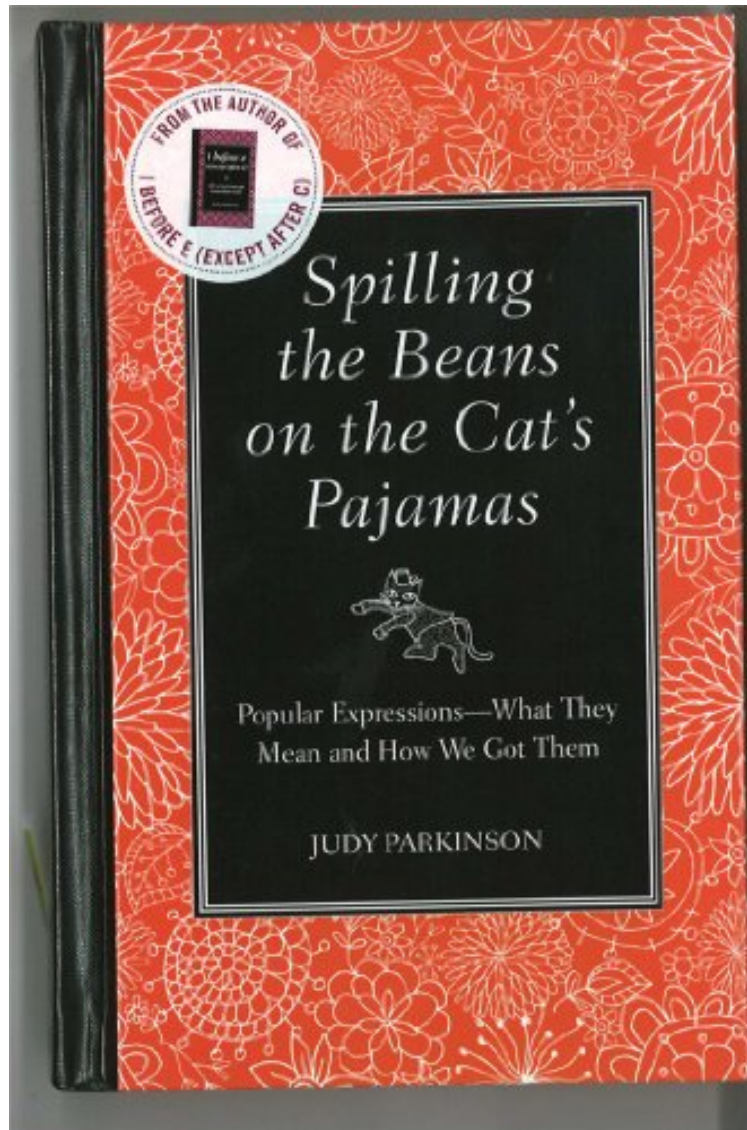


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Spilling the Beans on the Cat's Pajamas: Popular Expressions-What They Mean and How We Got Them

Judy Parkinson

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aloud and quizzing each other before reading the answer. Book was in excellent, really new condition. A great stocking stuffer gift idea or secret pal gift. Plan to order more. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great gift! By dt2008 I bought "A Certain Je Ne Sais Quoi" while on vacation in England, and I was pleased to see the US also has this series of informative English-language books! I got this one as a gift for a friend who speaks English as a second language, and I am sure it will be loved. There are cute doodles and the terms chosen are ubiquitous enough that it will be useful to both native and second-language-learner speakers of English. The binding is very sound, but the cover is a waxy feel hardback, not at all like the lovely, natural cloth binding from the UK-versions of the series--this was slightly disappointing. On a side note, this a great "coffee table" book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My wife and I enjoy the sayings that WE'VE heard all our lives and ... By Toolman Tom My wife and I enjoy the sayings that WE'VE heard all our lives and it's nice to know where they come from.

"Make no bones about it"--here's a "grand slam" for anyone seeking the meanings of catch phrases and quotes that enrich our everyday speech. It "rounds up the usual suspects"--hundreds of expressions that keep our language flourishing--and makes them easy to find in an A-to-Z format. If "all goes according to plan," you'll soon know: The expressions "all that glitters is not gold" and "apple of the eye" have each been in use for more than 1,000 years. "To bark up the wrong tree" comes from the sport of raccoon hunting. "The big enchilada" was used to describe someone on the infamous Watergate tapes. "Flavor of the month" was a generic advertising phrase of the mid-1940s used to describe new ice cream flavors. "Baker's dozen" is 13, one more than the standard dozen, and goes back to medieval times, when Henry III called for the severe punishment of any bakers caught shortchanging customers. English bakers developed the habit of including an extra loaf of bread when asked for a dozen to ensure that they wouldn't be condemned. "Drop of a hat" alludes to the frontier practice of dropping a hat as a signal for a boxing or wrestling match to begin, usually the only formality observed. "Sleep tight" dates back to when beds were made of rope and straw. Before going to sleep at night, people would have to pull the ropes tight, as they would have loosened during the course of the previous night's sleep. With this clever book on hand, you'll never have to "throw in the towel" during a battle of wits. Make this and all of the Blackboard Books(tm) a permanent fixture on your shelf, and you'll have instant access to a breadth of knowledge. Whether you need homework help or want to win that trivia game, this series is the trusted source for fun facts.

About the Author Judy Parkinson is a graduate of Bristol University. She is a producer of documentaries, music videos, and commercials, and won a Clio award for a Greenpeace ad. Parkinson has published four books and has contributed to a show of life drawings at the Salon des Arts, Kensington. She lives in London.