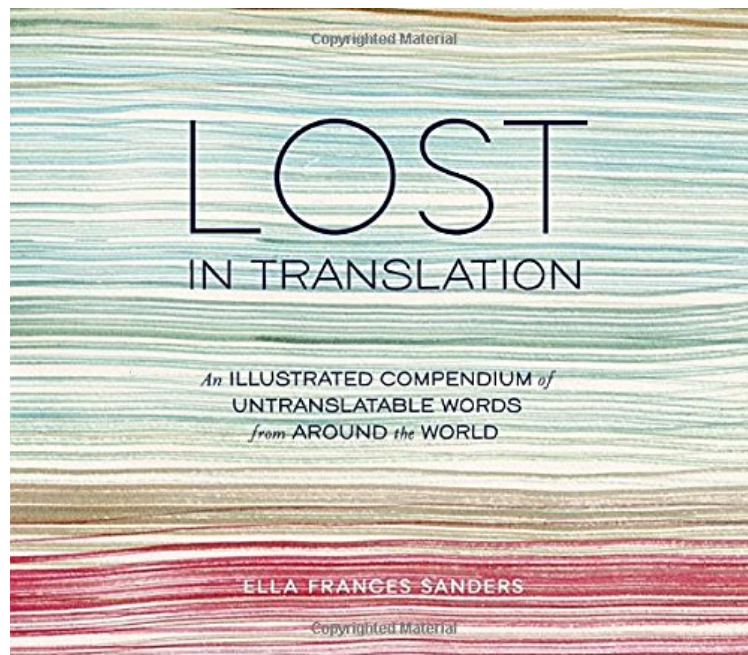


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## Lost in Translation: An Illustrated Compendium of Untranslatable Words from Around the World

*Ella Frances Sanders*

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**Ella Frances Sanders : Lost in Translation: An Illustrated Compendium of Untranslatable Words from Around the World** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Lost in Translation: An Illustrated Compendium of Untranslatable Words from Around the World*:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Terrific Stocking Stuffer for Language Mavens By Anne Mills As the title says, there are some words that can't be fitted into a one word definition in any language but their own. This book provides a delightful assortment of such treasures. The selection is terrific (most of these are really interesting words), the (multiword) definitions are illuminating, and the pictures are charming. A few of the words are moving into my permanent vocabulary: how about "kummerspeck" (weight gained from emotional overeating), or "komorebi" (sunlight shining through leaves)? 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I was a little disappointed in the quality/content By kellyk I was a little disappointed in the quality/content. I had higher hopes after reading some of the other (rave) reviews. It's okay. Functions as a mediocre coffee table book. Would not recommend. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. It is a good idea for a book By Customer It is a good idea for a book. However several defects. The calligraphy is not very good, it could have been better. It would have been nice to have some history of the words, set the environment,... All in all I wouldn't recommend it.

An artistic collection of more than 50 drawings featuring unique, funny, and poignant foreign words that have no direct translation into English. Did you know that the Japanese language has a word to express the way sunlight filters through the leaves of trees? Or that there's a Finnish word for the distance a reindeer can travel before needing to rest?

Lost in Translation brings to life more than fifty words that don't have direct English translations with charming illustrations of their tender, poignant, and humorous definitions. Often these words provide insight into the cultures they come from, such as the Brazilian Portuguese word for running your fingers through a lover's hair, the Italian word for being moved to tears by a story, or the Swedish word for a third cup of coffee. In this clever and beautifully rendered exploration of the subtleties of communication, you'll find new ways to express yourself while getting lost in the artistry of imperfect translation.

A New York Times bestseller. "...a fantastic collection of words without English counterparts." -- Entertainment Weekly "...a collection of words you never knew you needed before." -- Huffington Post will make you think, laugh and discover situations you never knew there was a word for. ELLE Canada Charming illustrations and sheer linguistic delight Maria Popova, Brain Pickings About the Author ELLA FRANCES SANDERS is a twenty-something writer and illustrator who intentionally lives all over the place, most recently Morocco, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland. She likes to create books with real pages while drawing freelance things for charming people, and she is not afraid of questions or bears. You can find her at [ellafrancesanders.com](http://ellafrancesanders.com). Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

Introduction How do you introduce the untranslatable? In our highly connected and communicative world, we have more ways than ever to express ourselves, to tell others how we feel, and to explain the importance or insignificance of our days. The speed and frequency of our exchanges leave just enough room for misunderstandings, though, and now perhaps more than ever before, what we actually mean to say gets lost in translation. The ability to communicate more frequently and faster hasn't eliminated the potential for leaving gaps between meaning and interpretation, and emotions and intentions are misread all too often. The words in this book may be answers to questions you didn't even know to ask, and perhaps some you did. They might pinpoint emotions and experiences that seemed elusive and indescribable, or they may cause you to remember a person you'd long forgotten. If you take something away from this book other than some brilliant conversation starters, let it be the realization (or affirmation) that you are human, that you are fundamentally, intrinsically bound to every single person on the planet with language and with feelings. As much as we like to differentiate ourselves, to feel like individuals and rave on about expression and freedom and the experiences that are unique to each one of us, we are all made of the same stuff. We laugh and cry in much the same way, we learn words and then forget them, we meet people from places and cultures different from our own and yet somehow we understand the lives they are living. Language wraps its understanding and punctuation around us all, tempting us to cross boundaries and helping us to comprehend the impossibly difficult questions that life relentlessly throws at us. Languages aren't unchanging, though they can sometimes hold a false sense of permanence. They do evolve and occasionally die, and whether you speak a few words of one or a thousand words of many, they help to shape us; they give us the ability to voice an opinion, to express love or frustration, to change someone's mind. For me, making this book has been more than a creative process. It's caused me to look at human nature in an entirely new way, and I find myself recognizing these nouns, adjectives, and verbs in the people I walk by on the street. I see *boketto* in the eyes of an old man sitting at the ocean's edge, and the *resfeber* that has taken over the hearts of friends as they prepare to journey across the world to an unknown culture. I hope this book helps you find a few long-lost parts of yourself, that it brings to mind fond memories, or that it helps put into words thoughts and feelings that you could never clearly express before. Perhaps you'll find the word that perfectly describes your second cousin once removed, the way you felt two summers ago that you were never able to fully describe, or the look in the eyes of the person sitting across from you right now. Eckhart Tolle wrote, "Words reduce reality to something the human mind can grasp, which isn't very much." I'm hesitant to agree. Words allow us to grasp and hold onto an extraordinary amount. Sure, all languages can be picked apart and reduced to just a few vowels or symbols or sounds, but the ability that language gives us is incredibly complex. There may be some small essential gaps in your mother tongue, but never fear: you can look to other languages to define what you're feeling, and these pages are your starting point. So go and get lost in translation.