



The New Devil's Dictionary: A New Version of the Cynical Classic

Rhoda Koenig

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A new and beautifully illustrated collection of bitter, biting definitions to celebrate the centenary of *The Devil's Dictionary*

Ambrose Bierce's classic *The Devil's Dictionary* first appeared in its entirety in 1911. Its caustic wit and arch tone have ensured steady popularity and sales to this day. To mark its centennial, Rhoda Koenig gives us a new version of Bierce's mordant vision. Its myriad definitions, like the original's, individually expose hypocrisy, pretension, and vanity and collectively paint a mocking portrait of society at its worst. More than just a denunciation of jargon or political correctness, it lambasts old and young, rich and poor, male and female, left and right, and takes them all down a peg—or three. It deals with classic subjects but also defines new ideas and explicates new usages from “academia” to “teamwork” to “women's magazine.” Among the many definitions inside:

accessible, *adj.* (1) Of a subject, one that can be approached by the most intellectually handicapped, aided by the ramp of banality and the guardrail of diminished vocabulary. (2) Of a woman, a nice way of putting it.

collectible, *n.* Object which many are eager to possess, though it may not be attractive, entertaining, or useful. Not to be confused with “spouse.”

If you relish moral criticism of immoral behavior, *The New Devil's Dictionary* will leave you howling for more.

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