



By The Book: Stories and Pictures

Diane Schoemperlen

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**New from the Winner of the Writers' Trust of Canada Marian Engel Award
and the Governor General's Award for English Fiction**

Once touted as compendiums of human knowledge, the encyclopedias and handbooks of bygone eras now read quaintly, if not comically—yet within their musty pages are often found phrases of uncanny evocative power. Scrupulously stitching such fragments together, in a sequel to the Governor General's Award-winning *Forms of Devotion*, *By The Book* is a collection of verbal and visual collages whose alchemies transform long-dead texts into tales of enduring vitality. With her visually witty full-colour artwork and stories like “What Is A Hat? Where Is Constantinople? Who Was Sir Walter Raleigh? And Many Other Common Questions, Some With Answers, Some Without,” and “Consumptives Should Not Kiss Other People: A Handy Guide to the Care and Maintenance of Your Family's Good Health,” Schoemperlen's irreverent and ironic brand of nostalgia combines vintage kitsch with comic, creepy, unexpectedly moving yarns.

Praise for *By The Book*

“Diane Schoemperlen's *By The Book* is a bravura performance. Fragments, collage, assemblage, found poetry - none of the conventional words cover it for they miss the fantastic wit, the energy of humour, the divine ability to find comedic ore in the print detritus of our culture. She doesn't rescue texts; with her wicked sense of irony, she actually puts thought where there was none. She infects the banal with the virus of her own brain and makes it into art. Then she makes a picture of it—oh, dwell upon the details; there are whole novels lurking in the details.”—**Douglas Glover**

Praise for Diane Schoemperlen

"Schoemperlen's inventive language and narrative structures encourage readers to be free 'from the prison of everyday thinking.'"—***New York Times Book Review***

"Lovely, clever [and] imaginative."—***Wall Street Journal***

“Cuttingly witty ... Schoemperlen could almost form a school of piquant and inventive fiction with Julie Hecht, Janet Kauffman, and Lydia Davis.”—***Booklist***

"There is no mistaking a Schoemperlen story—devoted to form, faithful to the mysteries of the everyday."—***The Globe & Mail***

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From reader reviews:

Courtney O'Donnell:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book might be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the publication untitled By The Book: Stories and Pictures can be good book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Lynnette Jennings:

The reason why? Because this By The Book: Stories and Pictures is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will jolt you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such amazing way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of gains than the other book include such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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