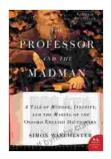
The Professor and the Madman: The Extraordinary True Story Behind the Oxford English Dictionary



The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary by Simon Winchester

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.4 out of 5 : English Language : 4643 KB File size Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled X-Ray : Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 288 pages



The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) is the definitive record of the English language. It contains over 600,000 words and over 2.5 million definitions. The OED is a massive undertaking that has been in progress for over a century. It is a testament to the power of words and the indomitable spirit of the human mind.

The story of the OED is a fascinating one. It began in 1857, when the Philological Society of London decided to create a new dictionary of the English language. The society appointed James Murray, a Scottish philologist, to lead the project. Murray was a brilliant scholar with a passion

for language. He spent the next 37 years of his life working on the OED, and he oversaw the publication of the first edition in 1928.

Murray was assisted by a team of scholars from around the world. One of the most important contributors was William Minor, an American Civil War veteran who was confined to an asylum for the insane. Minor was a brilliant lexicographer, and he contributed over 10,000 words to the OED from his asylum cell. Minor's contributions were essential to the completion of the OED, and he is considered one of the greatest lexicographers of all time.

The Professor and the Madman is a fascinating and inspiring true story about the creation of the Oxford English Dictionary. It is a tale of two extraordinary men: James Murray, the brilliant professor who led the project, and William Minor, the madman who contributed over 10,000 words to the dictionary from his asylum cell. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of language, the power of words, or the indomitable spirit of the human mind.

The Power of Words

The Oxford English Dictionary is a testament to the power of words. Words are the building blocks of language, and they have the power to shape our thoughts, our feelings, and our world. The OED contains over 600,000 words, and each word has a story to tell. The OED is a treasure trove of knowledge, and it is an essential resource for anyone who wants to understand the English language.

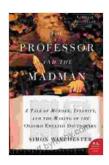
The Professor and the Madman is a story about the power of words. James Murray and William Minor were both passionate about words, and they dedicated their lives to the creation of the OED. Their work has had a

profound impact on the English language, and it continues to inspire people around the world.

The Indomitable Spirit of the Human Mind

The Professor and the Madman is also a story about the indomitable spirit of the human mind. James Murray and William Minor both faced challenges in their lives, but they never gave up on their dreams. Murray overcame poverty and ill health to become one of the greatest philologists of all time. Minor overcame mental illness to become one of the greatest lexicographers of all time. Their stories are a testament to the power of the human mind to overcome adversity.

The Professor and the Madman is a fascinating and inspiring true story. It is a story about the power of words, the indomitable spirit of the human mind, and the importance of never giving up on your dreams.

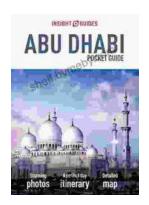


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