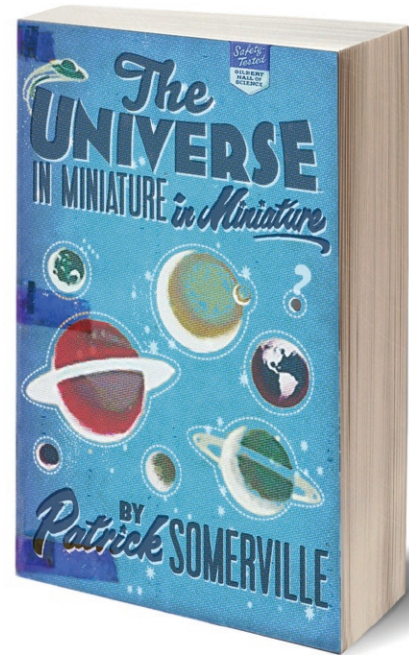


The Universe in Miniature in Miniature

Patrick Somerville
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“Patrick Somerville has perfect pitch across the thirty-odd voices in these stories, gets perfect reception from past and future both. He is funny and sad and scalpel-sharp, at times all in the same sentence. This book contains worlds within worlds. Every single one of them enriches ours.”

—Roy Kesey, author of *All Over* and *Nothing in the World*

Dear Friend of Reading,

You may have seen Patrick Somerville’s name come up a lot, of late. Last year, Somerville won the 21st Century Award for his 2009 novel *The Cradle* and the book earned a nomination for the Center for Fiction’s First Novel Prize, as well as a place on numerous Best of 2009 lists, including *The New York Times*, *The Cleveland Plain-Dealer* and *The Chicago Sun-Times*. Janet Maslin of *The Times* even called it a “deeply gratifying modern fable.”

Over the course of two books, fans of Somerville have come to expect and enjoy a certain restraint from the young author. And now, Featherproof Books is excited to toss all that good will out the window, with Somerville’s new collection of linked stories, *The Universe in Miniature in Miniature* (On Sale Date: November 15th, 2010, \$14.95, ISBN: 978-0-9825808-1-3, Distributed to the trade by Publishers Group West). The genre-busting book of short stories culminates in the beautiful, ruminative, and exhilarating novella “The Machine of Understanding Other People,” the tale of a Chicago man who is bequeathed a supernatural helmet that allows him to experience the inner worlds of those around him. Through his lonely lens we peer into the mind of an art student grappling with ennui, ethics and empathy as she comes to terms with her own beliefs in a godless world. We telescope out to the story of idiot extraterrestrials struggling to pilot a complicated spaceship. We follow a retired mercenary as he tries to save his marriage and questions his life abroad. Mind-bending and cracklingly new, Somerville’s broadly appealing and uniquely imaginative constructions probe the outer reaches of empathy, death, and love in a world seen from the inside out.

The Universe in Miniature in Miniature is truly the work of an author coming into his own. Somerville has already distinguished himself as a virtuoso capable of writing across all genres, and now we see him doing it all in one book. Playful in the way of Kurt Vonnegut and intellectually ambitious in the vein of David Mitchell, Somerville has truly written a book for the ages.

We're proud to announce that review copies are available to the press, and Somerville is more than happy to talk about the book, his path through the literary world, and the importance of genre in his growth as a writer. Please do get in touch.

Thank you for your time,
Linas

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Patrick Somerville's first book of stories, *Trouble*, was named 2006's Best Book by a Chicago Author by *Time Out Chicago*, and his novel, *The Cradle*, was a finalist for The Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize. He has taught creative writing and English at Cornell, Northwestern University, Auburn State Correctional Facility, and The Graham School in Chicago. Patrick was also recently selected as the winner of the 2009 21st Century Award, given annually by the Chicago Public Library.

Full press kit, including author photos and book cover, can be found at featherproof.com. Just click on 'press' and scroll on down. Or email us at press@featherproof.com

