MATIAS VIEGENER

Bracketed by three deaths—his mother's, his friend's and his dog's—Matias Viegener's 2500 Random Things is an extraordinary capture of a life and a consciousness in middle age, when mortality and the grid of associations laid by one's personal history cannot be denied. Chained to the task of compiling these 'random' lists, Viegener creates a self-portrait—of the whole world!—that encompasses everything from Descartes to the grooming habits of parrots, with plenty of sex, beauty and boredom. Compulsively readable, the book is a brilliant achievement. I could not put it down.

— Chris Kraus, Los Angeles-based writer and critic

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