[Review of] Take My Word for It

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Safire has culled a new collection from his New York Times columns wherein he (often humorously) comments on the use and misuse of the English language (including its etymology, jargon, slang, and style). Following the format and arrangement of his three previous collections, On Language, What's the Good Word, and I Stand Corrected, Safire includes readers' letters that correct, clarify, and expand upon his own observations. If this volume is indexed as well as the previous three, it will be a useful reference tool as well as a delightful book to browse or read cover-to-cover for all who love words and enjoy the subtle distinctions noted by a keen eye and ear. A cumulative index in a future collection would be a nice addition.—Robert Aken, Univ. of Kentucky Libs., Lexington