



★ **Reminders of the Day: A Bookshop Diary**

Shaun Bythell

Godine (Dec 6, 2022)

Hardcover \$27.95 (376pp)

978-1-56792-756-6

Intrepid bookseller Shaun Bythell is back with his latest edition of wry tales from the Bookshop, Wigtown, Scotland's beloved purveyor of used books.

Bookending each entry with notes of online orders and till sales, Bythell makes a yearlong record of the contemporary challenges and joys of being a bookseller. These include Amazon's inexplicable algorithms and rude customers hiding behind digital anonymity, but also friendships formed, creative new ventures in response to stilted sales, and the thrill of finding a truly special manuscript among boxes of jetsam best suited to pulping.

Visitors from around the world stop in to bookish Wigtown, and Bythell seems to meet most. In his descriptions of those who assist at, sell to, live near, and peruse the shelves of the Bookshop, Bythell could be mistaken for a misanthrope, but he's a more complicated host than that: whether interacting with readers or books, he's curious, observant, and appreciative of individual foibles, quirks, and flaws—a careful cataloger of unique qualities. Some may find his takeaways regarding crass browsers and entitled sellers to be scathing, but the criticisms are fair—and the amusements are endless.

Set time aside for *Reminders of the Day*, the latest delightful volume of Shaun Bythell's bookseller diaries.

MICHELLE ANNE SCHINGLER (January / February 2023)

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