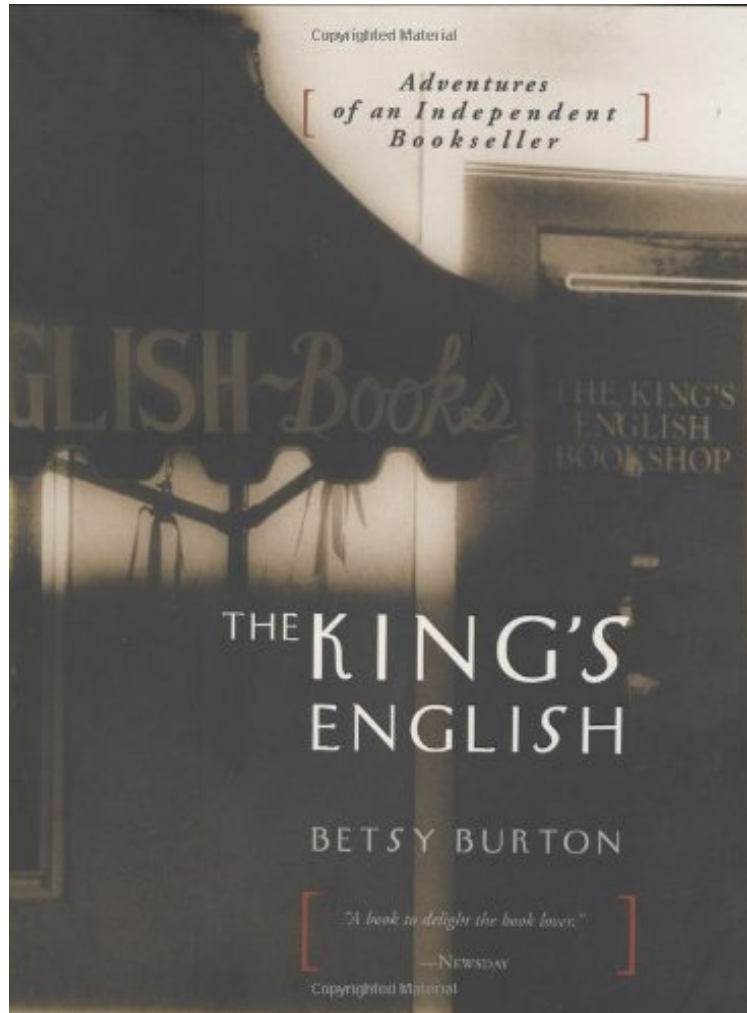


(Ebook free) The King's English

The King's English

Betsy Burton

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Betsy Burton : The King's English before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The King's English:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. The Joy of Bookselling By John D. Cofield Betsy Burton is the proprietor of The King's English, an independent bookstore in Salt Lake City. Since the store opened in 1977 she has had many high and low moments, and in this memoir she ably describes both. I have always had a secret hankering to run a bookstore myself, and The King's English both reassured and alarmed me. Burton has had the pleasure of dealing with many wonderful, charming people as employees, partners, authors, and customers over the years. She has also had to deal with vicissitudes like dealing with business partners she doesn't agree or get along with, authors who really prefer not to waste their time with the vulgar people who actually sell and buy their books, and employees and customers who are dishonest or outright criminals. But even the low points as described in The King's English are enjoyable to read about because Burton is naturally witty and a born writer. Burton waxes most profoundly and

enjoyably when writing on three subjects: her private struggle dealing with a handicapped child, the tendency of some people to try to censor/ban books which upset them, and the growth of the superchain bookstores and the dot-coms which have threatened her business over the years. I found this last subject particularly interesting since I am still mourning the loss of one of the great independent bookstores, Oxford Books of Atlanta, which died nearly ten years ago. Somehow or other when I've passed through Salt Lake City I've overlooked a visit to The King's English. Now that I've met the store's proprietor through this book I intend to put it at the top of my agenda, and will hope to see the bookstore alive and well and to find Betsy Burton hard at work within.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A passion for literature and liberty
By Victoria G. This book is a delight. Passionate, strong-willed, full of love for literature and liberty --especially for our First and Fourth Amendments -- Betsy Burton gives an account of her first twenty-five years as one of the owners of The King's English, an independent bookstore in Utah's Salt Lake City. For the person who wants to learn more about the book industry, you'll learn about sales reps and what goes into getting on to various bestseller lists. For the person concerned about protecting our rights, you'll learn about some of the threats that have been made to bookstores, from both individuals and the government. For the person who simply adores reading, you'll learn a bit about how your precious books make it into your hands, and if you took the process for granted, you will take it for granted no longer. You'll also learn some of the pitfalls of opening a business with little (or no) experience, how to deal (or perhaps how not to deal) with the press, and how to work (or not work) with partners and employees, and last, but not least, how to maintain conviction in the face of cut-throat competition (where the competition is likewise mysteriously cutting its own throat). Finally, you will enjoy Betsy Burton, and the way she barrels down on problems. I laughed out loud when I read about how she could not get a key to open the trunk of a car (a problem I have also experienced - glad to see I'm not alone) and how she dealt with a Harry Potter crisis. Well worth reading!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. best bookstore in the universe
By Michael Hafner I snatched up this book when it came up during a search for another book. It is the best bookstore anywhere. I know because I worked there in the mid eighties while a grad student at the Univ of Utah. And I know first hand how Betsy Burton's passion for books drove the store. It was a delightful trip down memory lane as I reminisced about the great people who worked there sharing their love of books as well as the wonderful readings by visiting authors sharing their words. It will always stand as one of the best times of my life. Thanks to Betsy for reminding me of that time, and for the best bookstore in the universe.

Betsy Burton, owner of The King's English Bookshop in Salt Lake City, has been a bookseller for nearly thirty years, and a passionate book lover all her life. Her modestly sized yet widely respected shop has hosted authors such as E. L. Doctorow, Isabel Allende, Jon Krakauer, Margaret Atwood, Octavio Paz, and Sue Grafton, and she has built a reputation as a passionate purveyor of the written word in a world where stores like hers are a dying breed.

From Publishers Weekly
Burton, owner of The King's English Bookshop (TKE) in Salt Lake City, has pursued a simple objective since the store's inception in 1977: "Pick good books, pass them on. That's all that counts in the end." Indeed, the fulfillment she derives from reading is matched only by the joy and satisfaction she feels when she pairs customers with quality books. In this lively history of the independent bookstore, she recounts her experiences working with various employees and partners and adjusting to sophisticated alarm systems and computerized inventories, but her anecdotes involving well-known authors are the most engrossing. She describes how Isabel Allende pitched in good-naturedly when the dinner Burton was preparing in her honor got out of control, and how John Mortimer giggled gleefully when Burton encountered troubles getting his luggage out of the car that she had borrowed to pick him up from the airport. It's clear that Burton's life is profoundly and inextricably linked to TKE: she believes her literary recommendations to an old boyfriend, whom she later married, sparked their initial reconnection, and writes that the shop was her "necessary anchor" when her son was born with brain damage. This delightful book is largely a heartfelt "thank you" to all who have contributed to The King's English, from gracious authors to friends and colleagues. Avid readers will be charmed by this intimate look at the bookselling business and will especially appreciate the many book lists (25 Thrillers with Moral Heft, 25 Non-Fiction Titles from the West, etc.) included in these pages. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist
In 1977 Burton opened a bookstore called the King's English in Salt Lake City. This is a vivacious and spirited account of the ensuing years, and it encompasses a few tragicomedies, life with partners, author appearances, and the joy of reading. Burton really does love to read, and her book is chock-full of lists, not only of authors and titles but idiosyncratic lists like "25 Thrillers with Moral Heft" or "25 Books on Reading Books." She is preternaturally articulate and enthusiastic, whether she is recounting the pleasures of hosting Isabel Allende or Tony Hillerman, Mark Strand or Sir John Mortimer. The hilarious and terrifying incident of what happened when the fifth Harry Potter novel didn't arrive on time is worth the price of admission. She is also keenly aware of what has an impact on independent booksellers, from local needs to the Patriot Act. Along the way, we learn a small bit about being divorced and remarried, the life of a parent with a disabled child, and what to look for in a business partner. GraceAnne DeCandido
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From the Inside Flap
Betsy Burton

opened The King's English Bookstore in 1977 with then-partner Ann Berman. When Berman left in 1981, Burton ran the store alone (with the help of many excellent booksellers) until 1987 when Barbara Hoagland became a partner. In operation for twenty-seven years, The King's English is well-known and respected in the local community as well as the community of independent bookstores nationwide. Actively involved in the community, Betsy has served on various literacy, academic, and community boards. Her store helped found the poetry series that ultimately became "The Westminster Poetry Series," which brought many internationally known poets to Utah, and was a founding board member of "Booked: Books Behind Bars," a program to develop literacy in the city jail. As a parent of a child with multiple disabilities, she has also spent many years serving on boards dealing with disabilities. Betsy regularly writes Book Sense blurbs; does weekly radio reviews on Utah's local NPR station, KUER; and gives book talks and presentations for various professional and community groups. She is also the co-author and co-editor of the *Inkslinger*, a newsletter now nationally known in the book business. She presently serves on the American Booksellers Association Advisory Council and was awarded Bookseller of the Year by the Mountains and Plains Booksellers Association in 2001. The story of The King's English is, on its surface, the history of a small, independent bookstore. But it is much more than that. The story is interwoven with charming anecdotes of author visits, from the inspiring to the hilarious. Among the dozens of stories, the author recounts her almost-disastrous dinner party given for Isabel Allende, the delightful visit of Sir John Mortimer, and the gossip-inducing reading by John Irving. She also offers insight into the complexities of customer relations and the trials of making it as an independent in the world of chains and superstores. And she talks frankly on subjects from the intrinsic value of poetry in society to the threat of censorship. A highlight of the book is the numerous recommended reading lists, on topics from mystery to self-help to poetry, from fiction to westerns to business to children's. The book also includes recommended reading lists from other well-loved independent bookstores across the country. Filled with wit, passion, a lively voice, and strong opinions, *The King's English: Adventures of a Passionate Bookseller* is the ultimate book lover's book and a refreshing tale of standing up for what you believe in.