a yearning for change. In the English character these two opposite desires vie with each other constantly, which produces some curious behavior patterns and several characteristics most usually observed in the classic split personality.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Each book is an entertaining essay on the failings, foibles and good points of their subjects. Their humour is relaxed and gentle and it would be a sour, churlish native of a subject country who would object seriously." --"The Northern Times" "The Xenophobe's Guides raise a smile and give you an understanding of the beliefs and foibles of nationalities." --"Glasgow Evening Times "

'Because the English do not like being told what to do, any order has to be given with a degree of politeness which many other nations find incomprehensible. Should you follow custom and express

an order as a request, you will achieve the desired effect. Express it simply as an order, with no hint of personal choice, and the English will invariably break for tea.'Xenophobia is an irrational fear of foreigners, probably justified, always understandable.Xenophobe's Guides - an irreverent look at the beliefs and foibles of nations, almost guaranteed to cure Xenophobia.

This one is also very close to the truth, more like 95%. In my opinion the Brits have the best sense of humor, the international Mr Bean, Benny Hill, Dad's Army, Allo Allo... The Brits are very good on popular music and film making, far better than Americans.England is a Country run by the Foreigners, and therefore the present trend seems to be that the natives are becoming more and more scared of the Foreigners, but the truth is that 'we all stand together' and make the Britain even Greater. The real Brits have a very good hearts, very friendly and always there to help.

The goal of this book is to tell us about the English, and make us laugh while doing so. It pretty much fails on both counts. It's not a terrible book, but it is fairly useless. First, it's just not witty. Second, the book is full of stereotypes that don't fit the English people I know and love. A better book, if you want to know about English culture, is *Watching the English*.

I had read the Dutch version in this series which I really enjoyed and found useful before visiting Amsterdam. This guide was lacking in humor and useful info. Just the same old clichÃ©s.

It's amusing and fun, but it's largely just a book trying to be funny and I don't think you really learn anything about the English here that you could not learn better in some other book.

Having read the xenophobe's guide to the Swiss, and having lived in England, I truly hoped to get a real hoot out of this book. However, it was not nearly as irreverant as the Swiss book, which was a double whammy to me because that is EXACTLY what is so dear about the British people!! However, most of the points are valid and if you're simply looking for some clues about how to behave when visiting England, this book is probably pretty good for you.

Interesting, and a bit of fun, but misses many things needing explanation - garden sheds, freezers, austerity, Royalty, pork pies!

This book is very funny, and kinda interesting, but not accurate in several things. At least not for

london folks.

It was OK

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