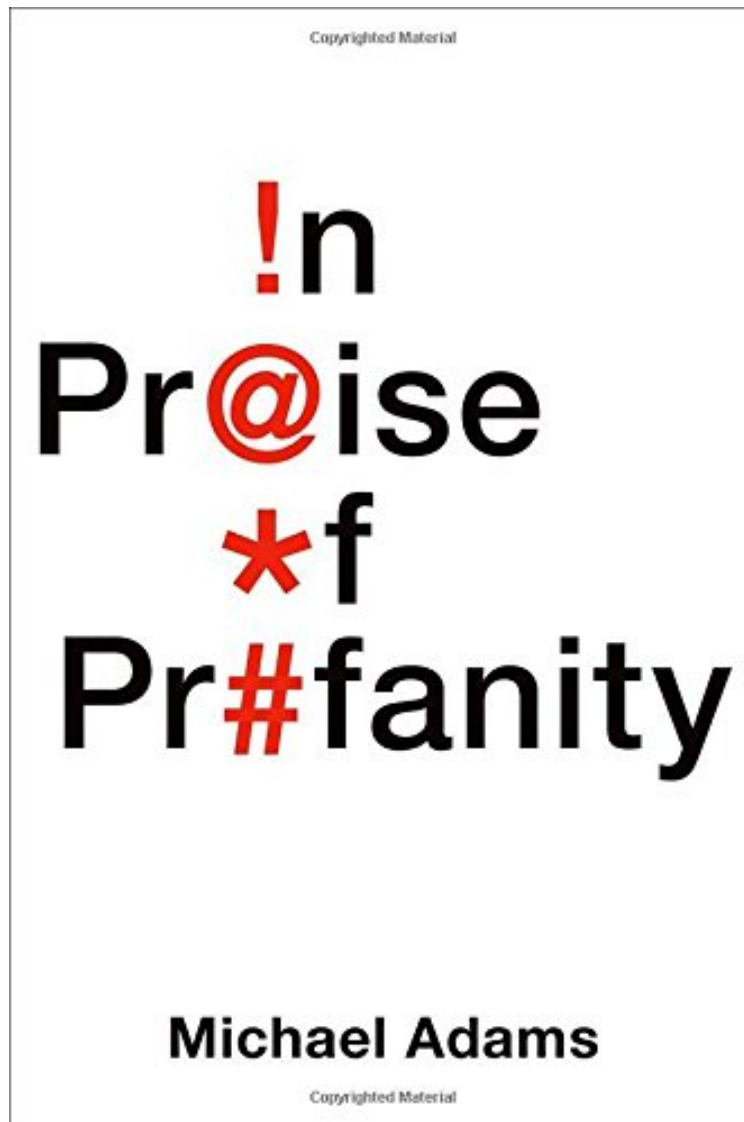


In Praise of Profanity

Michael Adams

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#612785 in Books Ingramcontent 2016-08-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 5.90 x 1.10 x 8.40l, .0 #File Name: 0199337586272 pagesIn Praise of Profanity | File size: 23.Mb

Michael Adams : In Praise of Profanity before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Praise of Profanity:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Pleasantly profaneBy Michael DolanThis really gets down to the nuts and bolts of so called bad language. It doesn't just explain where words originated, although it does that too. It explains the difference between profanity and obscenity (a big difference) and how swearing today is unrecognizable compared to what it was just a few hundred years ago. He also goes into what makes a good swear word, and how

words that we don't think of as swear words are much more profane than common obscenities. If you think you know dirty language, think again. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By Michael Meguid Much regurgitated 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent By Frank Nuessel Excellent book. Well researched. Frank Nuessel

When President Obama signed the affordable health care act in 2009, the Vice President was overheard to utter an enthusiastic "This is a big f***** deal!" A town in Massachusetts levies \$20 fines on swearing in public. Nothing is as paradoxical as our attitude toward swearing and "bad language": how can we judge profanity so harshly in principle, yet use it so frequently in practice? Though profanity is more acceptable today than ever, it is still labeled as rude, or at best tolerable only under specific circumstances. Cursing, many argue, signals an absence of character, or poor parenting, and is something to avoid at all costs. Yet plenty of us are unconcerned about the dangers of profanity; bad words are commonly used in mainstream music, Academy Award-winning films, books, and newspapers. And of course, regular people use them in conversation every day. In *In Praise of Profanity*, Michael Adams offers a provocative, unapologetic defense of profanity, arguing that we've oversimplified profanity by labeling it as taboo. Profanity is valuable, even essential, both as a vehicle of communication and an element of style. As much as we may deplore it in some contexts, we should celebrate it in others. Adams skillfully weaves together linguistic and psychological analyses of why we swear—for emotional release, as a way to promote group solidarity, or to create intimate relationships -- with colorful examples of profanity in literature, TV, film, and music, such as *The Sopranos*, James Kelman's *How Late It Was, How Late*, or the songs of Nellie McKay. This breezy, jargon-free book will challenge readers to reconsider the way they think about swearing.

"Today we can find the F word on handbags, T-shirts, and even sneaking across the pages of a faux children's book. We live in profane times, but here comes Michael Adams, one of the great observers of words in the wild, to show us the upside of low language in a brilliant, hilarious, romping treatise that is at once very smart and very naughty." -- David Skinner, author of *The Story of Ain't: America, Its Language, and the Most Controversial Dictionary Ever Published* "Adams deftly weaves together Seneca, Shakespeare, the Sopranos, and the bathroom stall in this profane and profound philosophical take on why bad words are good for us. It will leave you feeling ten times smarter and yelling, 'Fuck, yeah!'" -- Arika Okrent, author of *In the Land of Invented Languages: Esperanto Rock Stars, Klingon Poets, Loglan Lovers and the Mad Dreamers who tried to Build a Perfect Language* "Standing firm against a world fast descending into the voluntary auto-infantilism of 'safe spaces' and trembling at 'micro-aggressions,' Michael Adams offers another view. This, he declares, is the Age of Profanity. In lay terms: our 'dirty' words. Blending wit and erudition and writing in elegant, cogent prose, Professor Adams, who has already offered his learned assessment of TV's *Buffy*, of *Star Trek's Klingon*, and of slang itself, takes a new and illuminating look at language's pariah vocabulary. With *In Praise of Profanity* he re-stakes his claim as one of the leading lexicologists of slang and non-standard language." -- Jonathon Green, author of *The Vulgar Tongue: Green's History of Slang and Green's Dictionary of Slang* "Obscene words have been largely ignored by scholars, despite the enormous public interest in the subject. Michael Adams' *In Praise of Profanity* finally remedies this, explaining in witty and uncensored detail how we swear, why we swear, and whether we should be upset by it (hint: no). Adams has written the essential guide to this most important and entertaining edge of the linguistic landscape." -- Jesse Sheidlower, author of *The F-Word* "Adams ranges widely, energetically, from early modern English poetry to contemporary television, offering definitions, etymologies, and theories of language development, all while tracing patterns in the deployment of profanity in English." -- *The New York Times Book* "Adams's work takes readers on a rich ride through history and culture on the value of swearing." -- *Library Journal*, starred review "A sharp, well-studied dissection of the role of swearing in culture, why people curse, and why it's good for us." -- *Kirkus* "Readers won't necessarily come away from this book swearing a blue streak. But the next time they're compelled to light up with an expletive -- or they hear someone cursing up a storm -- they'll more than likely remember Adams's thought-provoking, contemporary investigation that casts a new light on the darker side of the English language." -- *Shelf Awareness* "You can't go wrong with this delightful book." -- *Language Hat* "In *Praise of Profanity* succeeds in conferring profundity on an underdog vocabulary." -- *The Rumpus* "As an academic with a passion for slang and other 'low' language, Adams is well placed to explore the various debates over profanity: the noisy issue of its morality, the scholarly question of its linguistic status, and the insidious framing of vulgarity as a stand-in for assorted prejudice." -- *Strong Language* "A continual delight to read. Adams sets himself a staggeringly ambitious task in *In Praise of Profanity*, and tackles it in prose that mixes crystalline clarity, deep insight, and an admirable lightness of touch." -- *PopMatters* "Anyone who loves the English language -- and who isn't afraid of its sharper edges -- will find *In Praise of Profanity* a welcome addition to their personal library." -- *Copyediting.com* "Adams has written an entertaining, personal, deeply erudite book on the reasons Americans need, use, and enjoy profanity... Highly recommended." -- *CHOICE* About the Author Michael Adams is Provost Professor of English Language and Literature at Indiana University, Bloomington, and author or editor of several books on language, including *Slayer Slang* (OUP, 2003), *Slang: The People's Poetry* (OUP, 2009), and *From Elvish to Klingon*

(OUP, 2011). For many years, he was Editor of the journal *Dictionaries*, and he recently retired as Editor of the quarterly journal, *American Speech*.