

new york times *bestseller*

Goodbye, again

*essays, reflections,
and illustrations*



Jayne Swan
author of

THE COMMON READ GUIDE

◆ for the JMU Honors College Class of 2026 ◆



A GUIDE TO *GOODBYE, AGAIN*



TRANSITIONS | WELLNESS | PLANTS

“There are past versions of me who believe in me, and there are future versions of me who are looking back on where I am and thinking, That's the version of me who actually managed to achieve something. There are always these people cheering me on, or, at the very least thinking about me. And that helps me feel less alone. And that helps me feel like I am right where I need to be.”

- Jonny Sun, *Goodbye, again*



As a JMU Honors student, the path you are embarking upon is one that will equip you with tools to tackle the world's “wicked problems” - those that have no easy answers, are tough to describe, and have innumerable causes. The wicked problems that grip headlines will shape the contours of your college experience. The idea that you *should be* solution-generators is a lot of pressure to pile on top of figuring out college in the first place, finding your niche, making friends, and figuring out how to be a “productive” college student. Jonny Sunny is here to tell us that dialing back the pressure is a good idea. He provides strategies through his personal reflections and doodles to help us cut through the noise and identify what makes us feel fulfilled. Sun also reminds us that productivity does not equal worth, and that going easy on ourselves is often the best strategy for getting things done. He writes, “You have your entire life to worry about the rest of your life. Just get through today.”

You are embarking on a transformative journey. You will change, and the world will change because of your efforts. Sun reminds us, “I think perhaps what's so difficult about trying to witness our own changes is that we are not above the water. We are each just moving up and down in place, trying to stay afloat.” Remember that we're all trying to stay afloat, together. The Honors College will be always be here for you, and we are happy to tell you where all of the power outlets are in your new “home.”

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MEET JONNY SUN

From the [author's website](#):

Jonny Sun is the New York Times best-selling author of *Goodbye, again* and a screen and TV writer who wrote for the Emmy-nominated sixth season of the Netflix Original Series *BoJack Horseman*. He is currently writing for a new to-be-announced hourlong drama series about technology, as well as developing his own film and TV projects.

He is also the author and illustrator of the graphic novel *everyone's a liebn when ur a liebn too* and the illustrator of *Gmorning, Gnight!* by Lin-Manuel Miranda.

As a doctoral candidate at MIT and a creative researcher at the Harvard metaLAB, he studies social media, virtual place, and online community. He received his master's degree in architecture from Yale and his bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Toronto.



Photo credit: Rozette Rago

GOODBYE, AGAIN IN YOUR FIRST YEAR

In addition to reading *Goodbye, again* you will have opportunities to talking through the themes of the book during your first year at JMU. You will discuss *Goodbye, again* in your HON 100 class, and there will be optional Honors programs developed for you to plug into conversations about Sun's reflections and life lessons. We look forward to hearing your thoughts!

GOODBYE, AGAIN SAVE THE DATES

- Beginning 8/15 - Watch for announcements to join the Honors Book Club. We'll be discussing *Goodbye, again* beginning in mid-October/early November
- Sunday, 9/11, 4:00 p.m. - Mindfulness walk at Edith J. Carrier Arboretum Labyrinth
- Monday, 10/17, 7:00 p.m. - Hillcrest "Rehearsal Factory" - Have an instrument and looking for people to play with? Drop in!
- First two weeks of November - *Peperomia prostrata* (string of turtles) plant propagation station in Hillcrest - come grab cuttings to grow your very own plant!
- Also, TBD - Off-Campus Housing "Finding Home" conversation

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Jonny Sun's 'Goodbye, again' is Exactly What We All Need Right Now - An interview with the author

You Are Not Alone in Your Loneliness - TEDTalk presented by Jonny Sun in 2019

@jonnysun - The author's active Twitter account

@jonnysunwrites - The author's active Facebook feed

A Small List of Knowable Things - Jonny Sun's newsletter

I am Trying to Decide If I Should Buy Two Rolls of Paper Towel or Three - Excerpt from *Goodbye, again* published in *The New Yorker*



QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or ideas for programs related to *Goodbye, again* reach out to Dr. Alysia Davis, Director of Student Engagement, at davis4am@jmu.edu