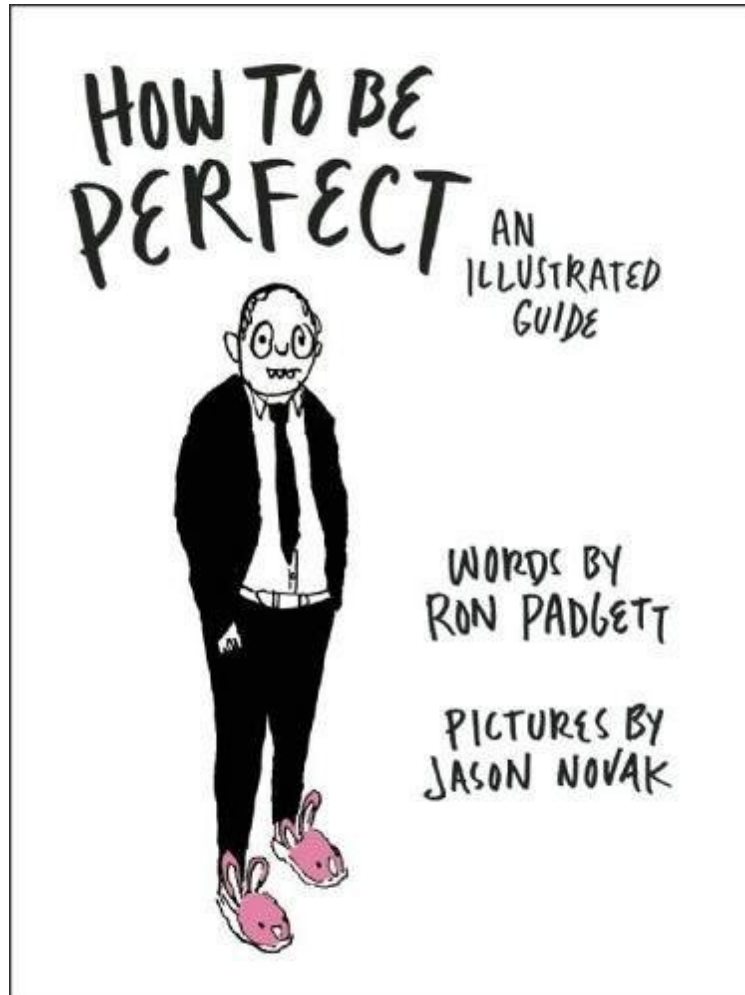


How to Be Perfect: An Illustrated Guide

Ron Padgett

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Ron Padgett : How to Be Perfect: An Illustrated Guide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Be Perfect: An Illustrated Guide:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A joyBy Colin LiebermanFull disclosure: it's illustrated by a friend. This book is wonderful. It sway from the "I know I try so hard at that" to the humorous, to the world opening with deeply enjoyable rhythm."Look a tree in the eye." "Do not exclaim Isn't Technology Wonderful." "Learn how to stretch your muscles and stretch them every day." "If someone murders your child, get a shotgun and blow their head off."This book is the kind of delight you'll keep at hand for flipping through at odd moments. I know I'll be rereading it very often.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Billy Collins' (slightly) more serious cousinBy Kay L. CampbellPoems to make you think. Poems to make you laugh -- often both at once. Dry and weary, this poet -- but somehow also hopeful (maybe it's because his is "the little muse / the smaller than usual muse" ?). These are poems

Ecclesiastes would have read over a whiskey on ice after a day of declaring the world vanity -- and would have agreed with Padgett, (from the title poem, "How to Be Perfect") -- "Do not go crazy a lot. It's a waste of time." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Ronald E Fredrick No further comments at this time...

"Make eye contact with a tree." "Do not practice cannibalism." "Wear comfortable shoes." "Sing, every once in a while." "In later life, become a mystic." Offbeat, warm, and funny, Ron Padgett's prescriptions for human perfection springs to life in Jason Novak's cartoons—a delightful match-up of sensibilities. And remember: "Don't give advice." Ron Padgett's *How Long* was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in poetry and his *Collected Poems* won the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for the best poetry book of 2013. His work has been translated into eighteen languages. Jason Novak is a cartoonist whose work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Paris Review* and the *Believer* among other places. He lives in Oakland, California.

From *The New Yorker* Padgett's plainspoken, wry poems deliver their wisdom through a kind of connoisseurship of absurdity. He writes, "Everything I think about is a cartoon something / because anything cartoon is immortal / in its own funny little way." Yet these observational, reminiscent, and prescriptive verses are also informed by a sense of loss—not just for his late mother and for departed comrades like Kenneth Koch but for the bohemian ideal that drew him to New York to begin with: "Although one still hears the word conformity," he laments, "it is no longer a pejorative term; now we are on the same page, getting with the program, team players." Even so, Padgett's cockeyed humor is ultimately optimistic, finding reason for continued hope, even if it means joining "the poetry protection program / so my poems can go out and live under assumed names / in Utah and Muskogee." Copyright © 2007 Click here to subscribe to *The New Yorker* "Reading Padgett one realizes that playfulness and lightness of touch are not at odds with seriousness." —*New York of Books* "For a quick read or a special gift, this illustrated guide provides great self help towards a cheerful chuckle and, every so often, a thoughtful frown. As the author suggests...keep your childish self alive." —*San Francisco of Books* "Padgett's sense of romantic joy is undiminished, as is his thoughtfulness about language and the ways in which time changes meaning, and sense can morph into eloquent absurdity." —*Entertainment Weekly* "Coffee House has now repackaged the poem as an appealingly small stand-alone book, illustrated by *New Yorker* cartoonist Jason Novak. His illustrations are sort of Jules Feiffer/James Thurberesque, peopled by toothy, big-eyed humans who appear furtive and bewildered by their quest." —*The Star Tribune* "Mr. Novak's drawings, with their strategic use of black areas reminds me a bit of Gluyas Williams' work along with some Feiffer, Steig, and Ben Shahn line work mixed in. Good stuff." —*Inkspill* "This is a delightful, amusing and thought-provoking book, and Novak's drawings both reflect the tone of the text and expand its range by bringing Padgett's precepts to quirky, individual life." —*Elliptical Movements*