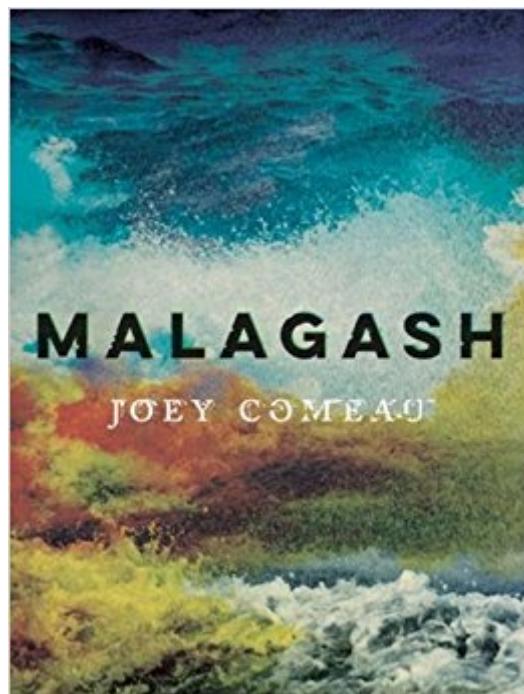


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Malagash



Synopsis

A precisely crafted, darkly humorous portrait of a family in mourning Sunday's father is dying of cancer. They've come home to Malagash, on the north shore of Nova Scotia, so he can die where he grew up. Her mother and her brother are both devastated. But devastated isn't good enough. Devastated doesn't fix anything. Sunday has a plan. She's started recording everything her father says. His boring stories. His stupid jokes. Everything. She's recording every single "I love you" right alongside every "Could we turn the heat up in here?" It's all important. Because Sunday is writing a computer virus. A computer virus that will live secretly on the hard drives of millions of people all over the world. A computer virus that will think her father's thoughts and say her father's words. She has thousands of lines of code to write. Cryptography to understand. Exploits to test. She doesn't have time to be sad. Her father is going to live forever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Known primarily for darkly comic novels and the webcomic *A Softer World*, Comeau effortlessly switches gears to expose the trauma, heartbreak, and humor in loss. . . an immensely touching tribute to a very human struggle with mortality." Publishers Weekly

"*Malagash* is a poignant snapshot of the wonder, joy, sorrow, and reckless daring of being alive. With it, Joey Comeau cements his place among Canada's most talented and original writers. I loved this cleverly tender and unforgettable heartbreak of a book and I know you will too. A Monster Calls for a plugged-in age." Courtney Summers, author of *This Is Not a*

Test and All the Rage" Comeau's style is sparse but powerful. . . . Malagash is a darkly humored exploration of death, family, and grief, eloquent despite its short 183 pages, devastating despite its simplicity. Highly recommend.

A precisely crafted, darkly humorous portrait of a family in mourning. Sunday's father is dying of cancer. They've come home to Malagash, on the north shore of Nova Scotia, so he can die where he grew up. Her mother and her brother are both devastated. But devastated isn't good enough. Devastated doesn't fix anything. Sunday has a plan. She's started recording everything her father says. His boring stories. His stupid jokes. Everything. She's recording every single "I love you" right alongside every "Could we turn the heat up in here?" It's all important. Because Sunday is writing a computer virus. A computer virus that will live secretly on the hard drives of millions of people all over the world. A computer virus that will think her father's thoughts and say her father's words. She has thousands of lines of code to write. Cryptography to understand. Exploits to test. She doesn't have time to be sad. Her father is going to live forever.

"Malagash" by Joey Comeau is the type of story that I find difficult to relate to. I will honestly admit that I have nowhere near enough "tech savvy" to be able to evaluate the realism (or lack thereof) of Sunday's "virus-making project". This little book is certainly valid as a description of the various family members' reactions to the trauma of the dad's battle with and eventual surrender to cancer, however. One thing I appreciated about the narrative was the matter-of-fact presentation of the couple relationship between the father's brother Frank and his husband Jonah. Clearly, when the adults normalized this, Sunday and her brother Simon had no trouble viewing it "matter-of-factly" as well. Less pleasing was the way the children's mother floundered between rigid control and denial, and then went into complete withdrawal when their father died. In any event, this was a moving and thought-provoking story, despite its brevity and lack of what I would have considered a satisfactory resolution.

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