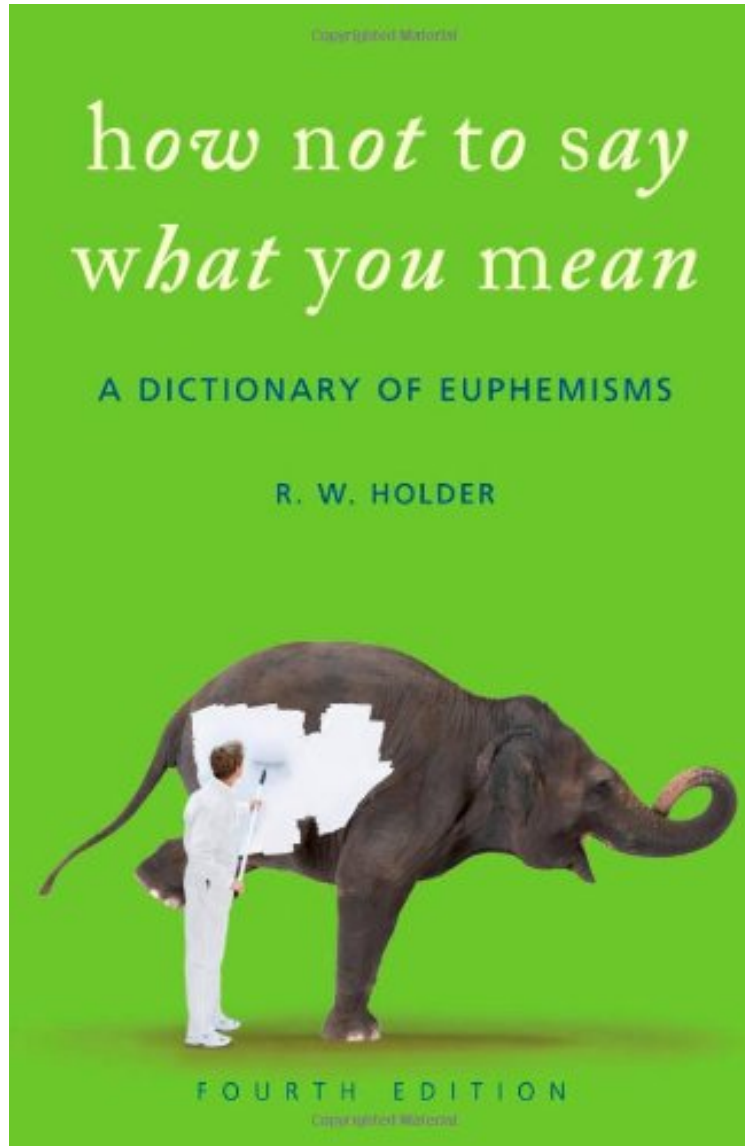


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How Not To Say What You Mean: A Dictionary of Euphemisms

R. W. Holder

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R. W. Holder : How Not To Say What You Mean: A Dictionary of Euphemisms before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How Not To Say What You Mean: A Dictionary of Euphemisms:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A fun reference book that may make you blush...By PCNilesThis is a good reference book for readers and writers, and possibly courageous public speakers. A thematic index at the back of the book makes finding the right term easy. The entries provide concise, clear definitions, as well as quoted

sources which add clarity as to the origin and usage of the word or phrase. These authorities are cross-referenced to an author/work bibliography in the front of the book, handy for those who wish to conduct further research. Many of the euphemisms deal with sexual topics, a possible commentary on either the repressive or playful nature of our social mores. Most of the words and phrases are modern, at least within the last fifty years, but some obsolete terms are included, often to show comparison to current usage. While not an exhaustive study of euphemisms, or a substitution for a good slang dictionary, this is a great reference book to have, to use, and to read -- just for the fun of it. 1 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Sexually Explicit By chocaholic I wish I would've read ALL the reviews before purchasing. Unfortunately, I was so taken with the theme of the book I failed to see them (as it was recommended by !) Needless to say, even if I would've seen the reviews, it wouldn't prepare me for the volumes words dedicated to body parts, sex, etc. Definitely not for the coffee table...or the book case, for that matter. 2 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Sexual Deviants Dream Book By KG In truth; Filth and Disgust. Flipping randomly through the book pages, and then taking time to read a whole page or two in order, you find nothing but sexually deviant definitions for even the most common of quaint Euphemisms one would expect to see. The book seems to be based, for the most part, on British and a few selected 'same type' American Euphemisms. In general, the book lovingly exalts numerous "sexual" euphemisms within its main "Thematic" subjects ranging from: "Abortion", "Animals", "Bawds and Pimps", "Brothels", "Cheating", "Cowardice", "Crime", "Death", "Defecation", "Extortion and Violence", "Farting", "Gambling", "Killing and Suicide", "Menstruation", "Mental Illness", "Illegitimacy and Parentage", "Masturbation", "Miscarriage", "Pornography", "Poverty and Parsimony", "Prostitution", "Race", "Sexual Variations", "Stealing", "Urination", "Venereal Disease", "Warfare" and, sadly, much more.... If you are the type of person that embraces/wants a Thought-Life that tends and leads to Poverty and Death of Body and Spirit- then this book is for you. Purchase it, and then Drink it in Deeply to expedite that inevitable destination that it will cast you down to. As for us- it was expedited it to the "garbage" pile where it belongs.

This thoroughly updated new edition of *How Not to Say What You Mean* celebrates 20 years of R. W. Holder's popular and successful dictionary of euphemisms, offering a delightful collection of jocular and evasive expressions for sex, death, murder, crime, prison, and much more. Here are almost five thousand euphemistic expressions listed in alphabetical order, ranging from well-known favorites such as "push up the daisies," "fly-by-night," "red light district," "take to the cleaners," "get lucky," and "five-fingered discount," to less amusing expressions from the bureaucratic and military world such as "restructuring," "collateral damage," and "extrajudicial killing." For each word or expression, Holder includes examples from real authors, along with entertaining explanations of the words origins and meaning. Thus we learn that "bite the bullet" (to make a difficult decision) comes from the fact that soldiers, being flogged, were once given a bullet to bite down on, and "Stool Pigeon" (an informant) comes from the practice of tying a pigeon to a stool to lure other pigeons to capture. New to this edition are over 250 new entries and fourteen introductory articles on major themes in euphemistic language, such as business, sex, death, and the human body. The book includes an extensive thematic index which groups words together under topics such as Age, Bankruptcy, Bribery, Copulation, Sexual Variations, Drunkenness, Erections and Orgasms, Farting, Funerals, Killing and Suicide, Low Intelligence, Politics, Prison, and Warfare. From "suck the monkey" to "surgical strike," here is a wonderful collection of colorful words that allow us to avoid life's unpleasantries as we add spice and humor to our everyday speech. "A must for tiptoeing around the truth. It is also rollicking reading for those who love words and the not always forthright uses to which they are put." --Chicago Sun-Times

From Publishers Weekly Delightful, quirky and exhaustive, Holder's dictionary of American and British circumlocutions is the kind of reference work that one can spend hours browsing through happily. This third edition includes thousands of alphabetized entries for both old-fashioned and contemporary terms. The term "uncover nakedness," for example, used to be a standard Biblical translation for "copulate," though many people wouldn't recognize that use today. (Incidentally, "to line" also meant to copulate, and Holder cites part of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* as an example of such use: "Winter garments must be lined/So must slender Rosaline.") "Deep six," "underprivileged" and "rip off" still enjoy healthy use, and in Ireland "scattered" still means "drunk." For Holder, however, this project is about more than just having fun with word games. In fine Orwellian spirit, Holder writes in his introduction that euphemism is "the language of evasion, of hypocrisy, of prudery, and of deceit," which makes it all the more important to be able to see through the embroidery. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. ` from previous edition Euphemists are a lively, inventive, self-regarding and bumptious bunch. Holder goes among them with an etymological glint in his eye. Financial Times `Great fun, but not for the maiden aunt.' Sunday Telegraph `Hugely enjoyable and cherishable' Times Educational Supplement `An informative, amusing collection' The Observer `Concise, well-organized entries' Library Journal `This bran tub of linguistic gems... A delight for browsers who love the vivid oddities of language... A valuable collection' City Limits `It's unputdownable once you open it.' Yorkshire Post About the Author R. W. Holder is a business executive and life-long lover of words. The director of numerous companies, he speaks several languages, and travels widely. He is also the author of *Thinking About*

Management.