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The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

By Joyce, Rachel.

Random House. 1 Paperback(s), 2012. soft. Book Condition: New. (One of Daedalus's 25 Books to Read by Labor Day) Meet Harold Fry, recently retired. He lives in a small English village with his wife Maureen, who seems irritated by almost everything he does. Little differentiates one day from the next, until Harold receives a letter in a shaky scrawl from a woman he hasn't seen in 20 years: Queenie Hennessy is in hospice and is writing to say goodbye. Harold pens a quick reply and heads to the corner mailbox. But in this brilliant debut novel from BBC radio playwright and Shakespearean actress Rachel Joyce, a chance encounter puts it into Harold's head that he absolutely must deliver his message in person. Utterly unprepared, wearing boat shoes and a light jacket, he embarks on the 600-mile trek from Kingsbridge to the hospice in Berwick-upon-Tweed, encountering odd characters and reawakening his long-dormant spirit. "Harold's journey is ordinary and extraordinary; it is a journey through the self, through modern society, through time and landscape. It is a funny book, a wise book, a charming book but never cloying. It's a book with a savage twist and yet never seems manipulative. Perhaps because Harold himself is...



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