

Bill Bryson OBE

The UK's biggest selling non-fiction author since official records began

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About

Bill Bryson is the UK's biggest selling non-fiction author since official records began. He was born in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1951. He moved to and settled in England in 1977, mainly working as a journalist, Bill became chief copy editor of the business section of The Times and then deputy national news editor of the business section of The Independent. He left journalism in 1987 to concentrate on writing independently as a full time author.

Bill lived with his English wife and their four young children in North Yorkshire, before moving the family to Hanover, New Hampshire in 1995. They returned from America to live in the UK in 2003 and settled in Norfolk. Also in 2003, he was appointed a Commissioner for English Heritage.

In *The Lost Continent*, Bill Bryson's hilarious first travel book, he chronicled a trip in his mother's Chevy around small town America. It was followed by *Neither Here Nor There*, an account of his first trip around Europe. Other travel books include the massive bestseller *Notes From a Small Island*, which won the 2003 World Book Day National Poll to find the book which best represented modern England, followed by *A Walk in the Woods* (in which Stephen Katz, his travel companion from *Neither Here Nor There*, made a welcome reappearance), *Notes From a Big Country*, about the USA, and his exploits in and observations on Australia, *Down Under*, which went on to become the most-borrowed travel book of the Noughties.

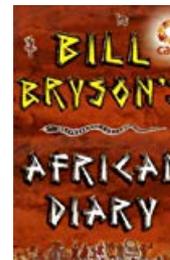
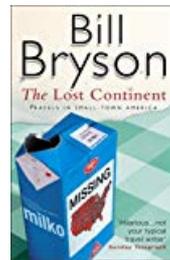
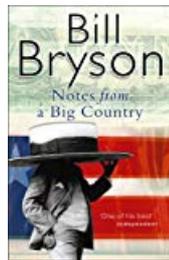
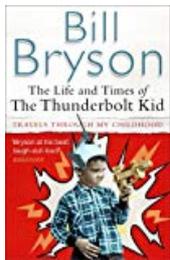
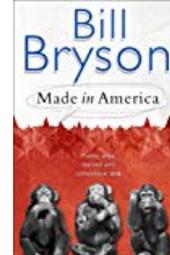
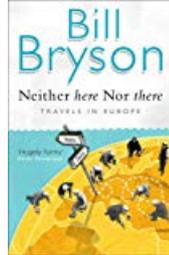
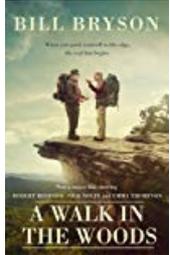
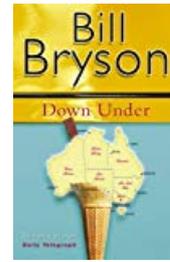
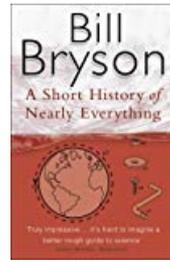
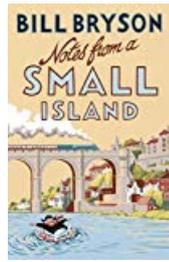
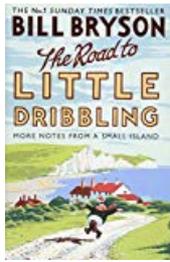
Bill Bryson's books on the English language, including *Mother Tongue* and *Made in America* garnered wide critical and popular acclaim. Then he turned his attention to science. *A Short History of Nearly Everything* was lauded with critical acclaim, became a huge international bestseller and won the Aventis Prize for Science Books as well as the Descartes Science Communication Prize. It was reissued in a lavishly illustrated edition, followed by an illustrated version for younger readers: *A Really Short History of Nearly Everything*. In 2006, his memoir of growing up in 1950s America, *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*, was released and became an instant hit. Bill's next subject was the life of William Shakespeare, chronicled to great effect in *Shakespeare: The World as a Stage*. A revised and updated edition of his *Dictionary for Writers and Editors* was recently published by Black Swan.

In 2010, for the 350th anniversary of the Royal Society, Bill Bryson edited *Seeing Further*, a history of the Royal Society, and in his role as President of CPRE, he edited *Icons of England*, a celebration of the English countryside. His long-awaited, major new book, *At Home: A Short History of Private Life*, is an illuminating and entertaining history of the way we live and was published in 2011.

Bill Bryson was the Chancellor of Durham University from 2005-2011, and, in 2006, was awarded an honorary OBE for services to literature. His love of the English countryside is well known and he became the President of the Campaign to Protect Rural England in 2007.

With a wacky world view that garners him comparisons to everyone from Chaucer to Dave Barry, Bill Bryson is a formidable after dinner speaker that entertains audiences around the world with his travelogues and insights into the intricacies of language.

Books and DVD's



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