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Quotidiana

Patrick Madden

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\$23.95 hardcover
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Book Synopsis:

Reflecting on Montaigne, Virginia Woolf remarked, “The most common actions—a walk, a talk, solitude in one’s own orchard—can be enhanced and lit up by the association of the mind.” In *Quotidiana*, Patrick Madden illuminates these common actions and seemingly commonplace moments, making connections that revise and reconfigure the overlooked and underappreciated.

Author Web site:

www.quotidiana.org

Book Description

Reflecting on Montaigne, Virginia Woolf remarked, “The most common actions—a walk, a talk, solitude in one’s own orchard—can be enhanced and lit up by the association of the mind.” In *Quotidiana*, Patrick Madden illuminates these common actions and seemingly commonplace moments, making connections that revise and reconfigure the overlooked and underappreciated.

Focusing on the search—for meaning, for approximate knowledge, for hints and intimations of the larger world—Madden ponders the finite by counting fruit at the local supermarket or estimating the number of grains of sand on the earth or celebrating linguistic and grammatical miscalculations. He muses on the origins of human language, the curative properties of laughter, and the joys and woes of fatherhood. Sparked by considerations of selling garlic, washing grapes, changing a diaper, or chipping a tooth, his essays are an antidote to the harried hullabaloo of talk-show and tabloid culture—and a reminder that we are surrounded by wonders that whisper to the curious and attentive.

Ingenuous and erudite, with a beguiling wit, Madden weaves an intricate tapestry of ordinary life in its extraordinary patterns. His book is a poetic and engaging exploration of the unexpectedly wide scope of our everyday existence.

Pre-Publication Praise

“Patrick Madden has a footloose, restless, well-stocked mind, sometimes maddening but always quite interesting; he gleefully demonstrates what Montaigne claimed: an essay is the best way to show that everything is connected to everything else.”—Phillip Lopate, editor of *The Art of the Personal Essay*

“Patrick Madden is an essayist of verve, passion, wit, and dependable moral compass. *Quotidiana* drew me in powerfully, from page to page and from pleasure to pleasure.”—Ian Frazier, author of *Lamentations of the Father*

“Learned and lighthearted, eloquent and eccentric, cheerful and nutty and utterly fresh, Patrick Madden appears to have absorbed the salt and song of every fine essayist since Plutarch died, and he smoothly manages to cram an immense amount of math, science, biography, song, comparative religion, American history, Uruguayan history, and much else, without ever getting pedantic or dull, which is an amazing thing.”—Brian Doyle, author of *Leaping*

“*Quotidiana* puts the post in postmodern. It’s not the next best thing but the best next thing, a truly creative creative nonfiction book. Patrick Madden has constructed a text ripe for the authorial reader’s arrangement of meaning. . . . Everything gleams like the center of some sun and, at the same time, collapses into the foil of the blackest of black holes. The book is a remarkable achievement of complex simplicity and elegant confusion.”—Michael Martone, author of *Racing in Place*

Post-Publication Praise

Please visit this book's [Web page](http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Quotidiana,674205.aspx) (<http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Quotidiana,674205.aspx>) for the most current post-publication praise.

Author Biography

PHOTO BY GREG DEAKINS



Patrick Madden is an assistant professor of English at Brigham Young University. His essays have appeared in the *Iowa Review*, *Portland Magazine*, *Fourth Genre*, *Hotel Amerika*, and other journals, as well as in the *The Best Creative Nonfiction* and *The Best American Spiritual Writing* anthologies. Visit his Web site www.quotidiana.org.

Additional Information

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