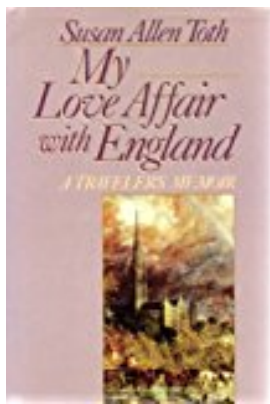


[PDF] My Love Affair With England: A Traveler's Memoir

Susan Allen Toth - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: My Love Affair with England:
Author: Susan Allen Toth
Released: 1992-09-15
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Description:

From Publishers Weekly Toth (*Blooming*) makes no apologies here for her lack of authority about English history or current affairs; she is not ashamed to admit that she has ventured little beyond literary London and England's most picturesque locales; and she disdains what she calls the "Bleak Chic" school of British travel writing. But then, this is not a travel memoir in the modern sense, fashioned for hardened realists. Without a trace of irony, Toth writes of the "lure of England's many-layered past" and the reverence felt by every English major, present or former, when walking

down streets well known to Dickens. She is spot-on in explaining why English marmalade tastes good only when eaten as part of a real English breakfast--"the tangy flavor puts just the right edge on a slathery, swimming-in-fat breakfast of bacon, sausage and fried eggs."73 Toth's descriptive powers and her almost Victorian sense of sentiment occasionally wear thin, especially in the sections where she deals with her recent visits. But she is in top form when she recounts her travels as a Smith student in 1960 and 10 years later as a harried guide for touring students. At these and many other points, the book feels wonderfully cozy--the print equivalent of a nice cup of tea.
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From Library Journal Over the last 30 years, Toth has regularly vacationed or taught in England. Here, she reflects on some of the country's endearing qualities that draw her back time and again. Each of the 20 chapters addresses a single subject from the intricacies of "the tube" to remote village churches. She is a frequent admirer of the many English gardens and has traveled extensively on the footpaths in the company of her husband and her favorite walking stick. Whether her topic is attending sheepdog trials, ghost-hunting, or indulging in a rare overnight at London's Savoy, one cannot help but become absorbed. Toth possesses the all-too-rare ability of capturing the atmosphere of places she visits. Reading this is like taking a vacation; it's travel writing at its best and essential for armchair travelers or potential visitors.

-Jo-Anne Mary Benson, Osgoode, Ontario

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