

# Joyful, Sorrowful and Ordinary Mysteries

by Raymond Fortunato



**Joyful, Sorrowful and Ordinary Mysteries**  
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“Raymond Fortunato's stories have a kind of light existential theme, of how little moments in life can change everything.”

~ Kirkus Reviews

Many of the stories in *Joyful, Sorrowful and Ordinary Mysteries* are faintly spiritual in that some connection gets made — either by a guru, a beaver, a priest, a smart grandfather — guiding the main character into new adventures and a greater knowledge of him or herself.

They involve a quest: to have passion in order to be a better writer, to fight for free speech, to save a co-worker who is unfairly targeted to lose their job, take a great risk to raise a vast amount of money for earthquake relief in Italy, repent a seemingly righteous murder.

The characters in *Joyful, Sorrowful and Ordinary Mysteries* are imperfect and unconventional with an approach to life that can raise more questions than it answers. Nobody does the expected in these stories, and in some way, nobody is fearful of acting out their deepest selves. The stories are unpredictable and quite varied, but they share a common thread of people seeking accuracy in their life and to know what they are supposed to be doing.

The characters likability and how and where they look for satisfaction is why we root for them as they work for their success.

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Raymond Fortunato earned a Bachelor's degree in mathematics and history and a Master's degree in history. He has published one short story collection, *Joyful, Sorrowful and Ordinary Mysteries*. His play, *Nothing's Plenty For Me*, a dramady about climate change was presented by the Xoregos Performing Company at Theatre Row in Manhattan which can now be viewed on YouTube. His short stories have appeared in *The Scarlet Leaf Review*, *Drunk Monkeys*, *The Hypókrisis Mirror*, *Evening Street Review*, *The Bangalore Review*, *Half and One*, and other publications.

