

1-15-2014

Every Day

Maggie Mason Smith
Clemson University, mason5@clemson.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib_pubs



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Mason Smith, Maggie, "Every Day" (2014). *Publications*. 68.
https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib_pubs/68

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at TigerPrints. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publications by an authorized administrator of TigerPrints. For more information, please contact kokeefe@clemson.edu.

Levithan, David. *Every Day*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2012.

JUV PZ7.L5798 Es 2012

“I wanted love to conquer all. But love can’t conquer anything. It can’t do anything on its own. It relies on us to do the conquering on its behalf.”

Each morning, sixteen-year-old A wakes up in a different person’s body. A may be either gender, may be any race or ethnicity, and may be of any geographic or socioeconomic background. A makes it through each day by accessing the memories of the current body and by following that body’s normal routine. In so doing, A has developed a strong moral code: never interfere and never leave traces of the body-switch, as the body may suffer the consequences.

Nearly every aspect of A’s daily life is variable and as a result, A has experienced the world from a variety of perspectives. Over time, A has developed views both knowledgeable and tolerant, and along with clear ethical standards A’s ever-changing life has instilled a hard-learned lesson: never get too attached. Nonetheless, when A wakes up as Justin and meets Justin’s girlfriend, Rhiannon, A is willing to break every self-imposed rule to convince her of the possibility of their future together.

Every Day is an incredibly unique and insightful story which examines the idea of love as well as its pressure from and its influence on everyday life in a variety of ways. With each body-switch the story is propelled forward; readers become engrossed in new facets of A’s life and memories of the previous lives begin to fade and blur, as they do for A. But just as A’s introduction to Rhiannon brings A’s individual qualities into focus, each of A’s perpetually shifting bodies help readers to remain focused on the core idea of the plot: whether it is truly possible to love someone who is destined to change each day. A’s relationship with Rhiannon is the embodiment of transformation, demonstrating that although each relationship is different and each will face dissimilar challenges, ultimately, love is love – even if love may not always be enough.