



Alphabet Juice: The Energies, Gists, and Spirits of Letters, Words, and Combinations Thereof; Their Roots, Bones, Innards, Piths, Pips, and Secret ... With Examples of Their Usage Foul and Savory

Roy Blount

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"If everybody's first English teacher were Roy Blount Jr., we might still be trillions in debt, but we would be so deeply in love with words and their magic . . . that we'd hardly notice." ?Chris Tucker, *The Dallas Morning News*

After forty years of making a living using words in every medium except greeting cards, Roy Blount Jr. still can't get over his ABCs. In *Alphabet Juice*, he celebrates the juju, the crackle, the sonic and kinetic energies, of letters and their combinations. He has a strong sense of right and wrong, but he is not out to prescribe proper English. His passion is for questions such as these: Did you know that both *mammal* and *matter* derive from baby talk? Have you noticed how *wince* makes you wince?

Three and a half centuries ago, Thomas Blount produced his *Glossographia*, the first dictionary to explore derivations of English words. This Blount's *Glossographia* takes that pursuit to new levels. From sources as venerable as the *OED* and as fresh as *Urbandictionary.com*, and especially from the author's own wide ranging experience, *Alphabet Juice* derives an organic take on language that is unlike, and more fun than, any other.

"Amusing, bemusing, and smart as hell." ?Daniel Okrent, *Fortune*

"Danced in Blount's arms, English swings smartly." ?Jack Shafer, *The New York Times Book Review*

"Gracefully erudite and joyous." ?Katherine A. Powers, *The Boston Sunday Globe*

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