

Have a Nice Day- No Problem! A Dictionary of Clichés

By Christine Ammer


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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

A labor of love by a lexicographer and reference editor, this book examines some 3000 familiar expressions. First, a plain meaning is given for a term, like "singularly rare" for scarce as hen's teeth . Next follow informed remarks on history (sink or swim began as float or sink), though, as the author notes, the derivation of many clichés is unclear. Whether a cliché is still popular or fading is also noted. Examples of use in sources both famous (the Bible, Shakespeare, O. Henry) and obscure (S. Ford's *Inez and Trilby* , 1921) are generous, but out of context these snippets give little feel for actual use. Entries are on average longer than those in Eric Partridge's *Dictionary of Cliches* (Routledge, 1978. 5th ed.) or *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase & Fable* (HarperCollins, 1989. 14th ed.). Recommended for random dipping or quick reference.

- *William A. Donovan, Chicago P.L.*

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