



# Bill Bryson Collector's Edition: Notes from a Small Island / Neither Here Nor There / I'm a Stranger Here Myself

*Bill Bryson*

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## **Bill Bryson Collector's Edition: Notes from a Small Island / Neither Here Nor There / I'm a Stranger Here Myself Bill Bryson**

### **Notes from a Small Island**

After nearly two decades in Britain, Bill Bryson decided to move his wife and kids back to his homeland of the United States. But not before taking one last trip around Britain, a sort of valedictory tour of the green and kindly island that had so long been his home. The result is a hilarious social commentary that conveys the true glory of Britain.

### **Neither Here nor There**

Thirty years after backpacking across Europe, Bill Bryson decides to retrace the journey he undertook in the halcyon days of his youth—carrying with him a bag of maps, old clothes...and a stinging wit honed to razor sharpness by two decades of adult experience.

### **I'm a Stranger Here Myself**

Bill Bryson read “somewhere” that nearly three million Americans believed they had been abducted by aliens—clearly the Americans needed Bill back. So after years raising his family in Britain with his English wife, the brood moves to the United States, and leaves Bill to chronicle the quirkiest aspects of life in America as he reveals his own rules for life.

## **Bill Bryson Collector's Edition: Notes from a Small Island / Neither Here Nor There / I'm a Stranger Here Myself Details**

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Author : Bill Bryson

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## **From Reader Review Bill Bryson Collector's Edition: Notes from a Small Island / Neither Here Nor There / I'm a Stranger Here Myself for online ebook**

### **Jennifer says**

I avoided this (audio) book for a long time because it was an abridged compilation of three books and I don't generally like abridgements. I'm glad I finally relented.

Notes from a Small Island: Meh. I enjoyed a lot of it simply because I enjoy Bill Bryson but I often felt like I was missing out on a culture full of inside jokes... which I was. As an American, a lot of what he had to say went over my head or lacked context to make it more relevant and/or interesting. It was OK and had some good moments - but the abridgement was good enough for me.

Neither Here Nor There: Better. Again, as a straight travel piece I did wane in interest from time to time. It was easier to relate to simply because the author was out of his element so his fresh perspective was one I could understand. His intimate familiarity with England (and my lack of familiarity) made that not possible in "Notes from a Small Island".

I'm a Stranger Here Myself: Best of the three. This is a collection of previously published weekly newspaper columns about life in America. Some were hysterical. Some were so so. But the overall affect was quite good. Gabe giggled uncontrollably through the section of book he listened to.

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### **Clay Teller says**

Witty/thoughtful collection of writings about American culture.

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### **Kelly says**

Listening to this made me think of that saying....."Would you like some cheese with your WHINE!?" I really wanted to like Notes from a Small Island. A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson is one of my favorite books. There were a few laughs here and there but the amount of complaining this man does just grated on my nerves. I struggled from the first disk to the last. I will give the other stories a shot but this one fell short.

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### **Cheryl says**

I absolutely love Bill Bryson, and one of the best ways to "read" his books is to listen to Bryson himself narrate it. Of this collection, my favorite is "Notes from a Small Island", recounting Bryson's life in England. "Neither Here Nor There", in which he recalls his travels in Europe, is equally funny. The only time I found myself getting rather annoyed with Bryson was in the book "I'm a Stranger Here Myself". In his later books, such as the "Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid", Bryson seems to poke fun of himself and America in a kind and genial way, much as he does with the rest of the many countries he visits. However, in "I'm a Stranger", Bryson gives way to a rather constant and monotonous bitching about everything that is WRONG

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with America. There were times when I simply yelled at the CD player - - - "yes Bill, we know, the U.S. sucks" and punched the fast forward button.

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### **Ildikó says**

An absolute MUST in the car - when my husband and I go on long road trips we love listening to one of Bryson's audiobooks, suddenly we find ourselves traveling to multiple places and times.

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### **Kiki says**

I listened to these books on various car trips over several years. I just finished the last book on a nine-hour drive. All three were great. Bryson's observations on England and America were funny and endearing. The whole thing was just a treat.

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### **Sara Shores says**

I love Bill Bryson and everything he's ever written. He's witty, charming and hilarious. This is a collection of 3 stories ranging from moving to America, his homeland after 20 years abroad, backpacking in Europe and a trip around Britain.

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### **Jennifer says**

I loved "A Short History of Nearly Everything" by the author so much that I think this left me a bit disappointed. Lots of stories - life in Great Britain, traveling, and life in America. There was plenty of interesting material, but too often it just sounded like Bill Bryson was just complaining a lot.

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### **Karen Mardahl says**

The storytelling was entertaining, and it was the light reading I needed just now, but that was really it. I read "I'm a Stranger Here Myself" years ago, but did not listen to it in this collection. I really did enjoy that book a lot. It helped bring the review to 3 stars and the "I liked it". I enjoyed his humour and the tone. "Notes..." and "Neither..." were variations on the theme of travel from A to Z in a given area. The first in the UK, and the second in Europe. It felt like the focus was not in balance. Sometimes too much time was given over to a petty detail, but on another occasion, you had time to dwell on something special. Maybe better editing would have helped? 2 stars means "OK", so I don't regret reading these stories, but they were not his best, I think.

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## **Chris Birdy says**

A fun, frothy collection of essays from an American trying to squeeze himself into the British way of life.

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## **Philip Hollenback says**

Ok so here's the deal: this is really three books. The first is about Bill's return to England and it's really boring. Just skip it.

The second is about his return to traveling around Europe. This book is hilarious. Also, Katz from A Walk in the Woods reappears.

The third is a collection of columns he wrote about returning to live in America. This book is also funny with a lot of poignant moments.

If you enjoy Bryson's writing style you should definitely check this out. However, just skip the first book.

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## **Lina says**

This book is very funny! I found myself laughing hysterically quite often, and read many passages to my family. I liked the format - how the book was split into short chapters/columns - it made reading easier. I do wish he had left some of his political views out, or made them less outspoken, as the tone was just complaining. A few language issues tainted it for me as well, but overall, it was a pleasure to read :)

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## **William says**

Finally an author who reads from his own work has lived up to my expectations. Just as I imagined him to be. Of course, I enjoy anything that I read from Bryson, so I was prepared to be disappointed "listening" to him read his works. I wasn't, and I look forward to reading (or hearing!) more from him.

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## **Kara says**

I listened to this book mainly to hear the first book "Notes from a Small Island" since I'm about to visit the UK. I thoroughly enjoyed both the first and third book in this collection but the second really surprised me. He was much more crass and it had quite a lot of bad language. I absolutely love Bill Bryson books and I especially love listening to the audio versions when he narrates (as he did here) but the second book I could have done without. First and third were very enjoyable and I found myself laughing out loud many times.

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## **Jan says**

This is a wonderful collection which will keep you thoroughly entertained on the road and is read by the author himself who has a wonderful Iowa/English accent that sorta sticks in your brain so that now I am reading Down Under, I can hear him in my head. I would love to meet his wife as she sounds like a lovely, patient human being.

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