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One Red Paperclip: Or How an Ordinary Man Achieved His Dream with the Help of a Simple Office Supply

Kyle MacDonald

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This book was pretty fun to read. The author is quite amusing. This is the story of trading a paperclip for a house, and more importantly the people who made it happen. I really enjoyed this book.
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Silly yet serious, a tumble of words that happened in the right order to make a story. Just like the story itself. :) Enjoyable read. Reads like your friend telling you a story about what they did last summer.

Kyle MacDonald had a paperclip. One red paperclip, a dream, and a resume to write. And bills to pay. Oh, and a very patient girlfriend who was paying the rent while he was once again "between jobs." Kyle wanted to be able to provide for himself and his girlfriend, Dominique. He wanted to own his own home. He wanted something bigger than a paperclip. So he put an ad on Craigslist, the popular classifieds website, with the intention of trading that paperclip for something better. A girl in Vancouver offered him a fish pen in exchange for his paperclip. He traded the fish pen for a doorknob and the doorknob for a camping stove. Before long he had traded the camping stove for a generator for a neon sign. Not long after that, avid snow-globe collector and television star Corbin Bernsen and the small Canadian town of Kipling were involved, and Kyle was on to bigger and better things. In *One Red Paperclip*, Kyle takes you on a journey around the globe as he moves from paperclip holder to homeowner in just fourteen trades. With plenty of irreverent and insightful anecdotes and practical tips on how you can find your own paperclip and realize your dreams, he proves it's possible to succeed in life and achieve your dreams on your own terms. Quirky and inspirational, this story of a regular guy and a small, red, now-legendary paperclip will have you looking at your office supplies-and your life-in a whole new way.

From Publishers Weekly
MacDonald is just a regular, sharp-witted guy on a quest for funtential, his coined word for the maximum potential for fun. In a casual, playful tone, his account begins as he stares past his computer screen and at the brick wall of his girlfriend's apartment in Quebec; he lives there, and she pays the rent. Wanting to contribute financially to the relationship, he recalls a childhood game, *Bigger and Better*, and begins looking for something to trade. He's drawn to the red paperclip holding together his résumé and cover letter. The rest of the book traces his exchanges from the red paperclip to a fish pen to a smiley-face door knob and culminates with a house in Kipling, Saskatchewan—all within a year. From the outset, MacDonald insists on making each deal in person, and these personal exchanges provide the book with a human interest that transcends any fascination with quirky material swaps. Trading a door knob for Shawn's camping stove, for example, becomes an excuse for the once strangers to chat over steak sandwiches and beer. So, while the trades are the unifying element of the book, it isn't really about getting a house; it's about people, relationships and living life to its fullest. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "An amazing true adventure!" * OK! * "Perfectly suited to the anti-commercial zeal of the moment" * Sunday Times * "A bizarre and brilliant idea" * Daily Telegraph * "So, is oneredpaperclip.blogspot.com the new eBay?" "Sure." Kyle says, "Why not?" * The Guardian * About the Author
Kyle MacDonald first posted one red paperclip in July 2005 and has since become one of the most recognized Internet celebrities on the planet. In addition to continuing to trade for bigger and better objects, Kyle has planted more than 100,000 trees around the globe and delivered over 1,000 pizzas but has eaten only 1 scorpion. His previous publisher was Kinko's.