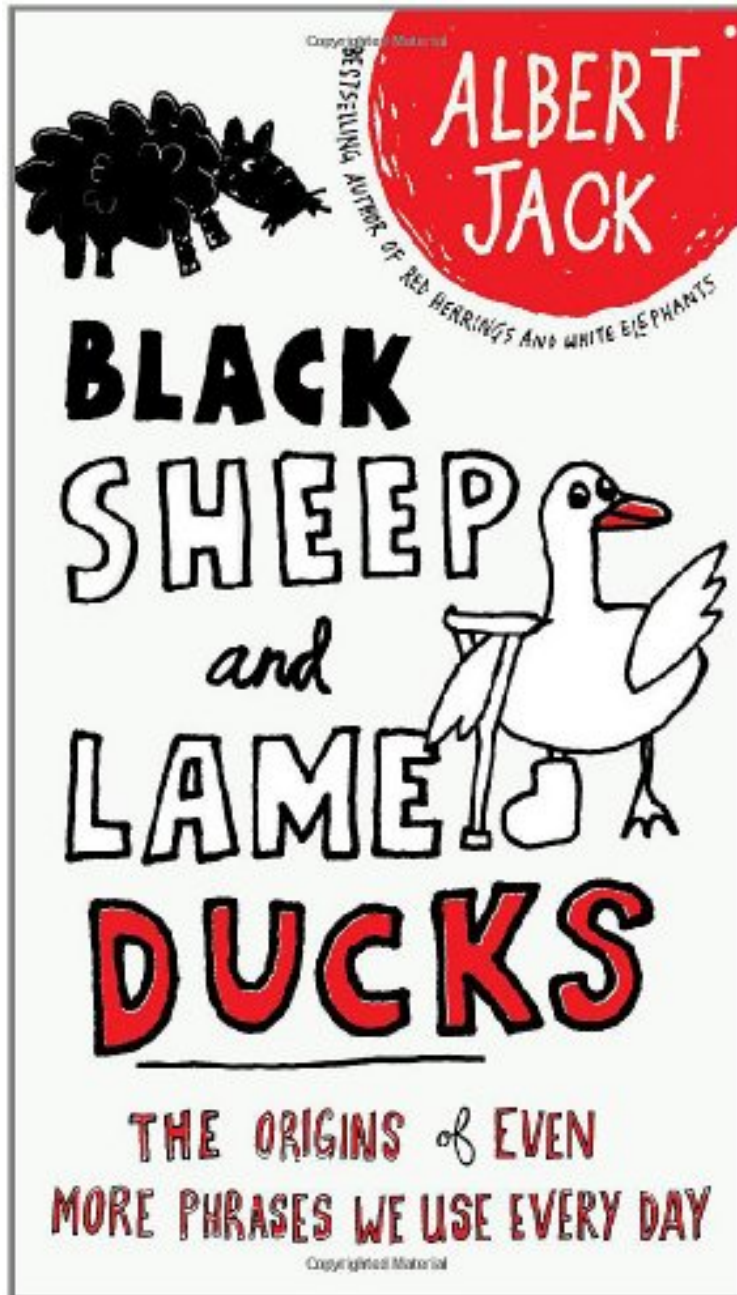


(Free) Black Sheep and Lame Ducks: The Origins of Even More Phrases We Use Every Day

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Albert Jack

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purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Black Sheep and *Lame Ducks: The Origins of Even More Phrases We Use Every Day*:

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The fun and fascinating follow-up to the international bestseller *Red Herrings and White Elephants* Why do people put their "skeletons in a closet," "have a hunch," "get the cold shoulder," "get dressed up to the nines," or "call a spade a spade?" These phrases are used every day, yet most people have little or no idea where most of them come from. In *Black Sheep and Lame Ducks*, Albert Jack takes readers on a journey through the curious- and often bizarre-origins of hundreds of their favorite idioms and expressions. For example, "wearing your heart on your sleeve" comes from the Middle Ages, when a lady would "give her heart" in the form of a handkerchief pinned to the sleeve of a knight who was about to go into battle. And calling someone the "black sheep in the family" refers to a thousands- year-old belief that a black lamb in a flock was unpopular because its fleece was undyeable and therefore less valuable. With *Black Sheep and Lame Ducks*, any language-lover can feel like a "Smart Aleck"-and also know exactly who that was.

About the AuthorAlbert Jack's *Red Herrings and White Elephants* was a huge international hit and was on the bestsellers list for sixteen months. His second, *Shaggy Dogs and Black Sheep* was another success: selling over 70,000 copies. He is also the author of *That's Bollocks!* (all the strangest, sickest, funniest and most unforgettable urban legends as told in Jack's inimitable style) and Albert Jack's *Ten-Minute Mysteries*.