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Six Words You Never Knew Had Something to Do with Pigs: And Other Fascinating Facts About the English Language

Von Katherine Barber

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Von Katherine Barber : **Six Words You Never Knew Had Something to Do with Pigs: And Other Fascinating Facts About the English Language** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Six Words You Never Knew Had Something to Do with Pigs: And Other Fascinating Facts About the English Language:

Kurzbeschreibung A delightfully addictive compendium of fascinating word facts that does for the dictionary what Eats, Shoots, and Leaves did for the manual of style. With the easy erudition and lively wit that have won her legions of fans, Canada's "Word Lady" reveals the entertaining histories behind 500 of the most common words and phrases in the English language. Who knew that "travel" is derived from an instrument of torture? That "tragedy" originally had something to do with goats? That "glamour" and "grammar" started out as the same word? Katherine Barber's captivating collection is organized by season, so readers can open to Valentine's Day to learn about the origins of "passion fruit" or flip to Thanksgiving to find out why there aren't any turkeys in Turkey. An irresistible blend of entertainment and enlightenment, this delightful book will captivate the word lover in all of us.

From Publishers Weekly: Editor-in-chief of the Canadian Oxford Dictionary and celebrated word nerd Barber has put together a suitably snappy compendium of word origins. Organized by seasons, this snore-free guide to etymology presents more than 500 paragraph-long histories on everything from sports terms to teen-speak to Yiddish. Curious minds will learn that the modern definition of "bidet" comes from the 1300s French verb "bider," meaning "to trot"; the bathroom fixture in the 1750s took the name because of the straddling action one performs while using it. The word "dunce" was derived from the name of a once-revered medieval theologian, John Duns Scotus, who fell out of favor; his disciples were called "Duns men" or "Dunses" for short. And who knew that the first recorded usage of the phrase "as if" was in Frank Morris's 1903 novel *The Pit* (" 'Maybe he'll come up and speak to us.' 'Oh, as if,' contradicted Laura. ")? No matter what word she puts under the microscope, Barber clearly takes its history seriously, but her light, witty descriptions make each discovery a pleasure. Ideal for dinner party discussions or bathroom reading. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Pressestimmen: *Six Words You Never Knew Had Something To Do With Pigs* is an elegant little publication that will likely find a place of prominence on regularly used bookshelves in many Canadian homes and cottages. * *The Chronicle Herald, Halifax* * *Six Words You Never Knew Had Something To Do With Pigs* is that rare book that is both entertaining and illuminating; you could gobble it all down at one sitting * *The Vancouver Sun* *