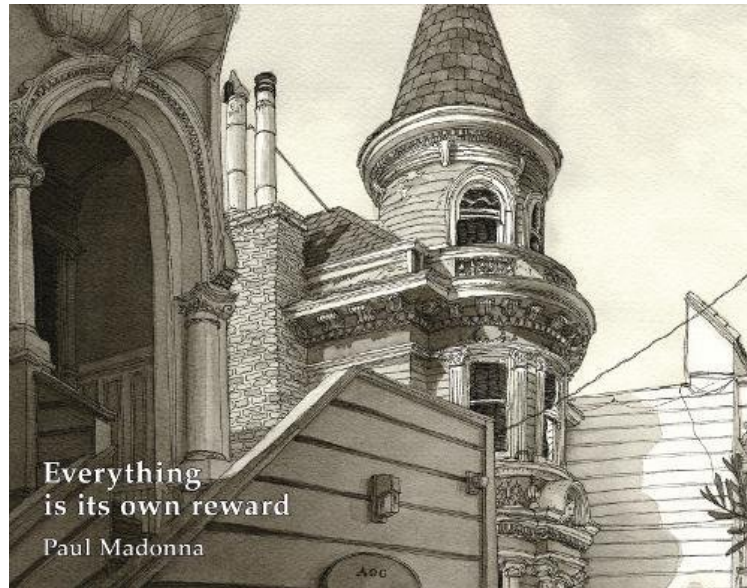


## Everything Is Its Own Reward: An All Over Coffee Collection

*From Madonna Paul*

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**From Madonna Paul : Everything Is Its Own Reward: An All Over Coffee Collection** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Everything Is Its Own Reward: An All Over Coffee Collection:

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Wry Wit and Architectural Art By Dr. Debra Jan Bibel The drawings within this book are not the first time I encountered them; being a San Francisco Chronicle subscriber, I saw them when first published Sunday after Sunday. Seeing them as a collection, however, once again establishes Paul Madonna as both artist and writer, a humanist and a wry wit. I own his first book of similar art and find this new grouping even better, and that first volume was already grand. Indeed, I purchased a signed special reproduction of his #496, which hangs in my studio. The old Victorians that pervade many San Francisco neighborhoods make interesting subjects of study. Madonna originally focused on the roof and upper stories, providing new perspectives on what were taken for granted, but in this second collection street level is also often presented. Thus, I offer my unbridled recommendation of this book to anyone who loves city life, who has been to San Francisco, who admires the art of drawing, and who is open to insights about themselves and about social interactions. Madonna is becoming a Bay Area treasure. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Best thing to spend my money on! By Rhiannon Wright Oh how I absolutely love this book. I purchased this book and all over coffee for an art project I was working on. He inspired me, seeing his art work, reading the little passages, it moved something in me (as cheesy as that sounds). I'm so beyond happy that I bought this book. It's wonderful!! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Hit with San Franciscan By Gail Schubert I grew up in San Francisco and this book brought warm memories. Not only are the drawings perfect, almost photographic in quality, but the narrative that accompanies them is engrossing and poetic. A treat for those who enjoy autobiography.

"mesmerizing . . . When his international images are paired with his sparse, poetic words sometimes thought-provoking one-liners such as 'You don't get anywhere without searching' and sometimes long, meandering sections of dialogue and story the effect is haunting."-- Oprah.com Beginning with his hometown of San Francisco and traveling to cities such as Paris, Rome, Buenos Aires, and Tokyo, Paul Madonna delivers his second body of drawings and writings. This stunning new collection, a testament to an artist and storyteller's careful observation of both the external and internal worlds, outdoes the masterful performance of his first book *All Over Coffee*, offering an even richer catalog of pen and ink cityscapes, short stories, conversations, and thoughts. Entertaining and moving, gorgeous to look at, Madonna's work remains unique and unclassifiable. This full color, hardbound edition comes complete with a removable poster.

"In this exquisite second collection from his long-running weekly San Francisco Chronicle series *All Over Coffee*, Madonna captures snapshots in time as he explores the relationship between image and text, with a mixture of single- and multi-panel strips all presented vertically. Completely devoid of people but never of life, each panel revolves around a geographical setting, from recognizable landmarks like the Golden Gate Bridge to an anonymous block that's so gorgeously rendered in Madonna's precise yet fluid pen-and-ink style, it feels like it could be anywhere and everywhere. The integration of text from snippets of fiction and autobiography to single sentences stretching across panels is as deliberate as the pen strokes and ink washes, and as essential to grasping the complete picture. Though there are no conventional narrative arcs, Madonna continually revisits such themes as place and memory as he deconstructs the traditional storytelling elements in this 'comic strip without the comic, whose main and only character [is] setting.' With pieces depicting San Francisco, New York, Barcelona, and Tokyo, Madonna's work is something to savor, because, as the artist writes, you 'want to absorb every moment of this, enjoy every second.'" Publishers Weekly (starred review) "The book is fantastic. Of time and tenderness. Beautiful drawings. Beautiful text. Ethereal and serious at once. The book is its own reward." Maira Kalman, author of *And the Pursuit of Happiness* "In *Everything is its Own Reward*, Paul Madonna has not only pressed graphic fiction way beyond its present boundaries, he has created a new and stunning art form where the stand-alone brilliant visuals and the hauntingly human words synthesize into a pure and irreducible aesthetic vision. This book taught me something fundamental and true and beautiful about the ineffable thereness and thingness of life. *Everything is its Own Reward* is a work of genius." Robert Olen Butler, author of *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain* "You don't have to have lived in or loved San Francisco to fall under the spell of Madonna's mysterious and largely unpeopled cityscapes. San Francisco isn't the only place he draws with the miraculously exquisite attention on display here (Paris, Rome and Buenos Aires also appear) but something about the fog off the bay makes it particularly well suited to his dreamy and surprisingly emotional pen-and-ink images. Madonna eschews well-known and much-photographed places in favor of the spaces between old Victorians, neglected corners, intersections that seem to cant dangerously into space, vistas of rooftops bristling with pipes and ganglia-like clusters of power lines, all paired with short enigmatic stories and reflections on art, memory and love. This book is the second collection of '*All Over Coffee*,' a 'strip' Madonna draws for the Sunday arts section of the San Francisco Chronicle. There's also a free app, too, if you'd like to see a sample, but only paper can do justice to the eerie radiance of Madonna's artwork, and the cumulative effect of its 176 pages is ravishing." Laura Miller, Salon.com "Paul Madonna is a pen master. His work is difficult to categorize but that he was MAD magazine's first art intern may help explain his ability to capture human experience in its odd fullness. In his *All Over Coffee* comic strip, published in the San Francisco Chronicle since 2004, Madonna's evocative pen-and-ink drawings of cityscapes are accompanied by handwritten bits of overheard conversations, mini-stories, and zen-ish musings like: 'It takes perpetual work to keep life simple.' The new anthology *Everything Is Its Own Reward: An All Over Coffee Collection (City Lights)* is a treasure chest that comes with a pullout poster inside." Boston Globe "One flip of the page and you'll be hooked on his melancholy world of beauty, stillness, and reflection." 7x7 "In Paul Madonna's San Francisco, which is ours too, the frisson of recognition feels like a reason to live. I know where that is, we say, meaning the geographic as well as the psychic space in Madonna's ongoing *All Over Coffee* series of pen-and-ink snapshots. We've all been there, or wanted to be. It's a city of possibility, the pictures suggest, in which it really makes good sense to 'Leave a little emptiness/A space/for when what you're waiting for/arrives.'" In addition to the many lovely images and a briefly annotating afterword, the book also has a poster folded up inside its back cover, wherein he gazes at some brutalist-anonymous apartment building on Russian Hill, maybe? and suggests vital details of the lives going on inside it: 'Lies about owning a TV' or 'Starts every sentence with "I feel like"' or 'Lobbies government agencies and airlines to provide family and nonfamily flights so that people without children can fly without having to listen to screaming kids.' Hey, look: It's us." SF Weekly "It's not the spirit of any particular place that Madonna captures so well but rather a quality of life, a state of mind, predicated on the luxury of having an existence in which the only dramas to speak of are personal." Art Practical "Madonna gets an extra chills-up-the-spine boost from his illustrations of semi-familiar San Francisco architecture and intersections, lucid as etchings of bleached Kodachrome shots." San Francisco Bay Guardian