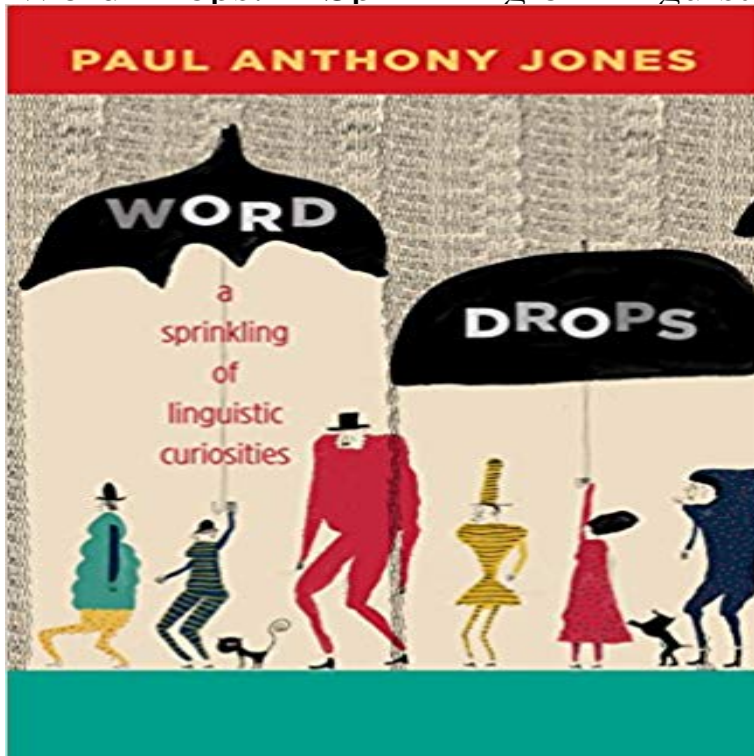


## Word Drops: A Sprinkling of Linguistic Curiosities



From aardvark to zenzizenzizenic, *Word Drops* collects a thousand obscure words and language facts in one fascinating chain of word associations. Did you know, for example, that scandal derives from the Latin for stumbling block and originally described a trap for a wild animal? In nineteenth-century slang a wolf trap was a corrupt casino. Casino means little house in Italian. Roulette means little wheel in French. A wheeler is someone who attends auctions to bid on items merely to increase their sale price. Such links take readers on an unexpected journey through linguistic oddities. Inspired by the popular @HaggardHawks Twitter account, *Word Drops* also uses an intriguing series of annotations to add background and historical context on everything from Anglo-Saxon cures for insanity to Samuel Pepys cure for a hangover. This unique book will delight anyone who loves language, etymology, and word games. ABOUT THE AUTHOR Paul Anthony Jones is the author of *Haggard Hawks* and *Paltry Poltroons: The Origins of English in Ten Words* and *Jedburgh Justice* and *Kentish Fire: The Story of English in Ten Phrases and Expressions*. He lives in Newcastle upon Tyne, in the northeast of England.

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