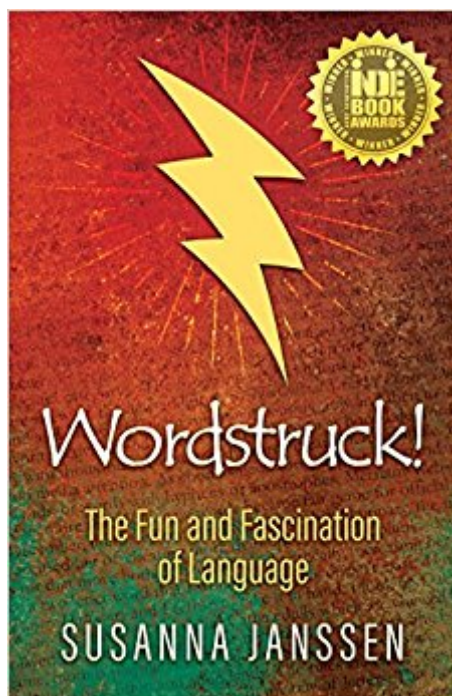


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Wordstruck!: The Fun And Fascination Of Language



Synopsis

Welcome to Susanna Janssen's wondrous world of words. In *Wordstruck!* you'll find a wealth of entertaining reflections on language full of humor, imagination, and insight. Anything goes, from the genius of Shakespeare to the unintentional hilarity of linguistic faux pas; from musings on the bilingual brain to the poignant humor of her *Life in Words*; from translations gone riotously bad to English learners tortured by our mother tongue's inconstant consonants and sudden vowel movements. In this fun and fascinating look at language and the cultures that create it, you'll find a new love for metaphor, a fabulous arsenal of fascinating word origins, a surprising cure for earworms, a joyful romp with everyone's favorite grammar errors, and a way to spot liars by listening to their words. You'll learn that color can be a language as foreign as Farsi, and that there are countless words in other languages that don't exist in English. You'll also discover a murder of crows in the tree, a mixed bag of labradoodles by the backyard fence, your friends hanging out in a club called the Ron-Day-Voo, and a late-model Nissan Moco* parked outside. *Sacré bleu!* *Mamma mia!* *Qué horror!* But you can take cheer that the government's proposed *nuclear suppository* is not going to be built after all. Join her in this love affair with the lexicon. Please smile, do laugh, and if you cry, it might be at the very last page. *Moco in Spanish means *mucus; snot*

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Customer Reviews

Susanna Janssen is a foreign language educator and newspaper columnist on everything about words, language, and culture. In her life as a writer, speaker, and teacher, she is dedicated to

contributing to the linguistic culture of America and advocating for learning a foreign language at any age. She resides in Northern California where magnificent redwood trees, legendary wines, and great friendships are a source of wonder, inspiration, and joy.

A delightful, down to earth, collection of essays about real life events that are funny, moving, and always insightful. They effortlessly reveal how the words we use, and usually don't notice, effect our lives and the way we see the world. A good teacher is a good entertainer and Susanna Jassen is definitely both.

If you love books and languages (especially English or Spanish), you will love this book. Susanna Janssen is a wonderful story teller with a beautiful sense of humor. I literally laughed out loud numerous times while reading this book. My husband thought I was crazy!! I would describe *Wordstruck!* as a love letter to the English language. English can be very complicated, but it is also very richly influenced by many other languages and cultures. Ms. Janssen shares her love of languages and cultures through many humorous, as well as poignant, stories from her life. You will love this book!

How delightful to discover a book that delivers more than you expected! "*Wordstruck's*" short chapters (they were originally newspaper columns) are informative, entertaining, and offer the perfect insight into the author's pleasant personality. For anyone who speaks more than one language, this book can only be described as "a most-read." And I wish every parent would follow Ms. Janssen's advice to encourage youngsters to learn a foreign language, Susanna Janssen has become every polyglot's heroine. -Marilyn Murray Willison

I was surprised at how enjoyable this book was to read. Every page became a story, or a plot development with good guys, antagonists, and climaxes until the words find a way to become part of every day use. By end of each chapter the words Susanna describes become endearing characters. How amazing is that. *Wordstruck* is a piece of genius.

This is a funny and witty reading. Susanna has done a wonderful job at comparing both languages and their expressions. As a native Spanish speaker I appreciate the nuances and smile or laugh at the oddities. This is a must read for those interested in languages and even if you are not; you will find this book entertaining.

From the reviews, I thought this book was going to be primarily about words and language. It is more a look at the personal life of the author with a few forays into language. I was disappointed

Anyone with an interest in language and culture will enjoy and learn from this book. Based on a column Janssen authored for the Ukiah Daily Journal, *Wordstruck* presents an amusing, eye-opening, and well-informed array of anecdotes, examples, historical vignettes, and other observations about the history, usage, and even the neuropsychology of language. Meshing perfectly with Janssen's wise advice concerning the power of even very modest daily practice in the mastery of linguistic and other skills, this book's 58 well-written and ultra-brief chapters will provide nearly two months of growing insight into how language works. Placed at their elbow and lifted for just a few minutes at a time, *Wordstruck* will give readers a stream of tidbits to reflect upon and share with others.

Hang on to your hats and enjoy your ride with Professor Susanna Janssen, an astute observer of people, customs, and language. Her writing will guide you effortlessly on a thrilling trip through twists and turns of foreign and familiar lands, introduce you to quirks and curiosities of grammar and speech, and amuse and tickle you with tales of youth, adventure, and cross-cultural bridges and barriers. Sit back and savor stories of fascinating people, ideas, and facts served by a skilled, seasoned, and savvy trilingual maestra whose personality, wit, charm, and fierce intelligence shine into and burst out of each page. Janssen's debut gem sparkles with laugh-out-loud humor and shared insights that will delight your imagination and instill in you a sense of, "I'm so glad I know that now!" Treat yourself to this treasure now to see for yourself. You will want to hurry up to send copies through as delightful presents to your friends for their enjoyment. Richard Gardiner, M.D. Distinguished Life Fellow American Psychiatric Association
Published author and editor

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