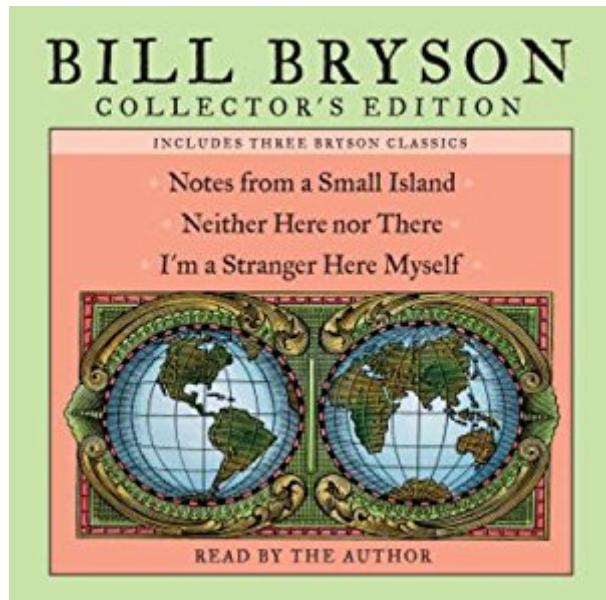


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# Bill Bryson Collector's Edition: Notes From A Small Island, Neither Here Nor There, And I'm A Stranger Here Myself



## Synopsis

Notes from a Small IslandAfter 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 ThereThirty years after backpacking across Europe, Bill Bryson decides to retrace the journey he undertook in the halcyon days of his youthâ “carrying with him a bag of maps, old clothesâ |and a stinging wit honed to razor sharpness by two decades of adult experience. Iâ ™m a Stranger Here MyselfBill Bryson read â œsomewhereâ • that nearly three million Americans believed they had been abducted by aliensâ “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. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 17 hoursÂ andÂ 14 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Abridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 9, 2006

Language: English

ASIN: B000JMKHFW

Best Sellers Rank: #29 inÂ Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Travel #48 inÂ Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Travel #106 inÂ Books > Travel > Travel Writing

## Customer Reviews

I purchased the audio book to listen to on a long car trip. The reading by the author is great, however the quality of the recording is inconsistent. Mr. Bryson's natural intonation is fairly low to flat, but as his voice rose (occasionally) and fell (frequently) during his reading of the material, there was little to no effort by the post production team to modulate and equalize the volume - making the lower tones inaudible. At one point I had the volume on my car stereo at maximum and was still missing words and parts of sentences, only to be almost blasted from my seat when a new chapter

would start and the volume level rose precipitously. I own 2 other audio books by Mr. Bryson and did not have the same experience with those products.

I have a small collection of Bill Bryson audio books and I enjoy them all immensely. The fact that they are read by the author, only increases the enjoyability. These stories are not only entertaining, but quite educational as well. Bill Bryson is a gifted writer who can really "bring you there", makes you want to visit the places he is in...and right now. I'm looking forward to expanding my collection. You won't be sorry with your purchase.

I want to echo what another reviewer stated, as I like to listen with a portable cd player/headset while I do household tasks, also w a cd player outside my shower while I shower, towel off etc - This low volume, soft voiced Bill Bryson CD set makes all this unworkable, and as stated by the other reviewer, I do not have this problem w other audiobooks - I have this one on max volume at all times, only being able to listen when there are NO other competing sounds...previous reviewer's words I refer to follow here - Mr. Bryson's natural intonation is fairly low to flat, but as his voice rose (occasionally) and fell (frequently) during his reading of the material, there was little to no effort by the post production team to modulate and equalize the volume - making the lower tones inaudible. At one point I had the volume on my car stereo at maximum and was still missing words and parts of sentences

Pretty simple: if you're a Bryson fan, you will love this. I have read many of Bryson's books, but honestly find the audiobooks much more enjoyable, mostly because Bryson's voice is so contagiously endearing and funny. All 3 of these books are great, but they are not necessarily his best. Check out "A Short History of Nearly Everything" and "The Lost Continent" if you'd like to continue on with this author.

Even though I had read his book "Notes from a Small Island" - in fact ALL his books - I enjoyed hearing the author read his own recollections of travels in England both recently and in the past. Having lived in England for 25 years, I was amazed how accurate his observations are, and I laughed out loud so many times while reading this book and again while listening to his CD. Perhaps better enjoyed by those of us who have been in England, but then again it may appeal to armchair travellers. As they say in Britain, "he is spot on" - or right on the mark. I listened to this CD while working out at the Gym and laughed so often I began to get funny looks. This book/CD tops my

list. "Neither Here Nor There" continues his travels in Europe, and I still laugh when I read that "Italians park their cars as though they had just spilled acid on their laps." Recommended for travellers and would-be travellers.

I love this guy!!!!!! I'm addicted to his books, and I've passed along my addiction to kids and grandkids. What a mind. Plus, hearing him read his books adds another dimension. He's the best possible kind of teacher: dispensing factual information inside a capsule of wonderful entertainment. His wife, by the way, is a saint. Bill Bryson Collector's Edition: Notes from a Small Island, Neither Here Nor There, and I'm a Stranger Here Myself

Love Bryson's dry humor? Get motion sickness while reading in the car? Turn off the Grateful Dead and pop in a book. You can put the Dead back on later and have a better understanding of the historical and folklore references. DO IT. So much of our American culture, language, and lore comes from stories that were brought here from other places. Notes from a small island and neither here nor there are eye-openers and amusing ones at that. Hear it straight from the author with enough dry humor and wit to shock even a Brit.

I have always been an enthusiastic fan of Bryson. From "The Mother Tongue" to his recent, "The World is a Stage", Bryson writes objectively, clearly, and with humorous cynicism. So, I was very excited when this audiobook of three of his older stories came out. In quick summary, I found "I'm a Stranger Here Myself" remarkably funny (just listen to Bryson's explanation of the American phenomena of the attic, American hospitality, or the garbage disposal) from beginning to end. "Notes from a Small Island" starts off exciting, with Bryson reminiscing over his first trip to England as a teenager, while paralleling it to his most recent trip as a wiser adult, noting both physical and cultural differences (with an extremely funny account of his stay in an English inn), although it wanes after awhile, with Bryson seeming to run out of novel things to say as he heads north. "Neither Here nor There" I was disappointed with. Bryson tries to quickly summarize the nuances of many European countries, noting their eccentricities and habits. I think Bryson bit off a little more than he could chew; you can't summarize the history and culture of Switzerland, Italy, France, Sweden, and many others in just a few hundred pages without appearing redundant and hasty. I was in danger of falling asleep in my car. Bryson narrates and is very soft spoken. My volume was all the way up just to hear him. But he is a great narrator, and I wish I had more of his books spoken through his voice. Overall worth getting and a great value for three Bryson books, but certainly at this point in his

career not the cream of the crop.

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