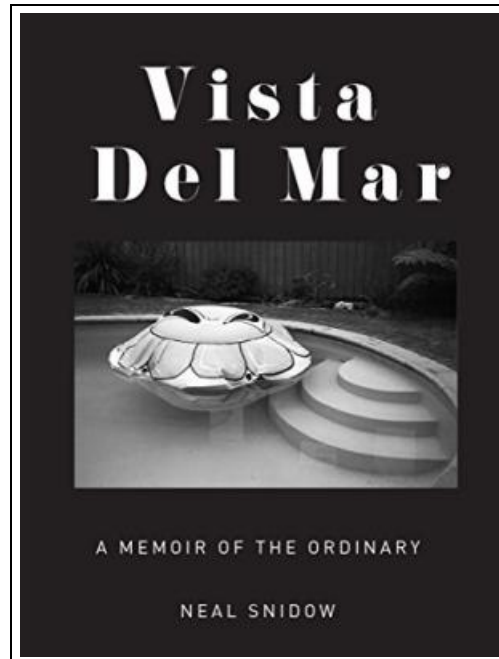


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(Dr. Cullen Schmitt MD)

VISTA DEL MAR: A MEMOIR OF THE ORDINARY (PAPERBACK)



COUNTERPOINT, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. This remarkable book joins the company of self-work, deep acts of memory that serve to illuminate the present by shining the clear light of careful regard on the past. The book finds company in the work of D J Waldie s Holy Land, Didion s Slouching Towards Bethlehem, and the profound My Struggle by Karl Ove Knausgaard. In 1996 Neal Snidow found himself at a personal impasse as he and his wife struggled in vain to have a child. Locked in sadness at their predicament, in mid-career as a college teacher and unpublished writer, and at the first daunting steps of open adoption, as a kind of solace Neal began taking black and white photos of his old neighborhood in southern California. The film was slow, the camera on a tripod, the process awkward, and the goal no more than Garry Winogrand s famous dictum that he made pictures to find out what something will look like photographed. But as this process unfolded and the images began to accumulate, slowly but surely the pictures unlocked the past, and he began to delve into family history, opening out the secret and the unspoken and evoking the lost pleasures and losses of the beach town where he had grown up. The chapters that followed, like the photos that now accompanied them, were quietly observant of an ordinary surface around which gathered an aura of struggle, gaiety and loss. He titled the book Vista Del Mar, for the street that ran past his old apartment to the edge of the Pacific, and gave it the subtitle a memoir of the ordinary in testimony to the everydayness of the experiences he explored. The chapters move back and forth in time and...



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