



# **Let's Bring Back: The Lost Language Edition: A Collection of Forgotten-Yet-Delightful Words, Phrases, Praises, Insults, Idioms, and Literary Flourishes from Eras Past**

*Lesley M.M. Blume*

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Too often, when struggling to find just the right turn of phrase, exclamation of joy, or witty barb, it's easy to forget that history is positively brimming with rich words deserving of rejuvenation. Lesley M. M. Blume gathers forgotten words, phrases, names, insults, and idioms, plus fascinating and funny anecdotes, etymologies, and occasions for use. *Let's Bring Back: The Lost Language Edition* takes readers on a philological journey through words from the not-too-distant past. From all-overish to zounds, the vintage vernacular collected here will make any reader the cat's meow among friends, relations, and acquaintances.

## Let's Bring Back: The Lost Language Edition: A Collection of Forgotten-Yet-Delightful Words, Phrases, Praises, Insults, Idioms, and Literary Flourishes from Eras Past Details

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# **From Reader Review Let's Bring Back: The Lost Language Edition: A Collection of Forgotten-Yet-Delightful Words, Phrases, Praises, Insults, Idioms, and Literary Flourishes from Eras Past for online ebook**

## **Amanda says**

I wasn't over the moon about this book simply because A LOT of the words and phrases are ones I not only hear but do still use on a regular basis. Something I didn't care for in the book was the author's tone. Not likely to pick up another of her books despite my interest in words, phrases and all things of days past.

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## **Rowan MacBean says**

This is a book I could have sat down and breezed through in an hour, but instead it took me nearly two weeks to read it. Why? Because I could only read a little bit before I got annoyed and had to put it down. I was looking for a book of "lost" and "forgotten" words, since that's what the cover advertises. And, yes, there were some terms that were new to me, but I've read or heard well over half of them (in things that were not specifically about language) and more than half of the ones I've heard are part of my (and my friends') active vocabularies. So instead of learning a lot, I felt like I was getting an implied lecture from the author on how people of my generation don't pay attention to or appreciate anything that's older than we are.

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## **Rappy Winters says**

Have you ever just had a strong urge to say "huzzah"? Did you know that an old term for butt was "double jugs"? Do you care? If you do, then this book is probably one you'll want to check out.

As with many titles, however, there is a bit of a mixed bag syndrome with this title. While terms such as "scrape acquaintance" may be truly esoteric, others such as "getting down to brass tacks" and "zounds" still get enough use in either actual discussion or pop culture tomfoolery to break through into something less than obscure. The actual explanation of etymology on some of the words are absent in favor of other entries as well, which may annoy and confound some readers. Still, if you want a collection of weird words and phrases you can throw at your friends, this is one of the few titles I can earnestly recommend on the subject.

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## **Ampersand Inc. says**

The latest from long time contributing style editor of the Huffington Post , Lesley M. M. Blume. This book will have you recollecting your favourite forgotten words, phrases, names and facts. Preparing you to shine at your next social gathering with fast-talking, vintage inspired conversation!

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## Mary Lou says

The older you are, the more of these underused (but not altogether forgotten) terms you'll know, and perhaps employ. Some of my favorites are here, e.g. trollop and strumpet, dastardly, mollycoddle, and druthers (seriously - do other people not use these words??). Some good ones were missing from Blume's list, notably canoodle, pixilated, and codswallop, which I use at every opportunity. My favorite from among those with which I wasn't familiar? Taradiddle, which is a fib. A fun little book for word lovers.

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## Richard Derus says

Rating: 5\* of five

\*\*\*I received this book in a Goodreads giveaway; the publisher made no request that I write a review\*\*\*

**The Publisher Says:** Too often, when struggling to find just the right turn of phrase, exclamation of joy, or witty barb, it's easy to forget that history is positively brimming with rich words deserving of rejuvenation. Lesley M. M. Blume gathers forgotten words, phrases, names, insults, and idioms, plus fascinating and funny anecdotes, etymologies, and occasions for use. Let's Bring Back: The Lost Language Edition takes readers on a philological journey through words from the not-too-distant past. From all-overish to zounds, the vintage vernacular collected here will make any reader the cat's meow among friends, relations, and acquaintances.

**My Review:** I've mentioned earlier that I am a fan of browser-books. I think most people who've read a few of my reviews will sense that I'm a wordnik. I collect and treasure weird and wonderful words, and colorful turns of phrase, and I enjoy using them all.

Along comes this beautiful, beautiful package of browsing delights, many new to me (which is quite an achievement since I have so many of this kind of book) and many old friends, presented in the best possible way to please my aesthetic.

The case is printed in three colors, purple, green, and black; it is beautifully composed, with a very William-Morris-wallpaper overall design, a blind-stamped decorative double cartouche, and type!, and charmingly Victorian illustration of a typewriter.

The requisite bar code and sales bunf is printed on a band slipped around the back board. The endsheets are printed in the case's green color, at its most intense saturation used in the book; the front endsheet has a printed "ex libris" that made me chuckle: "Darling, Please...don't forget to bring back this book."

The text is printed in two colors, with multiple small and fine design elements in screens of the black and orange used. There is not one register problem that I could find, and I looked. It's a seamless and charming presentation that enhances the exuberantly recherché compendium of these glorious nuggets of expression.

So the publisher is sending a signal by making these choices, that the contents of the book so charmingly and carefully designed are to be valued and given attention to; the presentation isn't merely informative, though it is that, it's also visually arresting and enhances the message being delivered. Things material need not be uniformly, grimly, boringly samey-samey. Make your choice for the colorful, and it will be rewarded.

The words and phrases themselves? How about "kicksy-wicksy" (agreeably drunk), "chickabiddy" (young girl), "rinky-dink" (shabby or insignificant)? It's a small sampling, but it shows you what the author is about. She wants Norma Loquendi to take back the colorful and the powerful and the expressive from the gray, grim grip of PC and dumbed-down dimness of Bureaucratical Babble.

There are two other volumes in this series of wonderful compendia: *Let's Bring Back* (calling cards! cuckoo clocks!) and *Let's Bring Back: The Cocktail Edition* (the Angel's Tit will henceforth be my go-to order in bars). Clearly Blume and I are soul siblings. She says out loud, to a large (I hope) bookbuying audience, what I grouse about in my red leather wingback over scotch and sodas. Bless you, good Madam. I am your devoted acquaintance, aspiring to friendship.

This review first appeared at Expendable Mudge Muses Aloud.

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## **Dana says**

When I saw this book in the giveaways I was very excited. The subject matter is right up my alley. I personally love having a vast and diverse vocabulary and am thrilled when I can use less common words and phrases in everyday conversations and communications. So when I won the First Reads giveaway, I was thrilled and ready to increase my vocabulary with all sorts of rare and spunky words.

The book was a very quick read. It only took me a few hours to complete it. Overall I would say there are approximately 1,050 words provided. Out of that number, I would say that I already use at least 63 of the words (6% of the words provided) in my daily conversations, and I plan on adding 113 words (10.76% of the words provided) to my repertoire. The other 874 words (83.24% of the words provided), in my opinion, can stay forgotten. I did not find the collection of words to be delightful at all and due to this I am extremely disappointed with the book. I really expected the collection of words to be more interesting and better sounding. At the end of the day though, I am happy that I rediscovered 113 words.

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## **Jill says**

This was a delightful little collection of old words and phrases. As Blume mentions in the intro, not all of these are \*extinct\* sayings. Many of them are simply endangered. Indeed, though I've heard many, there were few that I feel like I hear with any kind of regularity.

My one complaint was that a few of the words don't have a proper definition given, or even a good example sentence. They do that thing where you basically use the word to define itself, assuming that the audience already understands the meaning of the word, I suppose.

My favorite old word to bring back? "Masher," a man who thought himself irresistible to the female sex but whose advances were often unwelcome. Why is there no current word for this? Better bring it back!

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## **Marilyn Getts says**

I was surprised and annoyed that I knew most of the entries. An entertaining light read.

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## **Joshua says**

If you were a child of the 90s, most of these words you heard on Nickelodeon, repeats of Looney Tunes and old shows on Nick At Nite. I feel like this is a case of the author underestimating her audience.

Very disappointing. Most of these words and expressions I still hear and see in common use both among family members, friends, and in media. It wasn't completely devoid of new material for me and some of it gave background information on phrases I already knew but I bought this expecting archaic and dead phrases and words ala The Word Museum or Forgotten English. I can't say it was worth the money I paid for it. It is a nicely put together book, very pretty and such, but ultimately a let down.

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## **Ietrio says**

Want to feel special without being special at all? Here is the book for you. From somebody who scavenged all over the blogs about exotic expressions. He would even speculate about the origin.

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## **Sharla says**

I was disappointed with this book. I expected interesting facts about why certain phrases came to be, and when they were commonly used. This book does have some of that. But I felt that many of the words and phrases it included are still commonly used, or at least known to many people, like the word "classy" for instance. Some definitions were very poor and did little to explain a word's meaning.

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## **James says**

A lot of fun, and very interesting. The book is exactly what the subtitle says it is, a dictionary of archaic words and phrases. Many were no doubt cliches in their time, but with disuse they sound fresh and conjure vivid images today. I got this to use as a writing reference, but it would be a pleasure to read for its own sake.

It is a tad humbling, however, to realize that I was around when a fair number of these bits of language weren't obsolete yet!

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## **Myra says**

Cute idea, but I use a good number of these words included. It's scarcely the "Lost Language" edition if many of the words are still familiar.

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## **Ralph says**

I love words and phrases, the beauty of the English language, and the pleasure of having a large working vocabulary, hence my joy at finding this compendium of forgotten and obsolete words and phrases, linguistic expressions which, according to the compiler, were either phased out prematurely or should be brought back into uncommon usage because situations have arisen, mirroring the times in which they were current. I have to admit that a quarter of the entries, perhaps even a third, are already in my working vocabulary, and probably more than half were familiar to me through my reading. That said, I encountered many wonderful and sometimes zany examples of past words and phrases unknown to me, but which I am considering incorporating into my vocabulary, if only to confuse and annoy acquaintances. Particularly appreciated by me was a list of insults courtesy of the Bard. I think if there is any one thing that surprised me in this book, it was the date of first usage of many of the words, far earlier than I expected, sometimes as far back as the low Middle Ages. If you enjoy language for language's sake, as I do, I think you will enjoy this book.

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