

**THE ORDINARY MAN  
AND THE  
EXTRAORDINARY THING**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649117666

The ordinary man and the extraordinary thing by Harold Begbie

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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# The Ordinary Man and the Extraordinary Thing

By

HAROLD BEGBIE

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HODDER & STOUGHTON  
NEW YORK  
GEORGE H. DORAN COMPANY



2/5/08 18

. . . the pressure of the soul has increased among mankind, . . . its mysterious influence is diffusing itself among the people.

It is well that men should be reminded that the very humblest of them has the power to "fashion, after a divine model that he chooses not, a great moral personality, composed in equal parts of himself and the ideal; and that if anything lives in fullest reality, of a surety it is that."

If you know that you were going to die to-night, or merely that you would have to go away and never return, would you, looking upon men and things for the last time, see them in the same light that you have hitherto seen them? Would you not love as you have never yet loved? Is it the virtue or the evil of the appearances around you that would be magnified? Would it be given you to behold the beauty or the ugliness of the soul?

. . . of so many in this world does the aim seem to be the discouragement of the divine in their soul.

May it not be the supreme aim of life . . . to bring to birth the inexplicable within ourselves; and do we know how much we add to ourselves when we awake something of the incomprehensible that slumbers in every corner?

. . . the soul is like a dreamer, enthralled by sleep, who struggles with all his might to move an arm or raise an eyelid.

We must be heedful; it is not without fit reason that our soul bestirs itself.

MAURICE MAETERLINCK.

(Translated by Alfred Sutro.)





TO  
MY FRIEND  
PERCY L. PARKER  
EDITOR OF THE INDISPENSABLE REVIEW  
"PUBLIC OPINION"

