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opening extract from

Eats, Shoots & Leaves

written by

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published by

Profile Books

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please print off and read at your leisure.

A panda walks into the library. He eats a sandwich, then draws his bow and shoots two arrows.

"Why did you do that?" asks the librarian as the panda walks toward the exit.

The panda shows her a badly punctuated book. "I'm a panda," he says. "That's what it says we do."

The librarian looks at the page:



PANDA
Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves.

INTRODUCTION

Punctuation marks are the traffic signals of language: they tell us to slow down, notice this, take a detour, or stop.

Of all the punctuation marks, the comma is the most used and misused. Commas can create havoc when they are left out or are put in the wrong spot, and the results of misuse can be hilarious. This little dot with a tail has the power to change the meaning of a sentence by connecting things that shouldn't be connected or breaking apart things that should stay together.

So enjoy laughing at some of the ways commas can change everything!

Lynne Truss

Lynne Truss





Slow, children crossing.



Slow children crossing.



"Go, get him doctors!"



"Go get him, doctors!"