

# The world of Lynne Truss, writer

**L**ynne Truss, 54, is best known for *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, her book about punctuation, which has sold more than three million copies and been translated into eight languages. Her latest book, *Get Her Off the Pitch!* (Fourth Estate), is about her four years as a sports writer – despite knowing little, if anything, about sport beforehand. Her comedy series, *The Adventures of Inspector Steine*, is on Radio 4 on Fridays. She lives with her Norfolk terrier, Hoagy, in London and Brighton.

**Eye-opener** I am never awake very early – 8am is the earliest. Then I like to spend some time snoozing. It is possibly the loveliest experience, being half awake and thinking about all the things I've been dreaming

about. I often find that if I am in the middle of writing something I can also sort out any problems with the piece while I'm snoozing. Snooze time is a very creative time.

**Morning routine** Everything revolves around Hoagy now. I've had him for eight weeks. My main concern in the morning is getting out of the house to take him for a walk, in some sort of order, so people won't throw things at me because I look so disgusting. I try to do my routine of shower, dressed and out the door as quickly as possible.

**Dog tricks** Hoagy was bred to be a show dog, but he is not because he has slightly wonky teeth.

**Hoagy was bred to be a show dog, but he is not because he has wonky teeth**

Carroll, the painter GF Watts and Ellen Terry when she was 16. It is a comic novel about love and yearning set in the summer of 1864 on the Isle of Wight, and it is my baby.

**Fan mail** Lots of people seemed personally moved by



*Eats, Shoots & Leaves* and I was sent many letters and gifts. Part of the conceit of the book was to give sad sticklers a friend. The best thing I received was some wooden punctuation marks (pictured) from a man in South Carolina.

**Souvenir** In *Eats, Shoots & Leaves* I wrote about a restaurant in Reims called L'Apostrophe, which used to be a print works, and I got to go there to celebrate selling 100,000 copies. I brought home a champagne flute with

**I don't know my ancestors at all, so I like to think of this as my family portrait**

the logo (pictured overleaf), though I think the waiter made us pay for it.

**Childhood ambition** I always thought about writing when I was growing up. I came from a working-class family,



but writing was always something to aspire to. We all read a lot and my father would say things like, 'I'll use that one day, when I write my book.' I didn't own many books, but took a lot out from the library.

