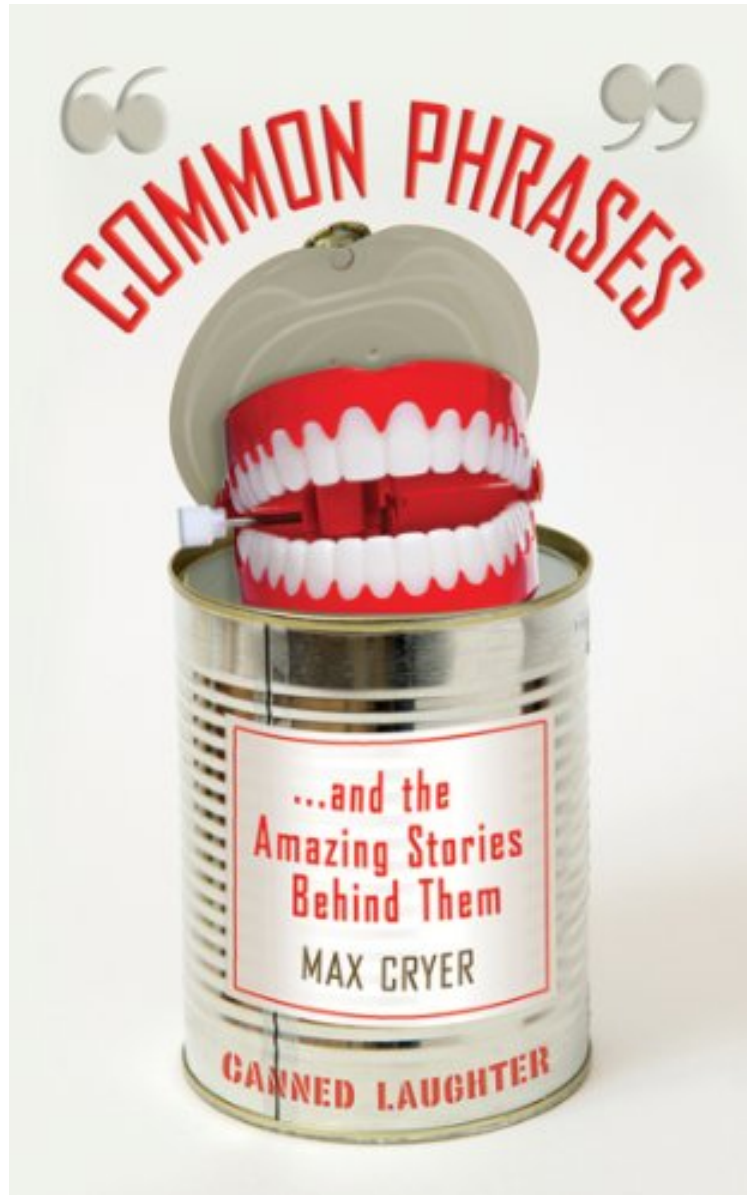


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## Common Phrases: And the Amazing Stories Behind Them

Max Cryer

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**Max Cryer : Common Phrases: And the Amazing Stories Behind Them** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Common Phrases: And the Amazing Stories Behind Them:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Nice Reference and Interesting Read By DoctorG If you ever wondered where some of those familiar old expressions came from, and who hasn't, then this is a great book to pick up. For example, did you know that the expression "when pigs fly" comes from Alice in Wonderland? Sure you could

look up these things online - and by the way, did you know that the search engine Google takes its name from the mathematical term googol, which is the number written as 1 followed by 100 zeros? - but the real beauty of this book is that in looking up one phrase, you discover the origins of a dozen or so more, because once you get started you don't want to stop. So while the book is far from as comprehensive as other references, it makes for a fun read. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The title is more entertaining than the book. By A Customer. While I enjoy some of the information in here, I found the book less informative than what I expected. The author tends to dwell on matters ABOUT the phrase more than the history and idiosyncrasies of the phrase. There are a lot of obscure phrases. I do not necessarily agree that this is about "common" phrases. Overall, it has some entertaining value, but does not live up to the expectations. Not intellectually engaging. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not my cup of Tea. By MurftheSurf. This is more a personal review and thus may not be applicable to others. The phrases that I was interested in were not in the book and the ones that were in it were not of much interest. Moreover, the real problem that I had was that phrases that I have never heard of were not explained despite several pages outlining the origin of the phrase. Unfortunately, this was not an infrequent occurrence.

In day-to-day speech, we use words and phrases without a passing thought as to why we use them or where they come from. Max Cryer changes all that by showing how fascinating the English language really is. Did you know that the former host of Today, Jane Pauley, claims to have coined the term bad hair day, or that a CBS engineer named Charley Douglass invented the name and use of canned laughter for television, or that cold turkey as a term for quitting something immediately was popularized by the novel and movie (starring Frank Sinatra) The Man with the Golden Arm? Here you'll learn the origins of phrases like: Credibility gap Ginormous Metrosexual The Mile High Club My lips are sealed The operas not over until the fat lady sings Supermarket Supermodel There's no accounting for taste Thick as thieves And hundreds more! For anyone who loves language, this book will take the cake.