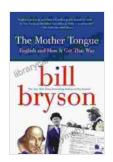
# **English And How It Got That Way: An Etymological Odyssey**

## **By David Crystal**

The English language is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, with over 1.5 billion speakers. It is the official language of many countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. English is also the lingua franca of international business, academia, and diplomacy.



### The Mother Tongue: English and How it Got that Way

by Bill Bryson

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.4 out of 5 Language : English File size : 2032 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Enhanced typesetting: Enabled X-Ray : Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 274 pages Screen Reader : Supported



But how did English come to be the global language that it is today? The answer to that question lies in the long and fascinating history of the English language.

English began as a West Germanic language spoken by the Anglo-Saxon tribes who invaded Britain in the 5th century AD. The Anglo-Saxons brought

their own language with them, which was closely related to the languages spoken by the other Germanic tribes on the continent. Over time, the Anglo-Saxon language evolved into Old English, which was the language of England from the 7th to the 11th centuries.

In 1066, the Normans invaded England and conquered the Anglo-Saxons. The Normans spoke a form of French, which they imposed on the English people. For the next few centuries, English was a bilingual language, with the upper classes speaking French and the lower classes speaking English. Over time, the two languages began to merge, and by the 14th century, a new language had emerged: Middle English.

Middle English was the language of Chaucer and Shakespeare. It was a much more flexible and expressive language than Old English, and it laid the foundation for the modern English language. By the 16th century, English had become the dominant language in England, and it began to spread to other parts of the world.

The English language has been shaped by many different factors over the centuries, including invasions, conquests, trade, and travel. It has borrowed words from many different languages, including Latin, Greek, French, Spanish, and German. As a result, English is a very rich and diverse language, with a vast vocabulary and a complex grammar.

Today, English is the global language of communication. It is the language of business, academia, and diplomacy. It is the language of the internet and the world wide web. English is a powerful tool for communication, and it has played a major role in the development of the modern world.

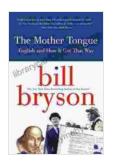
If you are interested in learning more about the history of the English language, I highly recommend reading David Crystal's book, *English And How It Got That Way*. Crystal is one of the world's leading experts on the English language, and his book is a fascinating journey through the history of our language. Crystal covers everything from the origins of English to its current status as a global lingua franca. He also discusses the many factors that have shaped the English language over the centuries, including invasions, conquests, trade, and travel.

English And How It Got That Way is a must-read for anyone who is interested in the English language. It is a well-written and informative book that is sure to entertain and educate readers of all ages.

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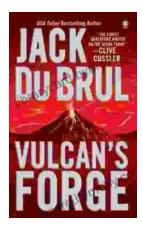
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