

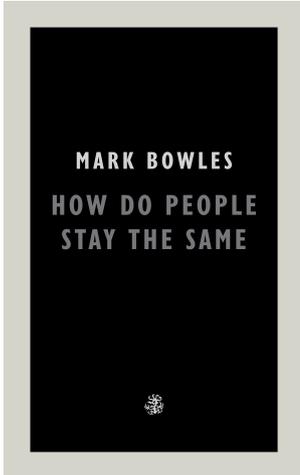
MARK BOWLES

How Do People Stay The Same



180 pp.
BIC: Literary fiction
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“They took me to a pantomime once. I was appalled, truly disgusted. Did they think I was stupid?”

- The brilliant new novel from award-winning author Mark Bowles
- A tender and brutally funny story about fatherhood, children, and mental disintegration
- The keenly awaited follow-up to *All My Precious Madness*, which won the inaugural **Speakies Best Fiction Award**, and was shortlisted for **The Goldsmiths Prize**, **The James Tait Black Memorial Prize**, and **The Author's Club Best First Novel Award**

Told as a series of journal entries that move backwards in time, *How Do People Stay The Same* follows the life of Patrick Boyd – from the present-day contentment of family life and back to a darker, lonelier childhood.

How Do People Stay The Same lays all of Patrick's experience before us, with the challenges of work, housing and all the other pinpricks of existence jostling with his complex inner world.

It reveals a fragile man ground down by the world around him – but who might just be able to change and might just have the hope of a brighter future.

Featuring the exquisite prose and lacerating wit that readers loved so much in *All My Precious Madness*, *How Do People Stay The Same* is also a deeply tender project – an exploration of family, childhood, love, and the personal bonds that tie us together.



MARK BOWLES grew up between Bradford and Leeds, and went on to study English at Liverpool and Oxford Universities. He currently lives in Brockley with his wife and two small children.

Praise for *All My Precious Madness*

“Unapologetically erudite and frequently brutal... a **devastating satire** on the way in which class, education and masculinity act as a kind of trap.”
—*The Telegraph*

“A **striking** debut [that] explores working-class identity, masculinity and alienation... a **poignant** meditation on a son's love for his father.”
—*The Observer*

“**Funny and biting... vivid** and spare... The energy of the sentences pull you along and make reading *All My Precious Madness* is a pleasure, even when Henry is at his most maddening.” —*The Times*

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