



Britannia in Brief: The Scoop on All Things British

Leslie Banker, William Mullins

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When it comes to Britain, most Americans don't know (Union) Jack. Fortunately, now an Anglo-American husband-and-wife team are here to help with a smart, funny, and handy guide that minds the gap between fact and fiction. From Whigs and Windsors to wankers and Wales, this spit-spot-on reference covers all manner of British history, society, culture, language, and everyday life, including

- the class system, title envy, and a thumbnail sketch of British dynasties
- highlights of the social season (yes, they have a social season)
- Parliament, prime ministers, and a wild variety of political parties
- British sports 101, including football (by which we mean soccer), cricket, rugby, snooker, and darts
- answers to the pressing question: What's on the telly?
- British culinary delights, from Marmite to late-night tikka masala
- odd pronunciations (e.g., how "St. John" becomes "Sin Jun")
- cockney slang, or why you should never get caught "telling porkies on the dog"
- Londoners' pride in the Tube and the truth about trainspotting

So whether you're traveling to England on business or for pleasure, dating a Brit, hoping to comfort a homesick Londoner (whip up a treacle tart, recipe included), or simply curious about life across the pond, **Britannia in Brief** is the perfect companion.

Britannia in Brief: The Scoop on All Things British Details

Date : Published May 19th 2009 by Ballantine Books (first published January 1st 2009)

ISBN : 9780345509994

Author : Leslie Banker , William Mullins

Format : Paperback 256 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Travel, European Literature, British Literature, Humor



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Megan says

I loved this guide to Great Britain. It really kept my short attention span. It was informative, entertaining, and managed to make me feel inferior to the Brits but at the same time fall in love with the culture. This was the recommended reading for my London study abroad prep course, and it really did its job.

Vanessa says

Great fun for anglophiles. This is an informative introduction to Britain from many angles: history, royal family, pub tipping practices (you don't), geography, media, literature, food. And on and on. Some of the tips are kind of a no-brainer (what? I shouldn't ask a Scot if Glasgow is a suburb of London?) but I learned a lot plus the authors have an appropriately wry sense of humor that kept me reading. Be sure to try the quiz at the end before and after reading.

Dixie says

Lots of fun - really enjoyed this. Don't know why they call it _The Anglo File_ here when the cover says it's called _Britannia in Brief_.

Bryce says

A useful guide to understanding all things British for Americans heading across the pond. Perhaps a bit heavy on popular culture versus culture and history for my tastes, but I am sure the things I learned will be useful.

jennifer says

Author Banker is American and Mullins is English, and this is relevant because the book is relating British locations, history, speech, food and culture to the American audience. Very handy for explaining the pecking order of royals, the political parties, what marmite is made from, the different literary awards, what your choice of newspapers tells the world and who a person named Jordan is and why she's famous. 3.5 stars

Kathryn says

A fun quick read filled with useful facts about the UK. I lived in London for about a year and have traveled several times within the UK, and there were items in this book that were new to me.

Ekim says

It's bit dry but overall enjoyed reading this book. Would definitely recommend this to others.

Margie says

Fun, quick read. A fond visit back to Basil Brush, the Wombles, and Curly Wurly bars.
I can now pronounce Cymru.

Leticia says

Pick up this book if you are interested in life in Britain or if you are interested in visiting. All questions have been answered even the most elusive "Why do they drive on the left side of the street?"
This book was most entertaining and succinct.

Erin says

Very informative, even for someone who considers herself an "Anglophile," but the organizational structure was a little bit perplexing.

Abbey says

BOTTOM LINE: Subtitled "the scoop on all things British", this snappy little book is filled with lots of odd facts and fun quizzes about England, Great Britain, and the United Kingdom, their oddities and differences from the United States.

Written cooperatively (one hopes...) by Leslie Bunker (American) and her husband William Mullins (British), it's a chatty bunch of fun stories and little bits of interesting trivia centered around basic things an American may need, or wish, to know when visiting England, what to say and do, and, more importantly perhaps, what NOT to. Has a little bit about a lot of different items, each handled only superficially, but entertainingly, with a sly humor/humour that for me was very enjoyable.

Chapter 1: So where are we anyway?

Chapter 2: Society
Chapter 3: Culture
Chapter 4: Politics and Government
Chapter 5: Food and Drink
Chapter 6: Language
Chapter 7: The Quotidian

Jenni says

A pretty funny read from a husband (English) and wife (American) team discussing the hilarious differences between the UK and US. A very quick, fun read. Certainly won't be winning the Pulitzer ... but enjoyable nonetheless.

Amanda says

Utilizing punchy British humor at times, this book offers a wealth of practical advice about foreign land that is more foreign than most Americans think. I feel significantly more prepared for my impending move to the UK.

Paula says

I knew about some of the stuff here, but I did learn about the difference between lager, bitter, and stout and about the British sensation Jordan (aka Katie Price) who I had never ever heard of before, but apparently is sort of the British equivalent to Kim Kardashian. And Kylie Minogue is the British Madonna? Who knew? This wasn't life-changing, but it's a fun read if you're an anglophile like me.
