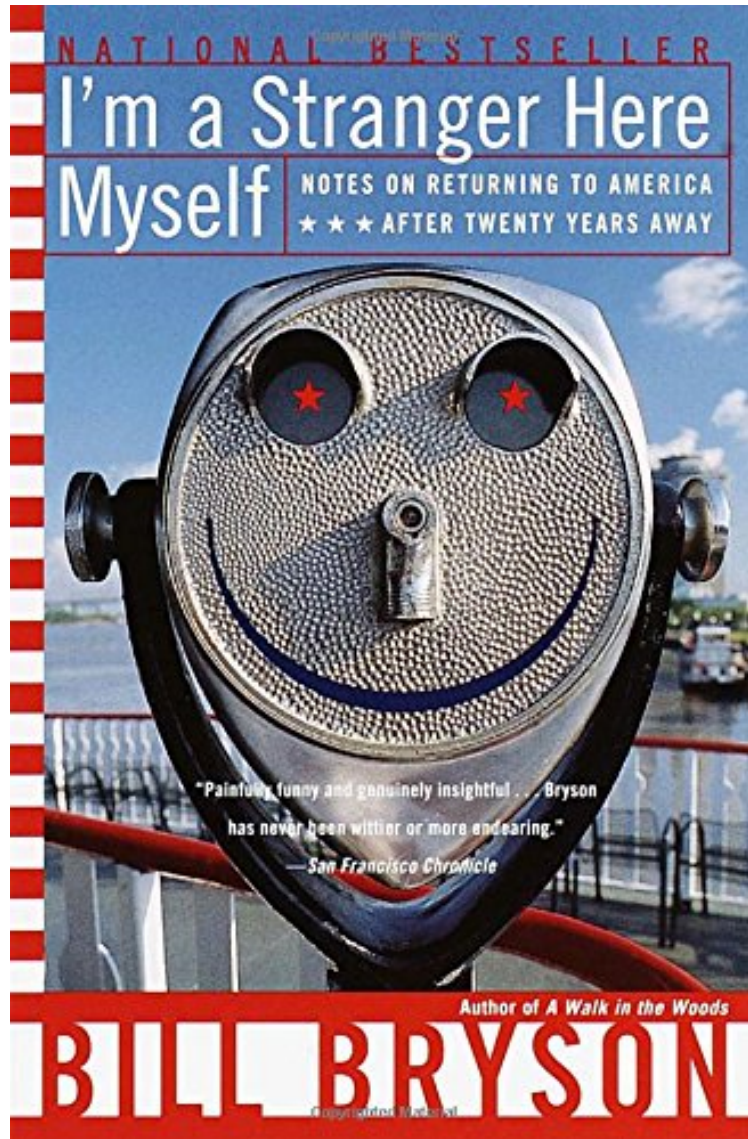


(Download free pdf) I'm a Stranger Here Myself: Notes on Returning to America After 20 Years Away

I'm a Stranger Here Myself: Notes on Returning to America After 20 Years Away

Bill Bryson

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Bill Bryson : I'm a Stranger Here Myself: Notes on Returning to America After 20 Years Away before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I'm a Stranger Here Myself: Notes on Returning to America After 20 Years Away:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Bryson is a gemBy John ScaliceI read my first Bill Bryson book. A Walk in the Woods, when it was first published and have been a fan ever since. I recently began acquiring them on my

Kindle and reading them again, and they are still enjoyable. Bill Bryson has an interesting perspective on two cultures. Born in the U.S., moving to Britain in his 20s, and then moving back to the U.S. after 20 years, he essentially gets to be an outsider in his native country as he tries to catch up to the changes that have occurred in his home country in the two decades he has been away. The book is essentially a collection of weekly columns he wrote that were published back in Britain. They range between funny and poignant, but are all well written and will leave you smiling. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I Love Me Some Bryson! By Kindle Customer Being the Yankee daughter of a Yorkshire lass, myself, Bill Bryson's book brought back fond memories and hysterical observations that either my mother or I had also made whilst comparing kindred but definitely separate cultures. Even if you've been confined to only one side of the pond or the other, this great read will offer hours of entertainment. When I sit and read a "Bryson", it is like meeting up with an old friend: you know you'll get a tad nostalgic, you know the friendship will immediately re-bloom and you know, too, you'll laugh your butt off. AND you'll look forward to seeing him again-- real soon! Right now, Bryson and I are walking the AT. There is no end to the adventures! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun and Easy By gourmet girl Serving as a weekly columnist for the local newspaper, this book is a compilation of Bryson's columns, so they are short and to the point. Much like Andy Rooney, Bryson has that deadpan delivery about everyday life which throws the reader back into the chair with laughter!

A CLASSIC FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF ONE SUMMER After living in Britain for two decades, Bill Bryson recently moved back to the United States with his English wife and four children (he had read somewhere that nearly 3 million Americans believed they had been abducted by aliens as he later put it, "it was clear my people needed me"). They were greeted by a new and improved America that boasts microwave pancakes, twenty-four-hour dental-floss hotlines, and the staunch conviction that ice is not a luxury item. Delivering the brilliant comic musings that are a Bryson hallmark, *I'm a Stranger Here Myself* recounts his sometimes disconcerting reunion with the land of his birth. The result is a book filled with hysterical scenes of one man's attempt to reacquaint himself with his own country, but it is also an extended if at times bemused love letter to the homeland he has returned to after twenty years away.

.com In the world of contemporary travel writing, Bill Bryson, the bestselling author of *A Walk in the Woods*, often emerges as a major contender for King of Crankiness. Granted, he complains well and humorously, but between every line of his travel books you can almost hear the tinny echo: "I wanna go home, I miss my wife." Happily, *I'm a Stranger Here Myself* unleashes a new Bryson, more contemplative and less likely to toss daggers. After two decades in England, he's relocated to Hanover, New Hampshire. In this collection (drawn from dispatches for London's *Night Day* magazine), he's writing from home, in close proximity to wife and family. We find a happy marriage between humor and reflection as he assesses life both in New England and in the contemporary United States. With the telescopic perspective of one who's stepped out of the American mainstream and come back after 20 years, Bryson aptly holds the mirror up to U.S. culture, capturing its absurdities--such as hotlines for dental floss, the cult of the lawsuit, and strange American injuries such as those sustained from pillows and beds. "In the time it takes you to read this," he writes, "four of my fellow citizens will somehow manage to be wounded by their bedding." The book also reflects the sweet side of small-town USA, with columns about post-office parties, dining at diners, and Thanksgiving--when the only goal is to "get your stomach into the approximate shape of a beach ball" and be grateful. And grateful we are that the previously peripatetic Bryson has returned to the U.S., turning his eye to this land--while living at home and near his wife. Under her benevolent influence, he entertains through thoughtful insights, not sarcastic stabs. --Melissa Rossi From Publishers Weekly Ex-patriate Bryson, who chronicled one effort at American reentry in his bestselling *A Walk in the Woods*, collects another: the whimsical columns on America he wrote weekly, while living in New Hampshire in the mid-to-late 1990s, for a British Sunday newspaper. Although he happily describes himself as dazzled by American ease, friendliness and abundance, Bryson has no trouble finding comic targets, among them fast food, computer efficiency and, ironically, American friendliness and putative convenience. As he edges into Dave Barry-style hyperbole, Bryson sometimes strains for yuks, but he's deft when he compares the two cultures, as in their different treatment of Christmas, pointing out how the British "pack all their festive excesses" into that single holiday. Bryson also nudges into domestic territory with regular references to his own British wife, the resolutely sensible Mrs. B. In a few columns, Bryson adopts a sentimental tone, writing about his family and his new hometown of Hanover. In others, he's more sober, criticizing anti-immigration activists, environmental depredation and drug laws (though he draws out the humor in these as well). Not all the columns hit their mark, and they are best read in small groupings, but this collection should sell well enough, although not likely to the heights of *A Walk in the Woods*. Agent, Jed Mattes. Author tour; BDD audio. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Getting reacquainted with America. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.