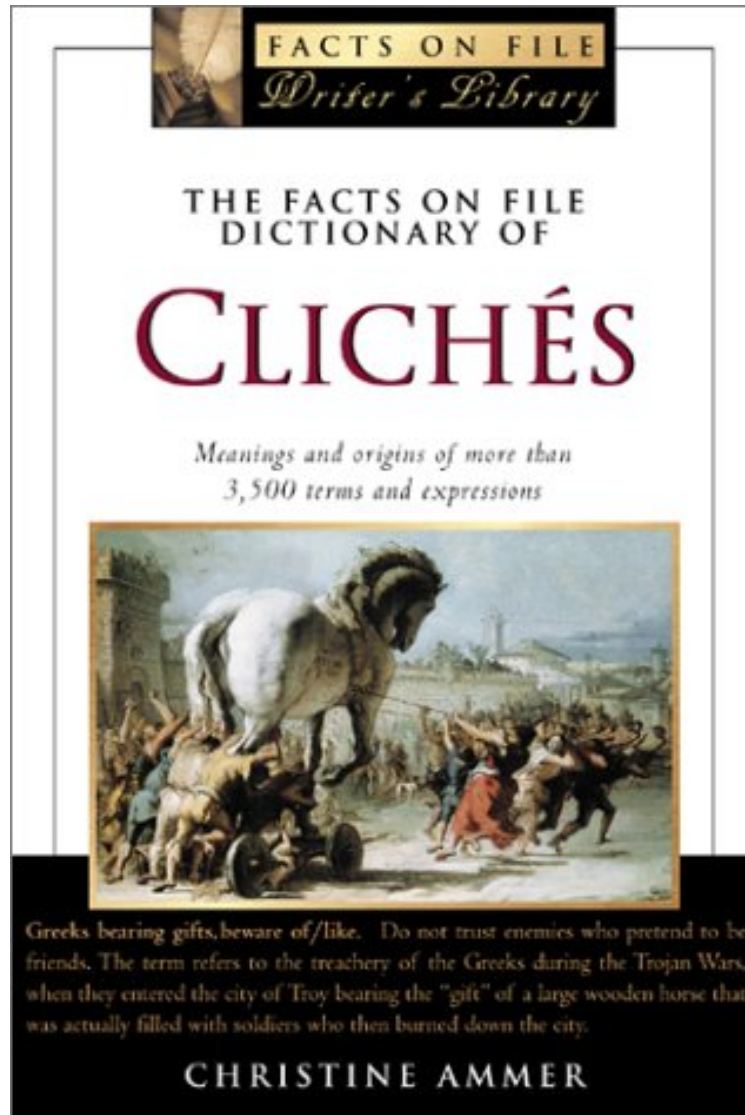


The Facts on File Dictionary of Clichés (The Facts on File Writer's Library)

Christine Ammer

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Christine Ammer : The Facts on File Dictionary of Clichés (The Facts on File Writer's Library) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Facts on File Dictionary of Clichés (The Facts on File Writer's Library):

22 of 23 people found the following review helpful. fine referenceBy audrey francesThis is another fine reference from the Facts on File Writer's Library, and is a terrific resource for writers, readers, students and teachers.Phrases are

listed alphabetically, though alphabetizing phrases can be tricky, and if you can't find a phrase, check out the index at the back of the book. Each entry includes an explanation of its meaning, and most discuss the phrase's origin. The print is clean and I was able to find most of the phrases in which I was interested. Very nice reference. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting, yet lacking in some regards. By David C. Reed. Okay, a comprehensive look at clichés would probably be larger than the OED. However, while there are great items in here, there are certainly some missing that I'd consider in common usage. Still a great book that's always next to my chair for a quick glance at every now and then. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting reference guide. Entries I never would have ... By R. Martin. Very interesting reference guide. Entries I never would have thought cliché are and a couple clichés I thought should have been included weren't. Over all, it's detailed and defines the clichés.

From "beware of Greeks bearing gifts" to "sink or swim", this dictionary of clichés explains the meanings and origins of more than 3000 clichés and common expressions. Drawing from a wide range of sources, including the Bible, Shakespeare, and other works of literature, this book details the meaning of the cliché or expression, its source, early uses, the history of the phrase over time, and its level of use in contemporary English. Sample entries include: "been there done that" - a phrase from the mid-eighties to express world-weariness, boredom, or empathy; "get a life" - a contemporary way of telling someone to find their own interests, social life, or concerns; and "in your face" - a rude confrontational expression of extreme contempt that originated in 1970s basketball.

From Library Journal. Lexicographer Ammer (*American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms*) here offers a revised edition of her *Have a Nice Day No Problem: A Dictionary of Cliches* (LJ 1/92). The update, which includes about 500 more entries, offers the meanings and origins of some 3500 expressions along with sources, histories of usage over time, and levels of use today. The volume includes such recent additions as "get a life," "been there, done that," and "push the envelope" as well as old favorites like the recently resurrected "united we stand," which the author traces back to Chaucer. The index is helpful in locating entries for expressions subsumed under similar sayings, and cross references are found in the text as well. While several resources on clichés are currently available (e.g., Nigel Rees's *Cassell's Dictionary of Cliches*, LJ 5/15/97), this one stands apart for the large number of citations. Given the speed with which language develops, newer publications of this sort are always welcome. Recommended for academic and public libraries. Denise J. Stankovics, Rockville P.L., Vernon, CT. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.