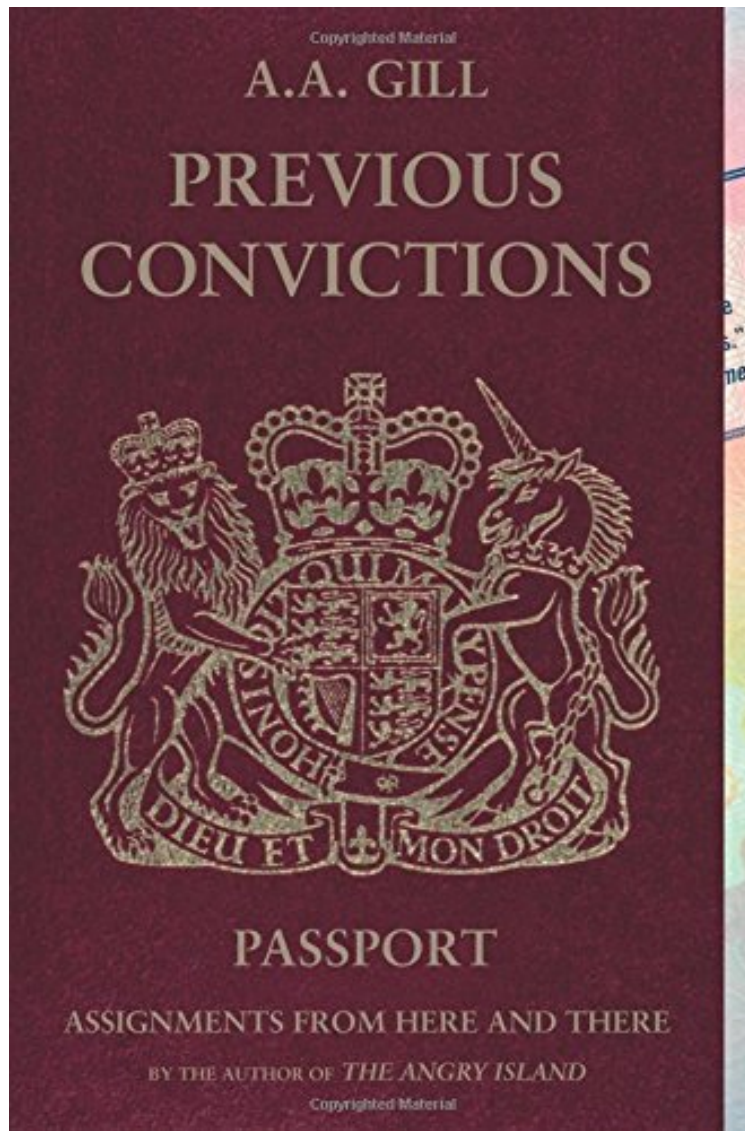


(Download pdf) Previous Convictions: Assignments from Here and There

## Previous Convictions: Assignments from Here and There

A.A. Gill

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#732997 in Books Simon n Schuster 2008-06-10 2008-06-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.44 x .90 x 5.50l, .70 #File Name: 141657249X320 pages | File size: 57.Mb

**A.A. Gill : Previous Convictions: Assignments from Here and There** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Previous Convictions: Assignments from Here and There:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great insight, fine writingBy All About TasteSorry I hadn't discovered this writer sooner. Outstanding wordsmith, great descriptions, gave me a new understanding of the issues in some of the places where he'd been posted.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. too much Jeremy Clarkson in itBy Wild Thing FoodieThe author is a good observer and good with words. I enjoy his travel articles every month in the Australian Gourmet Traveler - hence I bought this book. I wanted to give it 3.5 stars, and not 4,

because there is too much about Jeremy Clarkson in it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A.A. Gill's "Previous Convictions" By Hilary Blythe I have owned this book for several years and, on re-reading it decided to send it as a gift to my son who is widely travelled and who I knew would find it interesting. So I did and he did.

Critic, essayist and cultural savant A.A. Gill is probably the most widely read columnist in Britain. His books *The Angry Island* and *A.A. Gill is away* have found delighted fans in America as well, and sparked a loyal following. His new book of travel essays, *Previous Convictions*, ranges from Gill's nearby domestic locales of Glastonbury and the English countryside to Haiti, Guatemala, Pakistan and exotic, dangerous, downtown Manhattan. In this collection of notes from the corners of the globe, and sometimes from the edge of sanity, he confesses about his travels far and wide, "The more I see of the world, the less I think I understand. Familiarity breeds even more astonishment. The world just gets wider and deeper and weirder." These pieces are wickedly funny, sometimes pointedly -- even purposely -- critical of many cultures and traditions, and always edifying and enchanting. As an adventurer and as a writer, Gill never disappoints; while he may take others to task for their customs, habits, idiosyncrasies and plain bad taste, his own indefatigable curiosity keeps him going back again and again for more, and provides us with spectacular entertainment along the way.

From Publishers Weekly In this boisterous, profane and unfortunately lopsided travelogue, British author and columnist Gill (*The Angry Island*) unleashes caustic opinions from 32 spots, both "Here" (the UK) and "There" (everywhere else). From Haiti to Oman, Brazil to Vietnam, Gill's vivid, vigorous prose--especially in his uproarious verb choices--enchants and enthralls. The author's powers of description are also keen, transporting readers to the "brilliant, benighted, argumentative, inspiring" Calcutta, as well as the "stamped on, bitten, battered and clawed" post-war Baghdad. At times Gill becomes preachy ("Travel should question, not confirm"), and occasionally offensive ("What's in it for female suicide bombers? The promise of seventy adolescent virgin blokes?"), but he also educates from the less-traveled corners of the world (Pakistan, Sudan, Greenland and others), albeit with a guilty sense of awareness. As a whole, Gill is far more interesting when reporting from "There," demanding careful attention from an international audience; dispatches from "Here," though they may appeal to a British audience, don't quite measure up. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "The Angry Island: Hunting the English [is] acerbic and very funny...while I remain unsure I would like Mr. Gill if I met him, I enjoyed his takes on such English traits." -- James Srodes, *The Washington Times* "[A] hilarious series of field notes...Mr. Gill's rants can produce a genuine high...The fun lies in wondering which next innocuous comment will cause him to blow his top." -- Richard B. Woodward, *The New York Times* "The Angry Island: Hunting the English [is] acerbic and very funny...while I remain unsure I would like Mr. Gill if I met him, I enjoyed his takes on such English traits." -- James Srodes, *The Washington Times* "[A] hilarious series of field notes...Mr. Gill's rants can produce a genuine high...The fun lies in wondering which next innocuous comment will cause him to blow his top." -- Richard B. Woodward, *The New York Times*