



# The Mezzanine

By Nicholson Baker

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Turns an ordinary ride up an office escalator into a meditation on our relations with familiar objects--shoelaces, straws, and more. Baker's debut novel, and a favorite amongst many of us here.

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## **The Mezzanine** By Nicholson Baker Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1254434 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Vintage
- Published on: 1990-01-16
- Released on: 1990-01-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .41" w x 5.16" l, .35 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 135 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### From Publishers Weekly

Baker's irresistibly readable short novel presents the quirky and often hilarious inner life of a thoroughly modern office worker. With high wit and in precisely articulated prose, the unnamed narrator examines, in minute and comically digressive detail, the little things in life that illustrate how one addresses a problem or a new idea: the plastic straw (and its annoying tendency to float), the vacuous civilities of office chatter, doorknobs, neckties, escalators and the laughable evolution of milk delivery from those old-fashioned hefty bottles to the folding carton. Using the keenly observed odds and ends of day-to-day consciousness, Baker allows his narrator to re-create the budding perceptions of a child facing a larger mysterious world, as each event in his day conjures up memories of previous incidents. Through the elegant manipulation of time, and sharp, defining memories of childhood, the narrator dissects each item of apparent cultural flotsam with the thoroughness of a prosaic, though wacky, technical manual. The rambling "footnotes" alone are worth the price of this cheerfully original novel.

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#### From Library Journal

Baker's first novel recounts one afternoon in the life of an office worker named Howie; or, more precisely, an afternoon in the life of Howie's mind. There are more digressions, asides, and tiny facets than one can imagine fitting into an afternoon or a short novel, for that matter. Each "real" event or action gets onto an escalator, for instance, is surrounded by the narrator's meditations on any number of thoughts or processes spawned by that event. A notable departure from traditional novel form is the extensive use of often lengthy footnotes, wherein many of the digressions take place. The line between the footnotes and the main text in fact tends to blur, with the reader drawn repeatedly into the highly detailed odysseys of the footnotes and then pulled back out. A very funny, enjoyable novel by a writer whose work frequently appears in *The New Yorker*. Jessica Grim, NYPL

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#### From the Inside Flap

Turns an ordinary ride up an office escalator into a meditation on our relations with familiar objects--shoelaces, straws, and more. Baker's debut novel, and a favorite amongst many of us here.

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#### From reader reviews:

##### **Bobby Kile:**

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