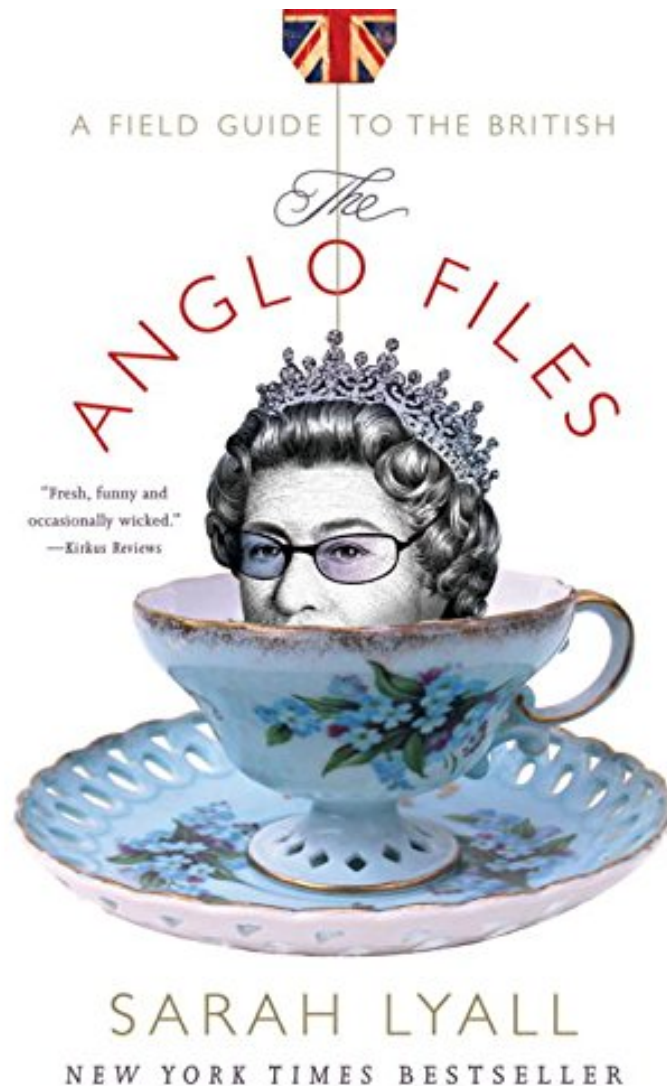


(Ebook pdf) The Anglo Files: A Field Guide to the British

The Anglo Files: A Field Guide to the British

Sarah Lyall

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Sarah Lyall : The Anglo Files: A Field Guide to the British before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Anglo Files: A Field Guide to the British:

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Fond But Caustic (And Hilarious) Look At The BritishBy John D. CofieldSarah Lyall is an American journalist married to a British journalist. The Anglo Files is part memoir, part traveler's advisory, part hate mail, and part love affair. If that seems like a lot to pack into a 263 page book not including index, it would be in the hands of a less gifted writer. Lyall's gift for sardonic observation and wry commentary is ably displayed here. There are 14 chapters with snicker inducing titles like "Honorable Members" and

"Invasion of the Hedgehog People", each examining a different foible easily encountered in present day Great Britain. Sometimes Lyall discusses subjects, like British class structure, that have been endlessly dissected by other writers, but her observations are still fresh and enjoyable. At other times Lyall tackles British traits which are less familiar to most Americans, such as the appalling lack of dental care and hygiene. While these chapters have a tendency to discomfit the reader (I stopped halfway through the chapter on teeth to floss thoroughly), they are nevertheless highly amusing. I suppose my favorite chapter has to be "More Than A Game", about cricket, because it recalled a bewildering afternoon I once spent at Lord's, accompanied by a British friend who did his best to explain what was going on, to no avail. And in light of current economic events Lyall's examination of the recent British boom, driven by inflated housing prices and disreputable lending practices, have a fresh clarity and significance. I've been a rabid Anglophile (some say Anglomane) for many years, and while some of the material about drinking and chavs and yobs made me wince, I'll treasure *The Anglo Files* because beneath the caustic commentary and wry comparisons Lyall's deep appreciation for that still green and pleasant land (in between rain showers) shines through. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. British culture through the eyes of an American By Lo This is a thoroughly delightful introduction to the British through the eyes of an American woman married to an English man. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very funny By C.L. Blake I thought this book was wildly funny and brilliantly written. I have lived in and visited many countries, the people in each one have unique quirks, as do Americans. This captured the British perfectly from my perspective.

"Should be handed out . . . in the immigration line at Heathrow." ? Malcolm Gladwell Sarah Lyall moved to London in the mid-1990s and soon became known for amusing and sharp dispatches on her adopted country. Confronted by the eccentricities of these island people (the English husband who never turned on the lights, the legislators who behaved like drunken frat boys, the hedgehog lovers), she set about trying to figure out the British. Part anthropological field study and part memoir, *The Anglo Files* has already received great acclaim and recognition for the astuteness, humor, and sensitivity with which the author wields her pen.

From Publishers Weekly In the early 1990s, New York Times publishing reporter Lyall transferred to London for love. Now she produces the latest in a seemingly inexhaustible genre that dissects British quirks and remarks how peculiar are the inhabitants of that moist little isle. With George Orwell's essay *England Your England* and Bill Bryson's *Notes from a Small Island* the best-known examples, Lyall's is an appropriately humorous tale of the struggle to accommodate to her new British way of life and to make sense of the profound culture shock she experienced. But Lyall's observations are neither overly perceptive nor interesting and much of her material is creakingly familiar: aristocrats, for example, pronounce some words differently than their working-class compatriots, Britons love animals (a special memorial honors animals who aided British troops in wartime) and the game of cricket is boring. This is a light, fluffy read that will be enjoyed by first-time visitors to Britain and even a few nostalgic British expatriates. But while Lyall's writing is, as always, witty and tart, it will disappoint those seeking serious analysis or original insights. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "A witty, incisive collection of essays . . . on everything English." - Elle "Fresh, funny and occasionally wicked." - Kirkus "Lyall is at her tart, observant best." - Matt Weiland, New York Times Book "A razor-sharp . . . wickedly insightful, decidedly biased account of everything British." - Graydon Carter About the Author Sarah Lyall grew up in New York City and writes for the New York Times in London. She lives there with her husband, the writer Robert McCrum, and their two daughters.