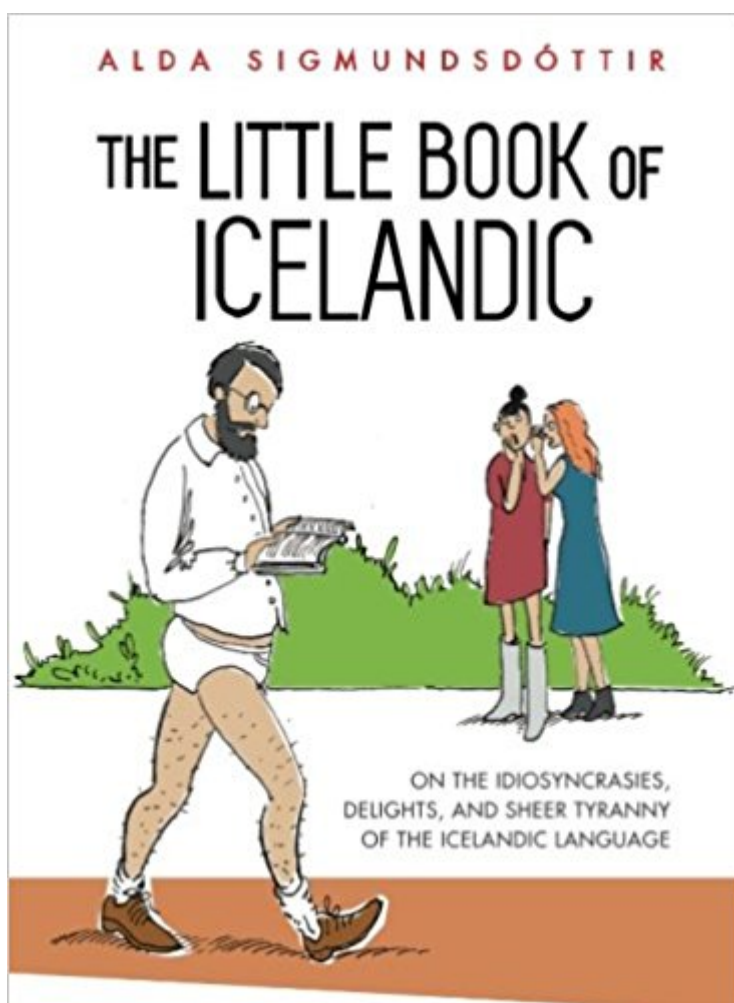


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The Little Book Of Icelandic: On The Idiosyncrasies, Delights And Sheer Tyranny Of The Icelandic Language



Synopsis

Icelandic is one of the oldest and most complex languages in the world. In this book, Alda Sigmundsdóttir looks at the Icelandic language with wit and humour, and how it reflects the heart and soul of the Icelandic people and their culture. Many of the Icelanders' idioms and proverbs, their meaning and origins, are discussed, as is the Icelanders' love for their language and their attempts to keep it pure through the ongoing construction of new words and terminology. There is a section on Icelandic curse words as well as Icelandic slang, which is mostly derived from English. Throughout, this book deconstructs Icelandic vocabulary, and the often-hilarious, almost naive, ways in which words are made. This is a must-read book for anyone interested in the Icelandic people, their culture - and of course their language.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Alda Sigmundsdóttir is an Icelandic-born writer, journalist, translator and blogger. She is author of *Unraveled*, *a Novel About a Meltdown*, *The Little Book of the Icelanders*, *The Little Book of Icelandic*, *The Little Book of the Hidden People*, and *Living Inside the Meltdown*. As a journalist, Alda has written extensively about Iceland for the international media, and she is a frequent commentator on Icelandic affairs in the media.

Most importantly, realize that this is not a book intended to teach you Icelandic words and phrases. It is an examination of the linguistics of the Icelandic language. This looks at how Icelandic history, environment, and culture is reflected in their language and idioms. That said, this book is a wonderful source for getting a feel for the Icelandic culture and people.

This is a little book that is absolutely filled with witty and useful details on the Icelandic language in all its complexity and peculiar aspects. I've read it through once and need to read it again to get the full flavor of it, but my favorite section is the one on idioms and proverbs. These are the sayings normally unknown by the visitor to Iceland, and in loving this place for its rich literary heritage, my favorite is "Blind is the man who has no books." All of Sigmundsdottir's books are a great introduction to a beautiful country.

The only thing disappointing was that, as I'm not in Iceland, I couldn't buy a hardcover copy to match my set of Alda's other Little Books :) Otherwise, I thought this was an absolute riot. If you're a linguist, you'll enjoy the history of the language, which is comprehensive without being pedantic. If you're an Icelandophile, you'll enjoy the deeper understanding of the language and culture. If you're a human being, you'll enjoy the drawings and the absolute ridiculousness of some aspects of the language, which is a universal trait. Highly recommend!

This fun, easy read, while it won't teach you to speak Icelandic, will give a sense of the culture through the uniqueness of the language.

This is not a language lesson book (although I would love to learn Icelandic). Instead it is a collection of funny examples and anecdotes about how quirky and culturally unique the Icelandic language is. I'd highly recommend it for anyone travelling there or even if you are just interested in this sort of thing

When travelling abroad, it is always a good idea to try to learn a bit of the language, but knowing local idioms can also teach you a lot about the folks you are visiting. This is very interesting for anyone whose interest in Iceland goes beyond taking selfies in postcard-like vistas .

There is just enough detail here to be endlessly fascinating and amusing, but not so much as to be too dense. If you're interested in linguistics or Iceland (or both, as I am), you'll be thrilled with this cute little book.

Alda does such an incredible job!! She's interesting on every page and realizes what is quirky to the outsiders. I couldn't recommend her with more enthusiasm! Absolutely wonderful and fun to read!

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