

# **bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook**

Bill Bryson A Short History of Nearly Everything Audiobook: Exploring the Wonders of Science in an Engaging Way

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook** is a captivating journey through the vast and intricate world of science, presented in a manner that is both accessible and entertaining. For those who have ever felt intimidated by scientific jargon or overwhelmed by the sheer volume of discoveries and inventions over the centuries, this audiobook offers a refreshing perspective. Bill Bryson, known for his witty and approachable writing style, takes listeners on an exploration that spans from the origins of the universe to the complexity of human existence, all while maintaining a conversational tone that invites curiosity and wonder.

## **Why Choose the Bill Bryson Audiobook?**

One of the standout features of the Bill Bryson audiobook version is the way it brings the material to life. Bryson himself narrates the book, which adds a personal touch and an engaging rhythm that can be hard to capture in print. His narration is filled with enthusiasm and subtle humor, making complex topics feel less daunting and more enjoyable. For many, listening to the audiobook while commuting, exercising, or relaxing at home transforms a dense scientific text into an immersive storytelling experience.

## **The Power of Audiobooks in Science Education**

Audiobooks like Bill Bryson's "A Short History of Nearly Everything" serve as excellent tools for science education, especially for auditory learners or people who prefer multitasking. The ability to pause, rewind, or listen multiple times helps in better understanding and retention of information. Moreover, Bryson's approachable narration style helps demystify subjects such as physics, chemistry, geology, and biology, making science feel more relatable and less abstract.

## **What Makes "A Short History of Nearly Everything" Stand Out?**

Bill Bryson's book is unique because it covers an astonishing range of topics, weaving them together with stories about the scientists behind the discoveries. The audiobook delves into everything from the Big Bang and the formation of the Earth to the intricacies of DNA and the vastness of the cosmos. But what truly sets it apart is Bryson's ability to blend facts with anecdotes, humor, and personal reflections, which creates a narrative full of life and character.

## Key Topics Covered in the Audiobook

- **The Origins of the Universe:** Bryson simplifies the Big Bang theory and cosmic evolution in a way that anyone can grasp.
- **The Formation of Earth:** Listeners learn about geological processes, plate tectonics, and the unique conditions that made life possible.
- **Evolution and Biology:** The audiobook explains Darwin's theory of evolution, genetics, and the diversity of life on our planet.
- **Scientific Discoveries and Failures:** Bryson highlights both brilliant successes and amusing missteps in the history of science.
- **The Scale of the Universe:** From the microscopic to the astronomical, the audiobook helps listeners appreciate the vastness and complexity of everything around us.

## The Narration: Bill Bryson's Voice as a Guide

Having Bill Bryson himself narrate the audiobook adds authenticity and warmth. His natural storytelling ability shines through, making the listener feel as if they are on a casual yet enlightening conversation with a knowledgeable friend. The pacing is well-balanced—not too fast to lose details, nor too slow to become tedious. This makes the audiobook suitable for a wide audience, from science enthusiasts to casual listeners.

## Tips for Getting the Most Out of the Audiobook

- **Listen Actively:** Engage with the material by taking notes or pausing to reflect on interesting facts or ideas.
- **Use It as a Supplement:** Consider pairing the audiobook with the printed version or online resources for deeper understanding.
- **Share and Discuss:** Talking about intriguing points with friends or in book clubs can enhance comprehension and enjoyment.
- **Revisit Sections:** Don't hesitate to replay parts that pique your interest or seem complex.

# Availability and Platforms

The Bill Bryson audiobook is widely available on popular platforms such as Audible, Google Play Books, Apple Books, and various library apps like Libby or OverDrive. Many services offer free trials or samples, allowing potential listeners to experience Bryson's engaging narration before committing. Additionally, the audiobook's length is manageable for most listeners, typically spanning around 15 hours, which can be spread out comfortably over days or weeks.

## Who Should Listen to This Audiobook?

The audiobook appeals to a broad audience:

- Students seeking a supplemental resource to understand scientific concepts.
- Curious minds eager to learn about the history and wonders of science without dense textbooks.
- Fans of Bill Bryson's writing style who appreciate humor and storytelling.
- Anyone interested in exploring how the world and universe came to be from a scientific perspective.

## The Impact of "A Short History of Nearly Everything" in Popular Science

Since its original publication, "A Short History of Nearly Everything" has been praised for making science approachable and enjoyable. The audiobook format extends this reach by providing an alternative way to consume and appreciate the material. It has inspired countless listeners to develop a curiosity for science and a deeper appreciation for the complexity of the world. Bryson's work stands as a bridge between academic science and the general public, proving that learning about the universe can be fun and accessible.

Listening to the Bill Bryson A Short History of Nearly Everything audiobook is more than just an educational experience; it's a journey through time, space, and human discovery narrated by one of the most engaging voices in contemporary literature. Whether you are a lifelong science enthusiast or just beginning to explore the wonders of the natural world, this audiobook offers a remarkable way to expand your horizons and satisfy your curiosity.

## Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is 'A Short History of Nearly Everything' by Bill Bryson about?**

Bill Bryson's 'A Short History of Nearly Everything' explores the history of science and the universe, explaining complex scientific concepts in an accessible and engaging way for general readers.

## **Is the audiobook version of 'A Short History of Nearly Everything' narrated by Bill Bryson himself?**

Yes, the audiobook is narrated by Bill Bryson, whose clear and engaging narration adds a personal touch to the listening experience.

## **Where can I listen to the 'A Short History of Nearly Everything' audiobook by Bill Bryson?**

The audiobook is available on platforms like Audible, Google Play Books, Apple Books, and other major audiobook retailers.

## **How long is the audiobook version of 'A Short History of Nearly Everything'?**

The audiobook has a runtime of approximately 15 hours and 30 minutes, allowing for an in-depth exploration of the topics covered.

## **Is 'A Short History of Nearly Everything' suitable for listeners without a science background?**

Yes, Bill Bryson writes in a way that makes complex scientific ideas easy to understand, making the audiobook suitable for listeners with little or no prior science knowledge.

## **Has 'A Short History of Nearly Everything' audiobook received positive reviews?**

Yes, the audiobook has received widespread acclaim for its informative content and Bryson's engaging narration style, making science accessible and entertaining.

## **Are there any notable differences between the audiobook and the print version of 'A Short History of Nearly Everything'?**

The content is largely the same, but the audiobook's narration by Bill Bryson adds tone and emphasis that can enhance the listening experience compared to the print version.

# Additional Resources

Bill Bryson *A Short History of Nearly Everything* Audiobook: A Captivating Journey Through Science

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook** offers listeners an engaging and accessible exploration of science, history, and the universe at large. Bill Bryson, known for his witty and approachable writing style, takes on the ambitious task of explaining complex scientific concepts in a manner that appeals to both laypeople and enthusiasts alike. This audiobook version brings an added dimension to the experience, as Bryson's narration combines clarity with a personable tone, inviting audiences on an immersive educational journey.

The audiobook adaptation of *A Short History of Nearly Everything* is notable not just for its content but also for the way it leverages the audio format's strengths. As the book covers an extensive range of topics—from the Big Bang to quantum mechanics, geology, and biology—the spoken word format enables listeners to absorb intricate material in a more digestible and often entertaining way. The performance enhances the nuances of Bryson's humor and curiosity, which are integral to the book's appeal.

## In-Depth Analysis of Bill Bryson's Audiobook Adaptation

Bill Bryson's *A Short History of Nearly Everything* initially gained acclaim as a written work, praised for demystifying scientific disciplines without sacrificing depth. The transition to audiobook format preserves this balance, while also introducing unique auditory elements that influence how the material is received.

### Content Scope and Structure

The audiobook spans a vast array of scientific fields, including physics, chemistry, paleontology, and cosmology. Bryson covers foundational moments in science, such as the formation of the Earth, the emergence of life, and the development of human understanding. Despite the breadth, the narrative remains cohesive through Bryson's storytelling skills, which connect disparate scientific milestones into an overarching chronicle of discovery.

This extensive scope makes the audiobook a valuable resource for those seeking a broad scientific overview without the intimidation often associated with academic texts. Bryson's ability to translate complex jargon into relatable language is a key strength, particularly for listeners new to these topics.

### Narration and Production Quality

One of the defining features of the *A Short History of Nearly Everything* audiobook is Bill Bryson's own narration. His voice carries a warm, conversational tone that feels both informative and inviting. This personal touch sets the audiobook apart from other science audiobooks that rely on

professional voice actors who may lack the author's intimate connection with the material.

The production quality complements Bryson's narration, with clear sound mixing and pacing that allow the listener to follow dense explanations without feeling overwhelmed. The absence of distracting sound effects or background music keeps the focus firmly on the content, supporting a serious yet accessible tone.

## Comparison with Other Science Audiobooks

When compared to other popular science audiobooks, such as Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time* or Neil deGrasse Tyson's *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry*, Bill Bryson's audiobook stands out for its comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach. While many science audiobooks tend to focus on a single domain, Bryson's work bridges multiple scientific arenas, making it a more expansive learning tool.

Furthermore, the audiobook's narrative style contrasts with more technical or lecture-based science audiobooks. Bryson's storytelling injects humor and human interest stories, making scientific figures and their discoveries more relatable. This approach can be especially appealing to listeners who might find traditional science audiobooks dense or inaccessible.

## Key Features and Benefits of the Audiobook

The *Bill Bryson A Short History of Nearly Everything* audiobook offers several notable advantages that contribute to its popularity among a diverse listenership.

- **Accessibility:** The audiobook makes complex science approachable for audiences without a scientific background.
- **Author Narration:** Bryson's direct involvement as narrator enhances authenticity and engagement.
- **Comprehensive Coverage:** The wide range of topics provides a holistic understanding of science and history.
- **Educational and Entertaining:** The blend of informative content with Bryson's humor maintains listener interest.
- **Flexible Consumption:** Listeners can enjoy the audiobook during commutes, workouts, or leisure time.

## Potential Limitations

No audiobook is without its drawbacks, and *\*A Short History of Nearly Everything\** is no exception. Some listeners may find the sheer volume of information overwhelming, especially in sections dense with scientific terminology or detailed explanations. Additionally, while Bryson's narration is generally engaging, certain listeners might prefer a more dramatized or varied vocal performance to maintain attention over long durations.

Moreover, the audiobook's narrative style occasionally prioritizes storytelling over exhaustive scientific rigor, which may not satisfy listeners seeking an in-depth academic treatment of specific topics.

## **Impact and Reception of the Audiobook**

Since its release, the *\*bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook\** has garnered positive reviews from both casual listeners and critics. It is frequently recommended as an introductory science resource, praised for breaking down barriers that often discourage people from exploring scientific literature.

The audiobook's success has also contributed to renewed interest in scientific literacy and a greater appreciation for the history of scientific discovery. Its approachable style encourages curiosity and provides a foundation for further exploration in specialized fields.

In the broader context of science communication, Bryson's audiobook exemplifies how storytelling can be harnessed to convey complex ideas effectively. It stands as a model for future works aiming to blend education with entertainment in the audio format.

## **Where to Access the Audiobook**

The *\*bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook\** is widely available across major platforms, including Audible, Google Play Books, and Apple Books. Availability in multiple formats, including streaming and downloadable files, ensures accessibility for various user preferences and devices.

Listeners can also find it in public libraries' digital collections via apps such as OverDrive or Libby, broadening access beyond commercial avenues.

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Bill Bryson's audiobook adaptation of *\*A Short History of Nearly Everything\** remains a standout work in the realm of science audiobooks. Its combination of comprehensive content, authorial narration, and engaging storytelling provides an enriching experience. For those seeking to deepen their understanding of science without wading through technical texts, this audiobook offers an inviting gateway into the vast and fascinating world of scientific knowledge.

## **Bill Bryson A Short History Of Nearly Everything Audiobook**

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: A Short History of Nearly Everything** Bill Bryson, 2003-05-06 One of the world's most beloved writers and New York Times bestselling author of *A Walk in the Woods* and *The Body* takes his ultimate journey—into the most intriguing and intractable questions that science seeks to answer. In *A Walk in the Woods*, Bill Bryson trekked the Appalachian Trail—well, most of it. In *A Sunburned Country*, he confronted some of the most lethal wildlife Australia has to offer. Now, in his biggest book, he confronts his greatest challenge: to understand—and, if possible, answer—the oldest, biggest questions we have posed about the universe and ourselves. Taking as territory everything from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization, Bryson seeks to understand how we got from there being nothing at all to there being us. To that end, he has attached himself to a host of the world's most advanced (and often obsessed) archaeologists, anthropologists, and mathematicians, travelling to their offices, laboratories, and field camps. He has read (or tried to read) their books, pestered them with questions, apprenticed himself to their powerful minds. *A Short History of Nearly Everything* is the record of this quest, and it is a sometimes profound, sometimes funny, and always supremely clear and entertaining adventure in the realms of human knowledge, as only Bill Bryson can render it. Science has never been more involving or entertaining.

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: A Really Short History of Nearly Everything** Bill Bryson, 2009-10-27 Explore the mysteries of the universe without ever leaving your home! Bill Bryson takes on the world of science and answers questions big and small, perfect for curious readers looking to learn outside of the classroom! Did you know that: • Every atom in your body has almost certainly passed through several stars and been part of millions of organisms on its way to being you? • If you are an average-sized kid, you have enough potential energy inside you to explode with the force of several hydrogen bombs? And—What happened to dinosaurs? How big is the universe? Why are oceans salty? Is a meteor going to hit us? Tackling everything from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization, Bill Bryson's inimitable storytelling skill makes the why, how, and, just as importantly, the who of scientific discovery entertaining and accessible for young readers.

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: A Short History of Nearly Everything 2.0** Bill Bryson, 2025-10-21 In this fully revised and updated edition of the best-selling popular science book of the 21st century, Bill Bryson makes complex subjects clear and compelling for everyone with an interest in the world around them. NOW FULLY REVISED AND UPDATED. 'Possibly the best scientific primer ever published.' *Economist* 'Truly impressive...It's hard to imagine a better rough guide to science.' *Guardian* Bill Bryson can't contain his curiosity about the world around him. *A Short History of Nearly Everything 2.0* is the result of his quest to understand everything that has happened from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization – how we got from being nothing at all to what we are today. Now fully updated to reflect the many scientific discoveries in the last twenty years since this book was first published, it explains among much else: why Pluto is no longer a planet how the number of moons in the solar system has more than doubled in 20 years how scientists used advances in genetics to discover previously unknown species of early humans why we still don't know what most of the universe is made of how the little Higgs boson transformed physics This journey through time and space will inform a new generation of readers, young and old, as well as those who read this book on first publication with a new perspective based on what we know now. Written in his inimitable style, Bryson makes complex subjects fascinating and accessible to everyone with an interest in the world around them. *A Short History of Nearly Everything 2.0* reveals the world in a whole new way. Praise for *A Short History of Nearly Everything*: 'I doubt that a better book for the layman about the findings of modern science has been written.' *Sunday Telegraph* 'Bill Bryson has an unmatched gift for explaining the most difficult subjects in the clearest possible way.' *Mail on Sunday* 'A travelogue of science, with a witty, engaging, and well-informed



guide' The Times 'Hugely readable and never obfuscating.' Sunday Times 'A genuinely useful and readable book... A thoroughly enjoyable, as well as educational, experience. Nobody who reads it will ever look at the world around them in the same way again' Daily Express 'The very book I have been looking for most of my life... Bryson wears his knowledge with aplomb and a lot of very good jokes.' Daily Mail 'Destined to become a modern classic of science writing' The New York Times

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook:** *A Short History of Nearly Everything - 10th Anniversary Edition* Bill Bryson, 2013 Now revised and updated to take in the major scientific developments of the past decade, *A Short History of Nearly Everything* is Bill Bryson's classic quest to find out everything that has happened from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization - how we got from there, being nothing at all, to here, being us. Winner of the Aventis Prize for Science Books and the Descartes Science Communication Prize, it became a huge bestseller, and remains one of the most popular science books of all time. Bill Bryson's challenge was to take subjects that normally bore the pants off most of us, like geology, chemistry and particle physics, and see if there wasn't some way to render them comprehensible to people who have never thought they could be interested in science. On his travels through time and space, he encounters a splendid collection of astonishingly eccentric, competitive, obsessive and foolish scientists, and takes us on an eye-opening journey through time and space, revealing the world in a way most of us have never seen it before.

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: A Short History of Nearly Everything 2. 0** Bill Bryson, 2025-10-21

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook:** *A Short History of Nearly Everything* Bill Bryson, 2004-09-01 The author traces the Big Bang through the rise of civilization, documenting his work with a host of the world's most advanced scientists and mathematicians to explain why things are the way they are.

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook:** *A Short History of Nearly Everything, Illustrated Edition* Bill Bryson, 2010-10-05 Bill Bryson's quest to understand everything that has happened in the history of the earth, from the Big Bang theory to the rise of civilization and beyond—revised to reflect the last two decades of scientific advancement. How did we get from being nothing at all to where we are today? How did the age of the dinosaurs eventually give way to the age of the iPhone? In this completely revised update to the international phenomenon *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, Bill Bryson returns to answer these questions and many more. Bryson brings a groundbreaking account of life itself to a new generation of readers and wonderers, as he takes subjects often passed off as boring and incomprehensible and renders them accessible, fascinating, and outright amusing to anyone who's ever wondered about the world around them. Introducing readers to a long list of the world's most impressive archaeologists, paleontologists, physicists, astronomers, anthropologists, and mathematicians—from their offices and laboratories to dig sites and field camps—Bryson embarks on a journey to discover answers to the biggest questions about the universe and ourselves. *A Short History of Nearly Everything 2.0* is a profoundly enlightening, surprisingly humorous, and charmingly clever adventure into the realm of human knowledge, as only Bryson can render it. His revamped *Short History* is a thrilling journey through time and space, and his writing will make readers both new and old see the world in a whole new way.

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: Subject Access** Patrice Landry, Leda Bultrini, Edward T. O'Neill, Sandra K. Roe, 2011-06-30 This volume contains the proceedings of a special conference held in Florence, August 2009. The theoretical and methodological aspects of rethinking semantic access to information and knowledge are explored. Innovative projects deployed to cope with the challenges of the future are presented and discussed. This book offers a unique opportunity for librarians and other information professionals to get acquainted with the state of the art in subject indexing.

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: 1,000 Books to Read Before You Die** James Mustich, 2018-10-02 "The ultimate literary bucket list." —THE WASHINGTON POST

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**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: A Short History of Nearly Everything: Special Illustrated Edition** Bill Bryson, 2010-10-05 This new edition of the acclaimed bestseller is lavishly illustrated to convey, in pictures as in words, Bill Bryson's exciting, informative journey into the world of science. In *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, the bestselling author of *A Walk in the Woods* and *The Body*, confronts his greatest challenge yet: to understand—and, if possible, answer—the oldest, biggest questions we have posed about the universe and ourselves. Taking as his territory everything from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization, Bryson seeks to understand how we got from there being nothing at all to there being us. The result is a sometimes profound, sometimes funny, and always supremely clear and entertaining adventure in the realms of human knowledge, as only Bill Bryson can render it. Now, in this handsome new edition, Bill Bryson's words are supplemented by full-color artwork that explains in visual terms the concepts and wonder of science, at the same time giving face to the major players in the world of scientific study. Eloquently and entertainingly described, as well as richly illustrated, science has never been more involving or entertaining.

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: Una breve historia de casi todo. Ilustr** Bill Bryson, 2006-11 Bill Bryson ha logrado lo que parecía imposible: hacer inteligible y entretenido el mundo de la ciencia a millones de personas de todo el mundo. Ahora, en esta nueva espléndida edición ilustrada, los acontecimientos más destacables - desde la Gran Explosión hasta la aparición de la civilización- cobran vida con impresionantes fotografías, dibujos, retratos y viñetas.

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: Kliatt Young Adult Paperback Book Guide**, 2004

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: *The Literary Review***, 2003

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: *At Home*** Bill Bryson, 2010-10-05 In these pages, the beloved Bill Bryson gives us a fascinating history of the modern home, taking us on a room-by-room tour through his own house and using each room to explore the vast history of the domestic artifacts we take for granted. As he takes us through the history of our modern comforts, Bryson demonstrates that whatever happens in the world eventually ends up in our home, in the paint, the pipes, the pillows, and every item of furniture. Bryson has one of the liveliest, most inquisitive minds on the planet, and his sheer prose fluency makes *At Home* one of the most entertaining books ever written about private life.

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: *Media Review Digest*** C. Edward Wall, 2004

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: Una breve historia de casi todo**

Bill Bryson, 2004-09 Bill Bryson se describe como un viajero renuente, pero ni siquiera cuando está en su casa, en la seguridad de su estudio, puede contener esa curiosidad que siente por el mundo que le rodea. En Una breve historia de casi todo, intenta entender qué ocurrió entre la Gran Explosión y el surgimiento de la civilización, cómo pasamos de la nada a lo que ahora somos. Una interesante manera de especular sobre el origen de la especie humana y lo que le rodea.

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook:** *A Short History of Nearly Everything* Bill Bryson, 2011

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: At Home** Bill Bryson, 2013-10-29 Bill Bryson has one of the liveliest, most inquisitive minds on the planet, and *At Home* is likely to become the most illuminating book on the way we lived then and live now--the why and the where and the how of it--ever written. Now, in this handsome new edition, his sparkling prose will be enhanced by some 200 carefully curated full-colour images from both the past and the present. Selected from a staggering array of sources to bring Bill's journey to vivid life, these pictures will make reading *At Home* an immersive experience. When you've finished this book, you will see your house--and your daily life--in a new and revelatory light.

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: Summary of Bill Bryson's A Short History of Nearly Everything** Swift Reads, 2021-02-18 Buy now to get the insights from Bill Bryson's *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. Sample Insights: 1) Protons are an infinitesimal part of an atom. They are so microscopic that about 500,000,000,000 of them could fit in a dot of ink. 2) A universe is created when a proton shrinks down to one billionth of its normal size into a space so small that the proton looks enormous by comparison. This compact space is then packed with every last mote and particle of matter. This is how a universe is created.

**bill bryson a short history of nearly everything audiobook: One Summer** Bill Bryson, 2013-10-01 A Chicago Tribune Noteworthy Book A GoodReads Reader's Choice In *One Summer* Bill Bryson, one of our greatest and most beloved nonfiction writers, transports readers on a journey back to one amazing season in American life. The summer of 1927 began with one of the signature events of the twentieth century: on May 21, 1927, Charles Lindbergh became the first man to cross the Atlantic by plane nonstop, and when he landed in Le Bourget airfield near Paris, he ignited an explosion of worldwide rapture and instantly became the most famous person on the planet. Meanwhile, the titanically talented Babe Ruth was beginning his assault on the home run record, which would culminate on September 30 with his sixtieth blast, one of the most resonant and durable records in sports history. In between those dates a Queens housewife named Ruth Snyder and her corset-salesman lover garroted her husband, leading to a murder trial that became a huge tabloid sensation. Alvin "Shipwreck" Kelly sat atop a flagpole in Newark, New Jersey, for twelve days—a new record. The American South was clobbered by unprecedented rain and by flooding of the Mississippi basin, a great human disaster, the relief efforts for which were guided by the uncannily able and insufferably pompous Herbert Hoover. Calvin Coolidge interrupted an already leisurely presidency for an even more relaxing three-month vacation in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The gangster Al Capone tightened his grip on the illegal booze business through a gaudy and murderous reign of terror and municipal corruption. The first true "talking picture," Al Jolson's *The Jazz Singer*, was filmed and forever changed the motion picture industry. The four most powerful central bankers on earth met in secret session on a Long Island estate and made a fateful decision that virtually guaranteed a future crash and depression. All this and much, much more transpired in that epochal summer of 1927, and Bill Bryson captures its outsized personalities, exciting events, and occasional just plain weirdness with his trademark vividness, eye for telling detail, and delicious humor. In that year America stepped out onto the world stage as the main event, and *One Summer* transforms it all into narrative nonfiction of the highest order.

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