

## What the F: What Swearing Reveals About Our Language, Our Brains, and Ourselves (Hardback)



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## WHAT THE F: WHAT SWEARING REVEALS ABOUT OUR LANGUAGE, OUR BRAINS, AND OURSELVES (HARDBACK)



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INGRAM PUBLISHER SERVICES US, United States, 2016. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Nearly everyone swears, whether it's over a few too many drinks, in reaction to a stubbed toe, or in flagrante delicto. And yet, we sit idly by as words are banned from television and censored in books. We insist that people excise profanity from their vocabularies and we punish children for yelling the very same dirty words that we'll mutter in relief seconds after they fall asleep. Swearing, it seems, is an intimate part of us that we have decided to selectively deny. That's a damn shame. Swearing is useful. It can be funny, cathartic, or emotionally arousing. As linguist and cognitive scientist Benjamin K. Bergen shows us, it also opens a new window onto how our brains process language and why languages vary around the world and over time. In this ground-breaking yet ebullient romp through the linguistic muck, Bergen answers intriguing questions: How can patients left otherwise speechless after a stroke still shout Goddamn! when they get upset? When did a cock grow to be more than merely a rooster? Why is crap vulgar when poo is just childish? Do slurs make you treat people differently? Why is the first word that Samoan children say not mommy but eat shit? And why do we extend a middle finger to flip someone the bird? Smart as hell and funny as fuck, *What the F* is mandatory reading for anyone who wants to know how and why we swear.



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