

Book Review

Lynne Truss, *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, London, Profile books, 2003, 209

Lynn Truss's book *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, is an engaging comical read and perfect for anyone with a passion for punctuation or just for a rollicking good laugh. Not another book about punctuation this book indulges the correct use, and examples of incorrect use, of punctuation marks. Cleverly written the style is fast paced witty and comical, a rather interesting approach to a potentially boring subject.

Lynn Truss is a former editor and self-professed 'stickler' for punctuation. Lynn has extensive experience with punctuation and currently pursues a writing career, works as a broadcaster for BBC's Radio 4 and reviews books for the Sunday Times. The book is amazingly educational with several examples of the correct use of such punctuation marks as: the apostrophe, comma, colon, semi-colon, dash and the hyphen.

Lynn(2003,p.33) uses a beautifully witty and humorous style, saying of her own book, "Well, you know those self help books that give you permission to love yourself? This one gives you permission to love punctuation." Lynn shares her passion, in this book, for correct punctuation and utter, bordering on maniacal, contempt for incorrect punctuation.

The examples are informative moreover they are a laugh-a-minute, "Cruelty to punctuation is quite unlegislated : you can get away with pulling the legs off semicolons; shrivelling question marks on the garden path under a powerful magnifying glass; you name it."(Truss, 2003, p.36). This style makes the book a real page-turner, the reader constantly looking forward to the next humorous anecdote or

fact. Do not be surprised if while reading on the bus or train that you find yourself snorting back a giggle or smiling broadly.

This book is factual and fun, it includes historical information about punctuation, once again given in a hysterical context. Lynn effectively brings alive her writing by imbuing it with her personality. Her style is engaging and holds the attention constantly.

This fascinating book will appeal to a cross range of readers. For readers interested in English punctuation, this is a must have. If you just want a great laugh this book is for you. Finally reading this book lets you learn something and stimulates the funny bone vigorously, that is entertainment.

Reference

Truss, L. (2003). *Eats, Shoots & Leaves* : The zero tolerance approach to punctuation. London, UK: Profile Books Ltd