

Beyond Words

What is language, really? Where did it come from, and how did we figure it out? How do babies go from babbling to speaking full sentences? Why can some people juggle multiple languages, while others wrestle with one? How does language work, and what happens when it doesn't? With sharp insight and a sense of humor, Stollznow dives into the strange and endlessly fascinating world of language and the mind. From animal communication to AI, wild children to word slips, and first words to last, this book takes you deep into the science of psycholinguistics, where nothing is ever simple, and everything speaks volumes. Packed with pop culture, real-life cases, and eye-opening experiments, *Beyond Words* reveals how we learn, use, and lose language, and what it all says about being human. If you've ever fumbled for a word or feared forgetting your own name, this thoughtful, surprising book is for you.

Dr. Karen Stollznow is a linguist, researcher, and podcaster. She's the author of *Bitch: The Journey of a Word*; *On the Offensive: Prejudice in Language Past and Present*; *Missed Conceptions: How We Make Sense of Infertility*; and *Language Myths, Mysteries, and Magic*. Karen is a Host of Monster Talk and a Visiting Scholar at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Beyond Words

How We Learn, Use, and Lose Language

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For my son, Blade, who has taught me more about language
than any book ever could, and for my parents, who gave me
language and showed me what it means to lose it.

With all my love, this is for you.

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