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Words Fail Me

Teresa Monachino

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Teresa Monachino : Words Fail Me before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Words Fail Me:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By AlyaA most delightful read. 1 of 2 people found the

following review helpful. For semantic mavens only
By Robin
The Editorial Reviews: Book Description above will give you a pretty good idea about the contents of this word-play book. Divided into these chapters: Contradictionary, Antigrams, Ambitexterity, Pleonasties, Antonyms, Oxycetins and (sic)Note. Each gives examples of the (delightful) obfuscation the English language springs on the unwary and will probably take you less than ten minutes to read the 144 pages.OK, I spent less than ten minutes reading it but surely the visual presentation will keep me occupied for longer? If only. Nearly all of the pages are designed in a very minimalist way, one typeface (17 point Gill Sans I fancy) and mostly in this size. Because so many of the examples are a word or two on each page there is plenty of empty space throughout the book. As the author is a designer I would have thought this would have been the ideal editorial format to have the contents displayed in a much more creative way. Herb Lubalin would have had such fun!This is really the kind of item that a trendy ad boutique would give away as a Christmas keepsake to its clients rather than a book to buy.***FOR AN INSIDE LOOK click 'customer images' under the cover.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable and Fun
By D. Pagano
I enjoyed this short book. I was given it as a gift by a friend of mine because I am an English major. I enjoyed the book. It is meant as something to be interesting, make you think. Just because it is plain does not make the pages any less interesting or funny. I thoroughly enjoy this rather plain but fun book. It's a conversation starter if nothing else.Yes, it is a simple book and it may even be considered to be too plain, but I liked it. If you are a fan of the construction of the English language, you might get a kick out of this book.

This lively and informative new title was originally inspired by the author's Italian mother and her struggles with the vagaries of the English language. Over the years the author has tried to correct her attempts and explain why the word she has chosen is incorrect, only to be baffled herself by the lack of logic within those explanations. English is full of contradictions and peculiarities (not counting such dull grammatical inconsistencies as 'i before e except after c', which are really no fun at all) and hoodwinks us into believing one thing while meaning something quite different. In English, all is not what it seems and with this book the author has brought these illogical oddities to the fore. Questions of spelling, pronunciation or the blatantly nonsensical are illustrated through clever visual representations that are created entirely through artfully manipulated typography. heteronyms and introduces the 'antigram' (demonstrating how the swift shuffle of certain letters can create words that entirely contradict the first: honestly becomes on the sly, earliest becomes rise late and, fabulously, Elvis = lives!). Monachino goes on to demand an explanation from all those tricky little words that are spelt the same and pronounced the same, but yet have utterly different meanings, while highlighting a few of life's petty pleonasm and showing off some quite excellent tautologies. A gaggle of one-word oxymorons shines the spotlight on words that harbour contradictory words within them and the final section provides a note on inadvisable hyphenation, which is a useful disco-very, but perhaps not the best place to beg-in. Because of the linguistic nature of this title there will be a American English edition.

'A book that gently subverts and questions the art of expression...filled with gentle humour and genuinely interesting anachronisms of the English language, all set in Monachino's Immaculate typography.'
About the Author
Teresa Monachino is an award-winning designer and typographer. Currently director of 999 Design she has overseen many varied projects and commissions for a number of high-profile clients. She lives in London.