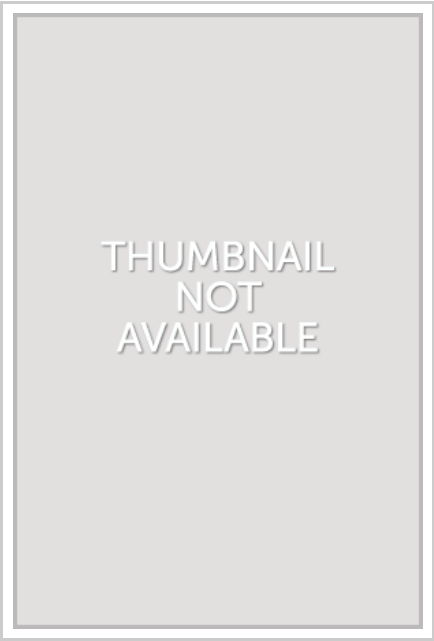


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Words: From Here There and Everywhere or My Private Babel

By Farrukh Dhondy

Harper Collins, New Delhi, 2015. Paper back. Book Condition: New. First. 210pp. Bombay duck, hobsonjobson, big cheese, minaret ? words are cultural signifiers, slices of history made up of letters.In Words, Farrukh Dhondy reveals a certain landscape of India through a joyful exploration of Indianisms and IndoBritish usages, including slang, choice curse words and colonial coinage. He cites AngloIndian dictionaries and Cockney kids, Parsi grandmothers and bartenders, foulmouthed neighbours, history books and tour guides. Dhondy?s musings on etymological evolution bring to light the social, moral and often lessthanmoral beliefs and behaviours these sayings stem from.Just goes to show ? whether it?s an earnest chat or gossip, we are saying more than we realize.

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