


Arboretum

David Byrne

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For over twenty-five years, David Byrne has focused his unique genius upon forms as diverse as disco, architectural photography, and PowerPoint. Now he presents what may be his most personal work to date, a collection of drawings and diagrams mapping the strange corners of his mental landscape. It's an eclectic blend of faux science, automatic writing, satire, and an attempt to find connections where none were thought to exist—a sort of self-therapy, allowing the hand to say what the voice cannot. Irrational logic, it's sometimes called. It's the application of logical scientific rigor and form to basically irrational premises. To proceed, carefully and deliberately, from nonsense, with a straight face, often arriving at a new kind of sense. The world keeps opening up, unfolding, and just when we expect it to be closed--to be a sealed, sensible box--it shows us something completely surprising.

Byrne's enigmatic, enchanting collection teaches us that there is absolutely no reason to discount anything, of any type, anywhere.

Arboretum Details

Date : Published August 25th 2006 by McSweeney's

ISBN : 9781932416572

Author : David Byrne

Format : Hardcover 192 pages

Genre : Art, Music, Nonfiction, Sequential Art, Graphic Novels

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From Reader Review Arboretum for online ebook

Kcheng11 says

Pencil tree diagram sketches

Rtm Taylor-Manning says

Fun!

Elle says

David Byrne's analyzation of everyday life is hilariously absurd and also thought provoking. I love his generalizing, objectifying, overlapping, and metaphorizing of all activities, things, and feelings involved with the human experience. Although I enjoyed the drawings, I don't think I would have made much sense of them or liked them as much without the descriptions in the back of the book. It's mostly ridiculous, but now and then he really makes a convincing point that all we are and believe in IS mostly ridiculous.

Aaron the Pink Donut says

Weird great stuff. Flow charts of human behavior shape like huge root and plant systems.

Natalie says

diagrams + poetry = surreal art. Really lovely book.

Max says

One day I hope to be famous enough so my simple doodles can fetch lots of money in pretty journal form.

AGustavia says

I am a huge fun of mind mapping and what a woot to see Daviid Byrnes take on it

Stephen says

Delightfully strange.

Emily says

I love looking at things in new ways.

Rebekah Boisvert says

Well, I just love this kind of thing.

Clark Knowles says

Quite a strange and funny little book of lists and diagrams. As he does with his music, Byrne mixes the commonplace with the philosophical. Changed my hairstyle so many times/ I don't know what I look like.

sarah says

Beautiful tiny drawings of trees and charts and words made with one of those yellow mechanical pencils you sharpen by turning the tip. I have no idea why I find it so compelling.

Mario says

a really really beautiful book. it is a treasure to hold and a pleasure to leaf through.

DRM says

Also given to me for Christmas last year by my lady (they must have been having a 2 for 1 sale at Byrne-mart). A big essentially unedited sketchbook of all sorts of free associative hierarchies and other such wacky thoughts floating around Byrne's head (smudge marks included). Fun to flip through and chuckle in moderation, fits nicely on any coffee table.

Jacob says

Weirdly compelling artwork / poetry. Hard to define, but it seems that someone just stuck David Byrne in a room with a pencil and paper and said "Go".
