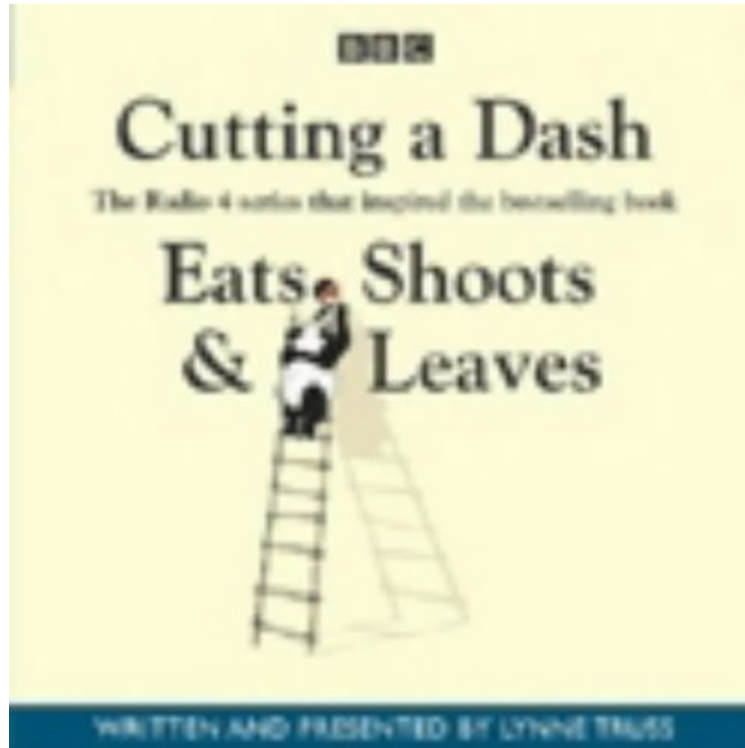


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Cutting a Dash (Eats, Shoots Leaves)

Lynne Truss

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Lynne Truss : Cutting a Dash (Eats, Shoots Leaves) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cutting a Dash (Eats, Shoots Leaves):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Endangered SystemBy Phillip Taylor MBEPUNCTUATION: THE ENDANGERED SYSTEMAn appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green ChambersA great piece of humour and yet with a serious aim, this little book has become a runaway bestseller overnight and rightly so. As Lynne Truss has explained, there are many people who have little idea of the basics of punctuation today. This does not surprise us in the slightest.As examiners, we have found scant regard continues to be paid to full stops, commas and question marks. However, by far the number one serial offender is the missing apostrophe. The story of the panda eating in a restaurant, then shoots the restaurant up and departs is an amusing story with an important message. The placing of punctuation in the wrong place can completely alter the message being conveyed at some cost.A revolution in punctuation, this book has been dedicated to the memory of the striking Bolshevik printers in St Petersburg who, in 1905, demanded to be paid the same rate for punctuation marks as for letters, and thereby directly precipitated the first Russian Revolution.We have come a long way in over 100 years and the main casualty has been the written word. The shorthand we have encountered in the last six years using the internet is enough to convince us that this book should be compulsory reading in schools hence a schools edition in 2006 with illustrations.Besides, this book is a good read and very funny in places. To sell 50,000 copies in just over a week on release is a great achievement! It is true to say that the book makes a powerful case for the preservation of the system

of what is interestingly described as printing conventions. However, this is not a book for pedants but for everyone, including members of the Bar who write lengthy Opinions and the judges who read them. It has never surprised us how cross the Judiciary become when they see sloppy legal paperwork. We expect it from solicitors but we must maintain a very high standard at the Bar, even with the infernal internet and toxic text messages. Well done, Lynne for reminding us of our legal roots. Sticklers unite she says, you have nothing to lose but your sense of proportion and arguably you didn't have much of that to begin with. Do look at the end of the book for a fine bibliography all the usual suspects are there including one Bill Bryson and his *Troublesome Words*, and the excellent Philip Howard's *The State of the Language: English observed*. *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* remains a 21st century book to treasure for what could become an endangered system.

The BBC Radio 4 series that inspired the bestselling book *Eats, Shoots Leaves*. The runaway success of *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* brought millions of grammar geeks out of the closet and made it cool to care about punctuation. This is the radio series that started it all: five programmes in which Lynne Truss explores changing fashions in punctuation. She accompanies the founder of the Apostrophe Protection Society through Berwick Street Market on a hunt for the 'greengrocer's apostrophe', enters the classroom to hear how children learn punctuation, and finds out whether anyone punctuates text messages. Talking to writers and experts like Fay Weldon and David Crystal, she discovers the origins of the comma in Greek drama and Gregorian chant, considers the case for 'semicolonic irrigation' and asks how a writer's choice of punctuation expresses his tone of voice. Looking into the future, she wonders if 'emoticons' will put colons, commas and apostrophes on the endangered species list. Impassioned, informative and always amusing, this is an essential listen for anyone who loves language.