



The Etymologicon: A Circular Stroll Through the Hidden Connections of the English Language

Mark Forsyth

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Do you know why...

...a mortgage is literally a death pledge? ...why guns have girls' names? ...why salt is related to soldier?

You're about to find out...

The Etymologicon (e-t?-mä-lä-ji-kän) is:

*Witty (wi-te): Full of clever humor

*Erudite (er-?-dit): Showing knowledge

*Ribald (ri-b?ld): Crude, offensive

The Etymologicon is a completely unauthorized guide to the strange underpinnings of the English language. It explains: how you get from “gruntled” to “disgruntled”; why you are absolutely right to believe that your meager salary barely covers “money for salt”; how the biggest chain of coffee shops in the world (hint: Seattle) connects to whaling in Nantucket; and what precisely the Rolling Stones have to do with gardening.

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