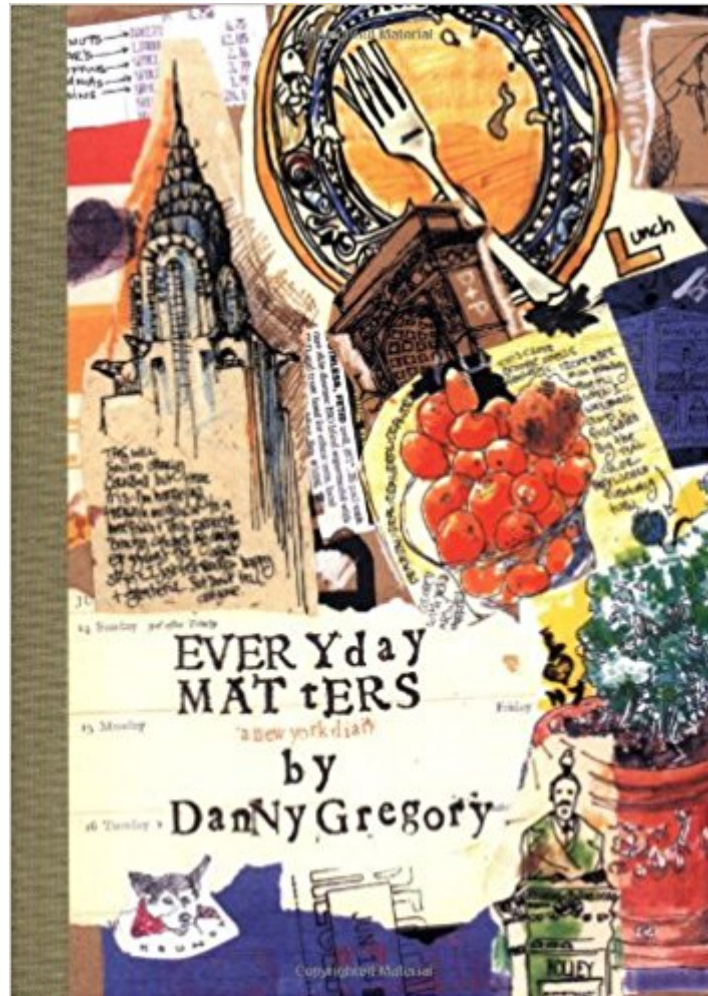




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# Everyday Matters



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## Synopsis

"Two years before I started drawing, my wife was run over by a subway train. Sounds really terrible, I know. But, well, this book is about how art and New York City saved my life." When Danny Gregory's wife was severely injured, his life was changed in an instant. Searching about for meaning for what had happened to his little family, he began to create a richly illustrated journal of his life. Gregory is driven to record and comment on every aspect of his life, from dirty dishes to cathedrals, from hospital wards to life-drawing classes, from brunch with Hell's Angels to book shopping at the Strand. This unique book chronicles his discovery of drawing, his wife's rehabilitation, his son's infancy, and the life of the city he loves. Funny, bittersweet, romantic, and perverse, *Everyday Matters* is an inspiration, an invitation to look for the beauty and significance in the details of our daily lives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"...a slow-food sketchbook of the soul of a husband and caregiver..." -- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, March 29, 2003  
"The best real diary—a graphic memoir to be precise—found unlocked in bookstores now is Danny Gregory's 'Everyday Matters.'" -- The National Post (CA)  
At times heartbreaking, but more often uplifting... a must for anyone searching to reconnect with a lost inner artist. -- Creative Loafing  
Gregory's eloquent tone and obvious devotion to his family and art convey extraordinary poise and humility. -- Gotham Magazine  
This poignant journal about life after the accident is nothing short of inspiring. -- The Greenwich Citizen

Danny Gregory lives in New York City.

Very touching story about how his family unit was changed by his wife's unfortunate accident. His drawings/sketches are expressive and demonstrate a style that I really enjoy and will try to mimic on my own. I liked that this was not a "how-to" book, but still it visually shows a drawing style, from a simple doodle, to more completed drawings (with watercolor), how the reader could learn to draw. Love this little book!

I liked it. I was drawn in by the story of why he went into drawing that I read in the preview (his wife getting into an accident) but I felt the book focused on the repetitive theme of how drawing helped him cope .... and that he recommends it. That's great buuuut I felt the story only hit the surface of what was going on. I wasn't expecting great literature but I felt there was so much missing, so many more questions about the accident, about everyday life after the accident. In the book, he said things changed after his wife's accident, they did things differently - well how did you do them differently? On the other hand, this is the first sketchbook I ever bought (although I have bought graphic novels before). Perhaps the focus is on the sketches. In which case, I'm not sure I'd've bought it. The sketches were nice, just not sure it would draw me in enough to make a purchase.

Everything about this book, from its honesty to the strength in vulnerability, is gorgeous. This book is like a small paper friend, one that encourages you, gives you hope, makes you smile and gives you a quiet, full appreciation of the lives we have. I've read it so slowly because I want to savor it. Danny Gregory also gave me "permission" with this book to draw - scribble, doodle, scrawl - in my own journals. It's one of the books I keep close on my shelf and close to my heart.

I was not expecting anything when I started this book...frankly, I'm not sure I remember ordering it. In any event, the parallels between this graphic memoir and my own life make this book read more like an answered prayer than merely another memoir. I take that last part back. It's not just that the author's experiences mirror my own life that makes this book notable. Rather, it's that Gregory manages to capture his own HUMANITY...without resorting to irony or the manufactured self-deprecation that seems to plague the modern memoir that makes this book so notable. I mean, finally!, someone has managed to write an HONEST memoir, one that does not require an attorney's Release of the Facts as a prologue. "Everyday Matters" reads like a private journal,

without the pretention that comes when the author knows other folks'll be reading it. Gregory's sketches are likewise uninhibited and imperfect; together, the text and illustrations create a personal, intimate environment for the reader that is inviting and judgment-free; none of the "You shouldn't have looked (though I knew you would, so I gave you my best side)" business that is the meta-text of so many memoirs, but instead offers a reassuring, "Well, that's me, hair and all...what do you think?" A thoughtful, generous gift from Gregory to his readers.

It's not all the time we get to see a book which illustrates what the author is telling us in self study and learning. In this book I believe we are allowed this opportunity. A tragedy becomes something larger to those involved and everyone becomes something larger than they might have expected through events. That is not to say we should hope for something "painful" to occur to truly bring out our character, our core being - from which we grow, learn and decide. In this case an event caused this. The result appears to have produced a catharsis of imagination and an eventual growth, a tightening of the family, and as a result the contents of this book. *It and The Creative License...* Are well worth the reading, viewing and trying.

Reading his book got me to start doing some sketching around the house. The view to the kitchen, the dog and the cat. I don't think I'd draw the medicine chest - some things seem too banal to bother. But, it's all good practice in seeing because in order to get better at drawing you have to draw even when the subject is not inspiring. It's still a long way to warm weather and beautiful outdoor scenes. The act of making art is a tension reliever and meditative. Like the mantra of some people today - "It's all good". Danny Gregory shows that everybody has a worthwhile view and a story to show and to tell.

I absolutely love this book. Go through it fast because you want to take in all the awesome drawings and colors that Danny Gregory puts in this book. Then, go through it much slower. Savor each page, take in the tiny details, the way he portrays colors so fluidly, how he relies on a loose sketch form that just adds full heart into his work - and the best part, is Danny draws everyday things. There truly is beauty in the most ordinary thing. And Danny shows us that through his eyes his life around him is beautiful. I only gave it 4 stars was because I had hoped that there was more of the book in general, but more on his beginnings. He said that he had only recently started drawing, but his "rudimentary" skills are far more better than mine. But, he's been at this old drawing thing for longer than me. Just keep on keepin' on!

The book is so nice to read. I was so excited to get it that when it did finally come I sat down as soon as I got home and read the whole thing in one go. I really think that when I am in a creative rut - this will help! I am excited to NEED the inspiration so that I can open up this fantastic book! Danny Gregory seems like such a nice person and it was so fantastic to learn a little more about him through this book. I do wish there were more colored drawings. But, it is still a high quality and fantastic book to have for any artist!

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