

between you me confessions of a comma queen mary norris

Between You Me Confessions of a Comma Queen Mary Norris: A Deep Dive into the Grammar Guru's World

between you me confessions of a comma queen mary norris — even the phrase itself feels like a playful nod to the quirks and intricacies of language, something Mary Norris, famously known as the “Comma Queen,” embraces wholeheartedly. If you’ve ever found yourself tangled in the maze of commas, semicolons, or just plain puzzled by punctuation, Mary Norris’s work offers a refreshing and witty guide to navigating the English language with both precision and personality.

Mary Norris’s journey as a copy editor at The New Yorker has made her a revered figure among grammar enthusiasts and casual readers alike. Her book, **Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen**, is more than just a grammar manual; it’s a charming memoir that blends linguistic insight with personal anecdotes, making the often-dry world of punctuation come alive.

Who Is Mary Norris, the Comma Queen?

Mary Norris’s reputation as the “Comma Queen” stems from her decades-long career as a copy editor, where she honed the art of perfecting prose, one comma at a time. Her passion for language and dedication to clarity have earned her a beloved spot in the literary and editorial community.

Her Role at The New Yorker

Working at one of the most prestigious magazines in the world, Norris’s job involved painstakingly reviewing manuscripts, correcting errors, and ensuring each piece adhered to the highest editorial standards. Her expertise wasn’t just about rules; it was about understanding the rhythm and flow that make writing readable and engaging.

From Copy Editor to Author

Transitioning from behind-the-scenes editing to authoring a book, Mary Norris invited readers into her world with **Between You & Me**. The memoir reveals not only the technicalities of punctuation but also the human stories behind language — the mistakes, the debates, and the joys of wordplay.

Exploring “Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen”

The book’s title, a clever play on the common grammatical error “between you and I,” hints at the approachable and often humorous tone Norris uses throughout her writing. It’s a blend of grammar lessons, cultural commentary, and personal reflection.

A Fresh Perspective on Grammar

Instead of presenting grammar as rigid rules to follow, Norris approaches it as a living, evolving craft. She acknowledges the debates around correctness and embraces the quirks that make English both challenging and delightful.

Memorable Anecdotes and Lessons

Readers are treated to stories from her editorial career, including amusing examples of punctuation mishaps and the reasoning behind certain stylistic choices. These anecdotes help demystify grammar and make it accessible to all.

Why “Between You Me Confessions of a Comma Queen Mary Norris” Resonates with Readers

The charm of Mary Norris’s work lies in its relatability. Whether you’re a writer, editor, student, or simply a language lover, her insights strike a chord.

Making Grammar Human

Norris’s style breaks down the intimidating barrier often associated with grammar rules. She personifies punctuation marks, turning commas and semicolons into characters that interact and influence meaning.

Encouraging Curiosity and Care in Writing

The book inspires readers to pay attention to the details that shape effective communication. It’s not about perfection but about understanding how language works to convey ideas clearly and beautifully.

Key Grammar Tips Inspired by Mary Norris

Drawing from her expertise as the Comma Queen, here are some valuable tips that echo the spirit of **Between You & Me**:

- **Use commas to clarify meaning:** A well-placed comma can change the entire tone or understanding of a sentence.
- **Don't fear the semicolon:** Often misunderstood, semicolons can elegantly link closely related ideas.
- **Know your audience:** Grammar rules may vary depending on context—formal writing vs. casual conversation.
- **Embrace the evolution of language:** Some traditional rules are flexible, and language adapts over time.
- **Read carefully and revise:** Editing is where clarity and precision truly shine.

The Impact of Mary Norris on Modern Grammar Appreciation

Mary Norris's work has sparked renewed interest in the often-overlooked art of copy editing and punctuation. Her approachable voice has helped desensitize many to the anxiety surrounding grammar mistakes.

Bridging the Gap Between Prescriptivism and Descriptivism

While traditional grammar rules are important, Norris acknowledges the living nature of language, encouraging a balance between strict adherence and practical usage.

Inspiring a New Generation of Word Enthusiasts

Through her writing and public appearances, Norris invites people to celebrate language rather than fear it. This inclusive approach fosters a community of learners eager to improve their writing skills.

How to Apply the Lessons from “Between You Me Confessions of a Comma Queen Mary Norris” in Your Writing

Whether you’re polishing an academic paper, crafting emails, or penning creative stories, taking a page from Mary Norris’s book can elevate your writing.

Practice Mindful Punctuation

Before hitting send or print, review your work for punctuation that enhances clarity. Ask yourself if each comma, dash, or semicolon serves a purpose.

Develop an Editorial Eye

Try reading your writing aloud to catch awkward pauses or confusing sentences. Editing isn’t just about rules but about the reader’s experience.

Keep Learning and Enjoying Language

Stay curious about language trends and styles. Follow grammar blogs, read widely, and, most importantly, enjoy the playful side of words.

The world of punctuation and grammar need not be a dry, intimidating place. Thanks to Mary Norris and her delightful **Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen**, readers can explore the nuances of English with humor and heart. Whether you’re a seasoned writer or just starting to unravel the mysteries of commas and semicolons, her insights provide both guidance and inspiration. So next time you pause over a comma, remember — it’s not just a mark on the page, but a tiny piece of a much larger, fascinating story about language and communication.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Mary Norris, the author of 'Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen'?

Mary Norris is a celebrated grammarian and editor known for her long tenure at The New Yorker, where

she earned the nickname 'Comma Queen' for her expertise in punctuation and grammar.

What is the main theme of 'Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen'?

'Between You & Me' explores the nuances of English grammar and punctuation, blending memoir with linguistic insights, as Mary Norris shares her experiences and passion for language.

Why is Mary Norris called the 'Comma Queen'?

Mary Norris earned the moniker 'Comma Queen' due to her meticulous attention to commas and punctuation during her editorial career, making her a respected authority on the subject.

What makes 'Between You & Me' different from typical grammar books?

Unlike traditional grammar textbooks, 'Between You & Me' combines humor, personal anecdotes, and cultural commentary, making it an engaging and accessible read for both language enthusiasts and general audiences.

How has 'Between You & Me' been received by critics and readers?

'Between You & Me' has been praised for its wit, charm, and insightful exploration of language, appealing to both professional editors and casual readers interested in the quirks of English.

Can 'Between You & Me' help improve my writing skills?

Yes, Mary Norris's book offers practical advice on grammar and punctuation while also encouraging a deeper appreciation for the English language, which can enhance your writing and editing abilities.

Additional Resources

Between You Me Confessions of a Comma Queen Mary Norris: A Deep Dive into the Grammar Maven's Charm and Craft

between you me confessions of a comma queen mary norris – the phrase itself, riddled with a playful misspelling, beckons curiosity about the acclaimed author and grammar expert Mary Norris. Known affectionately as “the comma queen,” Norris has carved a niche in the literary world through her witty, insightful, and accessible approach to the often-daunting subject of grammar and punctuation. This article investigates the nuances of her work, particularly focusing on her memoir and guide, **Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen**, exploring its impact, style, and relevance in contemporary writing culture.

Mary Norris: The Comma Queen's Literary Persona

Mary Norris is a copy editor at *The New Yorker*, and her reputation as the “comma queen” stems from decades of meticulous attention to punctuation and syntax. Unlike the stereotypical, dry grammar manuals, Norris’s work is characterized by humor, personal anecdote, and a deep passion for language. Her memoir, *Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen*, is not only a manual on grammar but also a candid, often charming window into the life of a professional editor.

Norris challenges traditional perceptions of grammar as a rigid, joyless domain. Instead, she presents it as a living, breathing art form that shapes the way we communicate. Her approachable style has helped demystify complex rules and made grammar accessible to a broader audience, particularly those who may have previously felt alienated by linguistic prescriptivism.

Exploring the Title: The Significance of "Between You & Me"

The title itself, *Between You & Me*, plays with one of the most common grammar debates: the correct use of “you and me” versus “you and I.” Norris delves into the history and rationale behind this usage, offering clarity and humor. This choice exemplifies her method of using everyday grammatical dilemmas as entry points into broader discussions about language evolution and usage.

The subtitle, *Confessions of a Comma Queen*, signals a personal narrative intertwined with professional insights. Norris invites readers into her “confessional,” sharing the joys, frustrations, and oddities of being a copy editor who obsessively champions the comma.

Between You Me Confessions of a Comma Queen Mary Norris: Content and Themes

At its core, *Between You & Me* is part memoir, part grammar guide, and part linguistic love letter. Norris covers a wide range of topics, from the intricacies of the Oxford comma to the etymology of words, while interspersing stories from her editorial career. This blend of personal and professional perspectives offers a multifaceted view of language that readers find both educational and entertaining.

One of the book’s strengths lies in its balance: it educates without preaching, encourages curiosity without condescension. Norris’s tone is conversational, often self-deprecating, which makes the sometimes-daunting subject matter approachable.

Grammar Rules vs. Language Evolution

A recurring theme in Norris's work is the tension between rigid grammar rules and the natural evolution of language. She acknowledges that language is fluid, constantly shaped by cultural and social forces. Yet, she also argues for the importance of standards, especially in professional writing, where clarity and precision are paramount.

This duality is reflected in her discussion of contentious issues such as split infinitives, the singular "they," and the changing roles of commas. Norris does not dismiss traditional rules outright but encourages readers to understand their origins and purposes before deciding when to bend them.

Impact and Reception in the Literary and Educational Communities

Between You & Me has been widely praised for revitalizing interest in grammar and punctuation. Educators, writers, and editors often cite Norris's book as a valuable resource that combines expertise with relatability. Its success has also sparked conversations about the role of copy editors in the digital age, where informal communication often eclipses formal standards.

The book's appeal extends beyond grammar aficionados. Its narrative style and personal anecdotes attract readers interested in memoir, language, and writing craft. This crossover appeal broadens its impact, making the "comma queen" a cultural figure in the world of language.

Comparisons with Other Grammar Guides

When compared to traditional grammar manuals like **The Elements of Style** by Strunk and White or **Eats, Shoots & Leaves** by Lynne Truss, Norris's **Between You & Me** stands out for its memoir-like intimacy and humor. While Strunk and White offer concise rules and Truss emphasizes punctuation drama, Norris provides a more nuanced, humanized perspective on grammar.

This approach resonates in a market saturated with dry technical guides, positioning Norris's book as a refreshing alternative that invites readers to engage with language on a personal level.

Key Features of *Between You Me Confessions of a Comma Queen*

Mary Norris

- **Accessible Language:** Norris avoids jargon and explains concepts in simple, relatable terms.
- **Personal Anecdotes:** Stories from her career add depth and entertainment.
- **Historical Context:** The book often traces grammar rules back to their origins.
- **Humor and Wit:** Lighthearted commentary keeps readers engaged.
- **Practical Advice:** Useful tips for writers and editors alike.

These features contribute to the book's effectiveness as both a reference and a narrative, enhancing its appeal to diverse readerships.

Pros and Cons of the Book's Approach

1. Pros:

- Engaging and personable tone encourages learning.
- Bridges the gap between technical grammar and everyday language use.
- Offers insights into the editorial process rarely seen by the public.

2. Cons:

- Some readers seeking a strict rulebook may find it too informal.
- Occasional digressions might distract those looking for concise answers.

Overall, the pros outweigh the cons, especially for readers interested in a broader understanding of

language.

The Broader Influence of Mary Norris on Grammar Awareness

Mary Norris's work, epitomized by **Between You & Me**, has contributed significantly to popularizing grammar awareness. In an era dominated by digital communication, where informal writing often prevails, her advocacy for clarity and precision is both timely and necessary.

Her presence on social media and public speaking engagements further amplify her influence, bringing the "comma queen" persona to audiences beyond traditional publishing circles. This has helped nurture a renewed interest in the art and science of editing, highlighting its critical role in effective communication.

Between you me confessions of a comma queen mary norris exemplify the fusion of professional expertise and approachable storytelling. Through her unique lens, Mary Norris transforms grammar from a set of rules into a lively, engaging conversation about language's role in human connection—a testament to her enduring impact on readers and writers alike.

[Between You Me Confessions Of A Comma Queen Mary Norris](#)

between you me confessions of a comma queen mary norris: *Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen* Mary Norris, 2015-04-06 New York Times Bestseller Named a Best Book of the Year by NPR, Wall Street Journal, Publishers Weekly, Kirkus Reviews, and Library Journal Hilarious...This book charmed my socks off. —Patricia O'Conner, New York Times Book Review Mary Norris has spent more than three decades working in The New Yorker's renowned copy department, helping to maintain its celebrated high standards. In *Between You & Me*, she brings her vast experience with grammar and usage, her good cheer and irreverence, and her finely sharpened pencils to help the rest of us in a boisterous language book as full of life as it is of practical advice.

between you me confessions of a comma queen mary norris: Greek to Me Mary Norris, 2019-04-02 The Comma Queen returns with a buoyant book about language, love, and the wine-dark sea. In her New York Times bestseller *Between You & Me*, Mary Norris delighted readers with her irreverent tales of pencils and punctuation in The New Yorker's celebrated copy department. In *Greek to Me*, she delivers another wise and funny paean to the art of self-expression, this time filtered through her greatest passion: all things Greek. *Greek to Me* is a charming account of Norris's lifelong love affair with words and her solo adventures in the land of olive trees and ouzo. Along the way, Norris explains how the alphabet originated in Greece, makes the case for Athena as a feminist icon, goes searching for the fabled Baths of Aphrodite, and reveals the surprising ways Greek helped form English. Filled with Norris's memorable encounters with Greek words, Greek gods, Greek wine—and more than a few Greek men—*Greek to Me* is the Comma Queen's fresh take on Greece and the exotic yet strangely familiar language that so deeply influences our own.

between you me confessions of a comma queen mary norris: 25 Great Sentences and How They Got That Way Geraldine Woods, 2020-08-18 A guide to the artistry that lifts a sentence from good to great. We all know the basic structure of a sentence: a subject/verb pair expressing a

complete thought and ending with proper punctuation. But that classroom definition doesn't begin to describe the ways in which these elements can combine to resonate with us as we read, to make us stop and think, laugh or cry. In *25 Great Sentences and How They Got That Way*, master teacher Geraldine Woods unpacks powerful examples of what she instead prefers to define as "the smallest element differentiating one writer's style from another's, a literary universe in a grain of sand." And that universe is very large: the hundreds of memorable sentences gathered here come from sources as wide-ranging as Edith Wharton and Yogi Berra, Toni Morrison and Yoda, T. S. Eliot and Groucho Marx. Culled from fiction, nonfiction, drama, poetry, song lyrics, speeches, and even ads, these exemplary sentences are celebrated for the distinctive features—whether of structure, diction, connection/comparison, sound, or extremes—that underlie their beauty, resonance, and creativity. With dry humor and an infectious enjoyment that makes her own sentences a pleasure to read, Woods shows us the craft that goes into the construction of a memorable sentence. Each chapter finishes with an enticing array of exercises for those who want to test their skill at a particular one of the featured twenty-five techniques, such as onomatopoeia (in the Sound section) or parallelism (in the Structure section). This is a book that will be treasured by word nerds and language enthusiasts, writers who want to hone their craft, literature lovers, and readers of everything from song lyrics and speeches to novels and poetry.

between you me confebions of a comma queen mary norris: Why We Read Shannon Reed, 2024-02-06 *NATIONAL BESTSELLER* *A WGN Radio Best Book of 2024* *A Good Housekeeping Reads pick* A hilarious and incisive exploration of the joys of reading from a beloved and wonderful writer (George Saunders), teacher, bibliophile, and Thurber Prize Semifinalist We read to escape, to learn, to find love, to feel seen. We read to encounter new worlds, to discover new recipes, to find connection across difference, or simply to pass a rainy afternoon. No matter the reason, books have the power to keep us safe, to challenge us, and perhaps most importantly, to make us more fully human. Shannon Reed, a longtime teacher, lifelong reader, and New Yorker contributor, gets it. With one simple goal in mind, she makes the case that we should read for pleasure above all else. In this whip-smart, laugh-out-loud-funny collection, Reed shares surprising stories from her life as a reader and the poignant ways in which books have impacted her students. From the varied novels she cherishes (*Gone Girl*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*) to the ones she didn't (*Tess of the d'Urbervilles*), Reed takes us on a rollicking tour through the comforting world of literature, celebrating the books we love, the readers who love them, and the ways in which literature can transform us for the better.

between you me confebions of a comma queen mary norris: Gobsmacked! Ben Yagoda, 2024-09-24 A spot-on guide to how and why Americans have become so bloody keen on Britishisms—for good or ill The British love to complain that words and phrases imported from America—from French fries to Awesome, man!—are destroying the English language. But what about the influence going the other way? Britishisms have been making their way into the American lexicon for more than 150 years, but the process has accelerated since the turn of the twenty-first century. From acclaimed writer and language commentator Ben Yagoda, *Gobsmacked!* is a witty, entertaining, and enlightening account of how and why scores of British words and phrases—such as one-off, go missing, curate, early days, kerfuffle, easy peasy, and cheeky—have been enthusiastically taken up by Yanks. After tracing Britishisms that entered the American vocabulary in the nineteenth century and during the world wars, *Gobsmacked!* discusses the most-used British terms in America today. It features chapters on the American embrace of British insults and curses, sports terms, and words about food and drinks. The book also explores the American adoption of British spellings, pronunciations, and grammar, and cases where Americans have misconstrued British expressions (for example, changing can't be arsed to can't be asked) or adopted faux-British usages, like pronouncing divisive as "divissive." Finally, the book offers some guidance on just how many Britishisms an American can safely adopt without coming off like an arse. Rigorously researched and documented but written in a light, conversational style, this is a book that general readers and language obsessives will love. Its revealing account of a surprising and underrecognized language

revolution might even leave them, well, gobsmacked.

between you me confebions of a comma queen mary norris: Buzz Books 2015:

Spring/Summer, 2015-01-23 Our sixth Buzz Books edition evokes all the excitement of Winter Institute with substantial pre-publication excerpts from nearly 40 adult titles. Young adult excerpts from spring/summer titles can now be found in a separate volume. Enjoy access to the newest voices the publishing industry is broadcasting for the upcoming season as you discover breakout books from established authors, sparkling debuts from soon-to-become literary stars, and fascinating memoirs and inspirational nonfiction. Familiar names include Paolo Bacigalupi, Ian Caldwell, Dennis Lehane, Ann Packer, Matthew Pearl, and Neal Stephenson. From inside the book world itself, there's Farrar, Straus and Giroux publisher Jonathan Galassi's debut novel *Muse*, and former editor George Hodgman's memoir *Bettyville*, about going home to care for his irascible mother. Iowa Writer's Workshop graduate Leslie Parry (*Church of Marvels*), Erika Swyler (*The Book of Speculation*), J. Ryan Stradal (*Kitchens of the Great Midwest*), Christopher Robinson and Gavin Kovite (*War Of The Encyclopaedists*), and Jessica Knoll (*Luckiest Girl Alive*) are among our dozen new authors. Rounding out this generous sampler are books from well-known personalities including actor Maria Bello, TV host Mika Brzezinski, NPR/Weekend Edition's Scott Simon, and even a novel from Hunter S. Thompson's former assistant Cheryl Della Pietra. As always, there's also a great preview from Publishers Lunch of more than 100 additional, noteworthy spring/summer books to have on your radar. Start reading books right now that are sure to show up on bestseller lists, win awards, and be chosen by booksellers as top picks. Then invite your reading friends and book groups to download their own free copy of the ebook from any major ebookstore or at buzz.publishersmarketplace.com.

between you me confebions of a comma queen mary norris: The Beatles Are Here!

Penelope Rowlands, 2014-02-04 "This compulsively readable personal history . . . gathers the recollections of fans, writers, musicians, and artists" about the enduring impact of The Beatles (Publishers Weekly). The arrival of the Beatles in America was an unforgettable cultural touchstone. Through the voices of those who witnessed it or were swept up in it indirectly, *The Beatles Are Here!* explores the emotional impact—some might call it hysteria—of the Fab Four's February 1964 dramatic landing on our shores. Contributors, including Lisa See, Gay Talese, Renée Fleming, Roy Blount, Jr., Greil Marcus, and many others, describe in essays and interviews how they were inspired by the Beatles. This intimate and entertaining collection arose from writer Penelope Rowlands's own Beatlemania phase: she was one of the screaming girls captured in an iconic photograph that has since been published around the world—and is displayed on the cover of this book. The stories of these girls, who found each other again almost fifty years later, are part of this volume as well. *The Beatles Are Here!* gets to the heart of why, half a century later, the Beatles still matter to us so deeply.

between you me confebions of a comma queen mary norris: Mark My Words

Lee Clark Mitchell, 2020-05-14 Why are Emily Dickinson and Henry James drawn habitually to dashes? What makes James Baldwin such a fan of commas, which William Carlos Williams tends to ignore? And why do that odd couple, the novelist Virginia Woolf and the short story specialist Andre Dubus II, both embrace semicolons, while E. E. Cummings and Nikki Giovanni forego punctuation entirely? More generally, what effect do such nonverbal marks (or their absence) have on an author's encompassing vision? The first book on modern literature to compare writers' punctuation, and to show how fully typographical marks alter our sense of authorial style, *Mark My Words* offers new ways of reading some of our most important and beloved writers as well as suggesting a fresh perspective on literary style itself.

between you me confebions of a comma queen mary norris: Word by Word

Larry Swartz, 2019-01-14 Make words the core of classroom instruction and engagement; day by day, word by word. This practical resource is designed to help students discover why word choice and language matter as they build vocabulary across subject areas, gain confidence in word usage, and increase their understanding of word patterns. This practical book shows you how to motivate students to become passionate about words and develop strategies to help them grow in language and learning

skills. Ideal for new and experienced teachers, Word by Word is committed to helping students develop innovative ways to explore and make meaning with words.

between you me confebions of a comma queen mary norris: English Usage Guides Ingrid Tieken-Boon van Ostade, 2018 This volume explores both historical and current issues in English usage guides or style manuals. Chapters look at how and why these guides are compiled, and by whom; what sort of advice they contain; how they differ from grammars and dictionaries; and how attitudes to usage have changed.

between you me confebions of a comma queen mary norris: Twentieth-Century and Contemporary American Literature in Context Linda De Roche, 2021-06-04 This four-volume reference work surveys American literature from the early 20th century to the present day, featuring a diverse range of American works and authors and an expansive selection of primary source materials. Bringing useful and engaging material into the classroom, this four-volume set covers more than a century of American literary history—from 1900 to the present. Twentieth-Century and Contemporary American Literature in Context profiles authors and their works and provides overviews of literary movements and genres through which readers will understand the historical, cultural, and political contexts that have shaped American writing. Twentieth-Century and Contemporary American Literature in Context provides wide coverage of authors, works, genres, and movements that are emblematic of the diversity of modern America. Not only are major literary movements represented, such as the Beats, but this work also highlights the emergence and development of modern Native American literature, African American literature, and other representative groups that showcase the diversity of American letters. A rich selection of primary documents and background material provides indispensable information for student research.

between you me confebions of a comma queen mary norris: The ^AQuotable Guide to Punctuation Stephen Spector, 2017-10-10 This book is designed to help readers punctuate confidently and effectively through enjoyable and illuminating lessons that draw on the words of great writers, celebrities, and historical figures. Chapters begin with quotes that exemplify good punctuation so that readers build proper punctuation skills from context. The quotations themselves are instructive and interesting, coming from notable or amusing historical and cultural figures. Brief essays illuminate the history of each punctuation mark and its rules of usage.

between you me confebions of a comma queen mary norris: How Words Get Good Rebecca Lee, 2022-03-17 'Any bibliophile will find many enjoyable nuggets in this compendium of book chat' Stephen Poole, Guardian 'An engaging little eye-opener about the publishing business, full of tasty nuggets about books, writers and their editors' Sunday Times 'Enjoyable ... engaging ... insightful' Independent Once upon a time, a writer had an idea. They wrote it down. But what happened next? Join Rebecca Lee, professional text-improver, as she embarks on a fascinating journey to find out how words get from an author's brain to finished, printed books. She'll reveal the dark arts of ghostwriters, explore the secret world of literary agents and uncover the hidden beauty of typesetting. Along the way, her quest will be punctuated by a litany of little-known (but often controversial) considerations that make a big impact: ellipses, indexes, hyphens, esoteric points of grammar and juicy post-publication corrections. After all, the best stories happen when it all goes wrong. From foot-and-note disease to the town of Index, Missouri - turn the page to discover how books get made and words get good.* * Or, at least, better

between you me confebions of a comma queen mary norris: The Copyeditor's Handbook Amy Einsohn, Marilyn Schwartz, 2019-05-14 The new, updated edition of the handbook that should be on every copyeditor's desk. Unstuffy, hip, and often funny, The Copyeditor's Handbook has become an indispensable resource both for new editors and for experienced hands who want to refresh their skills and broaden their understanding of the craft of copyediting. This fourth edition incorporates the latest advice from language authorities, usage guides, and new editions of major style manuals, including The Chicago Manual of Style. It registers the tectonic shifts in twenty-first-century copyediting: preparing text for digital formats, using new technologies, addressing global audiences, complying with plain language mandates, ensuring accessibility, and

serving self-publishing authors and authors writing in English as a second language. The new edition also adds an extensive annotated list of editorial tools and references and includes a bit of light entertainment for language lovers, such as a brief history of punctuation marks that didn't make the grade, the strange case of razbliuto, and a few Easter eggs awaiting discovery by keen-eyed readers. The fourth edition features updates on the transformation of editorial roles in today's publishing environment new applications, processes, and protocols for on-screen editing major changes in editorial resources, such as online dictionaries and language corpora, new grammar and usage authorities, online editorial communities, and web-based research tools When you're ready to test your mettle, pick up *The Copyeditor's Workbook: Exercises and Tips for Honing Your Editorial Judgment*, the essential new companion to the handbook.

between you me confebions of a comma queen mary norris: *The Rules of the Game* Philip J. Skerry, 2019-09-11 *The Rules of the Game* is an examination of Standard Written American English (SWAE), which is the dialect of educated people, and an analysis of the characteristics of that dialect. The book explains the special qualities of SWAE and why it frequently presents problems to students as well as to the general public. The book outlines the two key elements of SWAE: it is both rule bound and conservative. These two elements form the basis of the book's main purpose: the examination of the elements of successful SWAE sentences. Once the elements have been presented in detail in the first half of the book, the second half shows how sentences can go wrong by violating the "rules" of SWAE. *The Rules of the Game* is more than just a grammar book: it presents the rationale for the strict application of grammar rules that characterizes the dialect so that readers come away with an understanding of why this dialect is so challenging. Whether you are a student faced with writing assignments or a worker having to write reports, you will find *The Rules of the Game* helpful and useful.

between you me confebions of a comma queen mary norris: *Failure to Communicate* Roger Kreuz, 2023-04-10 "Why didn't they understand me? I was as clear as I could be." Everyone has had this thought at one time or another. Research from the fields of psychology and cognitive science can provide concrete answers to these questions. In *Failing to Communicate*, Dr. Roger Kreuz explores the answers to these questions We are exposed to the dangers of miscommunication early in life. As children, we play the Telephone Game and learn an important lesson about the fragility of long communication chains. And as adults, we are constantly on the lookout for misunderstanding. People interrupt each other, on average, about every ninety seconds in order to check their understanding. Despite such vigilance, however, a great deal of what is said and written is not understood as intended. Miscommunication has led to military defeats, the loss of spacecraft, and even more tragically, accidents that cost human lives. It plays a role in road rage and social media feuds. It haunts the courtroom, the boardroom, and the singles bar. *Failing to Communicate* includes dozens of such examples and explains them in light of what researchers have discovered about how communication works—and why it so often fails. Research from psychology and cognitive science has revealed a host of specific factors that contribute to misunderstanding. Some of these have to do with how our minds make sense of what we hear and read, while others are the result of cognitive, social, and cultural factors. The very structure of a given language can be problematic as well. In short, there is no one reason for miscommunication: there are a host of underlying causes. Issues of misunderstanding have only multiplied as new mediums for communication have arisen. Emails, texts, and social media posts are even more problematic because they are impoverished modes of communication. Without facial cues, tone of voice, gestures, and even the creative use of silence, our intentions in these text-only mediums are even more likely to go awry. *Failing to Communicate* is intended to appeal, from beginning to end, to the general reader who wants to know more about why our attempts at communication fail so often

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popular Grammar and Usage chapter, Bryan A. Garner is renowned for explaining the vagaries of English with absolute precision and utmost clarity. With *The Chicago Guide to Grammar, Usage, and Punctuation*, he has written the definitive guide for writers who want their prose to be both memorable and correct. Garner describes standard literary English—the forms that mark writers and speakers as educated users of the language. He also offers historical context for understanding the development of these forms. The section on grammar explains how the canonical parts of speech came to be identified, while the section on syntax covers the nuances of sentence patterns as well as both traditional sentence diagramming and transformational grammar. The usage section provides an unprecedented trove of empirical evidence in the form of Google Ngrams, diagrams that illustrate the changing prevalence of specific terms over decades and even centuries of English literature. Garner also treats punctuation and word formation, and concludes the book with an exhaustive glossary of grammatical terms and a bibliography of suggested further reading and references. *The Chicago Guide to Grammar, Usage, and Punctuation* is a magisterial work, the culmination of Garner's lifelong study of the English language. The result is a landmark resource that will offer clear guidelines to students, writers, and editors alike. [A manual] for those of us laboring to produce expository prose: nonfiction books, journalistic articles, memorandums, business letters. The conservatism of his advice pushes you to consider audience and occasion, so that you will understand when to follow convention and when you can safely break it.—John E. McIntyre, *Baltimore Sun*

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