Daily happenings become geocaching containers for valuable, personally relevant treasure .

Geocaching For Personally Valuable Treasure: Treasure Hunting in Random Trite Events

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GEOCACHING FOR PERSONALLY VALUABLE TREASURE

Treasure Hunting in Random Trite Events

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GEOCACHING WITH TRITE DAILY EVENTS IS

TREASURE HUNTING

• For Fun and Jaw-Dropping Surprises

- For In-Depth Self-Guidance and Personally Relevant Treasure
- For Challenge, Stimulation and Moral and Emotional Support

Cover Illustration by Hans Houtman, M.A. <u>www.syncscapes.com</u>

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CHAPTER 2 GEOCACHING WITH A TWIST

The geocaches of trite events differ in many ways from traditional geocaches. This is what makes this geocaching game totally different and unique, more challenging, valuable and therefore, more fun.

1. The Sites Are Proactive

You don't have to travel to find these special geocaches, they come to you.

And they do that randomly and spontaneously without you doing anything special – and without your approval or permission.

You never have to go out of your way to find them. They find you.

No matter where you are, minor unexpected incidents will happen to you – or near you – unbidden.

Even if you're holed up in a barren cave in a featureless desert, cracks might appear in the walls, freak storms might occur with strange consequences, an airplane might crash nearby, night animals might make unusual forays, Bedouins might pass by...

Nearer home, your two-year-old son may stick a banana in with your golf clubs. A kite may get caught on your office window. Two small boys could be throwing stones at people near you on the sidewalk. Maybe vandals have smashed your car's rear window.

It is these slightly unusual minor events which can be geocaches revealing amazing Information highly valuable to you in undreamt-of ways.

So you don't have to deviate from your daily or weekly schedules of work, duties, recreation and rest to go out looking for these treasure-laden caches. To repeat, **you don't go to them. They come to you.** No travel. No hassle. No expense.

Unlike traditional geocaches, they are never off the beaten path. In fact, you'd be surprised how many of these hidden stashes have been hiding near you this week. **That doesn't mean they are easy to spot. Or a cinch to open.**

2. No Spoilers

Even though slightly unusual random daily events are numerous... Even though they occur in every environment on earth... **Nothing** gives away the secret that a certain random event contains a hidden cache.

Snubbed by our minds and imaginations because we consider them unimportant, trivial events themselves are **no help** at all. They give no indication of what we're capable of doing with them, **nor that they can coach us.**

Worse yet, they almost never take center stage. Instead, they cleverly confine themselves to the **background** of our lives.

It's as if random events don't believe in putting around or sending out a few spoilers. There is **nothing** that advertises or gives away the fact that a particular mini-drama you never ordered is a cache.

Ordinary events are just that. They look ordinary. Even though a randomly occurring, often quite trivial event can contain the most precious of treasures for you. Yet there will be no apparent clue giving away the fact that it does.

An important part of the challenge of the game is that treasure-laden, spontaneously occurring random events will always look as ordinary as can be, even when you become a veteran player, and yet be rich caches in disguise.

3. Billions vs. One Million

Although traditional geocaches now number just over a million as registered on websites throughout the world, **billions** of trivial events geocaches occur daily throughout the globe.

These geocaches dot our lives like wildebeest on the African plains. On any given day, in any typical week, you have potentially a great deal of material to work with!

4. Location of the Sites

In traditional geocaching (in which only knickknacks are found), the locations, given by the spatial coordinates of longitude and latitude, are usually extraordinary.

In other words, the site may be near an interesting rock formation, or high on a ledge in a park, or at a place where you can get an amazing view of the ocean. It may be near or behind a waterfall, on top of a mountain, or a place of great historical or cultural interest you never visited before.

The geocaches of random daily events are found in exactly the **opposite** kinds of places.

They occur most frequently in the **dullest** and most **boring** of settings – our daily routines. It's as if they thrived on our dull moments and busy schedules. That's their favorite haunt.

And there, it seems, they often make our lives a little bit more difficult or irritating *as if to gain attention*...

- Your basement drain backs up
- You step on a rubber ball lying in the gutter as you get out of your car
- Your boss's secretary your rival is wearing the same dress you are at the party
- A man is angrily shouting and yelling at the other end of your street
- You see a beautiful young woman smoking one cigarette after another

In fact, if you would never learn that it's precisely here where many of your undiscovered personal treasures are hidden, you might consider these events the **trash of daily life**. Most people do.

It's where these caches are hidden that makes a good hunt. So look for these caches here, **extremely well camouflaged**, hiding in plain sight, in the small, irritating, often uncanny things that happen to you.

5. Drama, Theatre and Motion

These geocaches are not static physical containers, but dramatic gestures – wild, devious, highly theatrical, and *in motion*. They are usually not the written words seen on billboards and in other places.

These geocaches **move**. The caches are hidden in the **moving or temporary images** and **gestures** you see playing out before your eyes. They are not usually hidden in dormant objects without movement or drama. If an object stays put for years without changing, chances are they do not contain treasure caches.

EXAMPLES: the same old bathroom mirror, the brick stairs, your exercise machines

Unless you find these strangely interesting one day for some reason, these are not part of the game. Only objects that are active and catch your attention by doing something.

EXAMPLES: the bathroom mirror shatters and falls to the floor, scratching your arm as it does so; your washing machine goes berserk; a jar of beans falls to the floor and breaks

By their very nature, randomly occurring minor events are **capricious**. They occur without following any laws or conventions. And they are tricky. You can be thoroughly outwitted and miss their treasures entirely. And this is what lends incredible excitement to this treasure-hunting experience.

6. No Frantic or Competitive Searches

These caches are only for you. The ones happening to or around you aren't necessarily for others. And if they are, there's always plenty of treasure for the last to visit the site.

Most of the time, however, only you can identify and open them. So there is no need for frantic searches to beat others to the chase. So you can be relaxed while being alert.

7. Rascals and Liars

Unlike traditional geocaches which, for the most part, are innocent containers of dollar-store trinkets, these geocaches are **rascals**. And clever **liars**. They look boring and dull – irritating even. At best, they appear slightly unusual. And without an exception they seem so...**ordinary**. And **insignificant**.

So insignificant, in fact, that scientists haven't bothered to study them. The geniuses of the world ignore them. As do the world's explorers and even the most conscientious of adventurers, those who've been to the ocean's depths, scaled the tops of the Himalayas, walked the Silk Road, crossed both poles or flown into outer space. No one targets randomly occurring minor events in a single expedition.

We've no idea what to do with these rascals except endure them or ignore them. We systematically relegate them to the unimportant background of our lives, never suspecting how useful and valuable they could be to us.

Any ordinary day can have several of these apparently inconsequential bits of life. And they don't all have to be negative, either. Perhaps unexpectedly someone sends you a box of peanuts in the mail. Or you find a worker's new set of pliers lying in the street. You might see a girl wearing a completely transparent rucksack.

Any one of these – or all of them – could contain tips, advice, moral support, emotional comfort, and stimulation where you never thought to look before.

8. Energy-Producing

Rather than consume energy, finding a cache is energizing. The elation felt when opening each cache embedded in a common event can be surprisingly strong. You get extra energy, the way you can get energy from a friend or lover.

The excitement of finding some personally valuable cache gets the adrenaline pumping. It will often feel as if you're living your own heroic epic, and you may feel as if you were identifying with a poignant and epic story in the movies. At other times you may feel as if you were harvesting positive emotional energy from your daily environments the way bees harvest honey from flowers.

9. Paperless, and Without Coordinates

This game is paperless and played without a GPS unit. The challenge of the game is not chasing down posted coordinates, but encouraging your mind to shift to a new perspective so you can identify and open these puzzle caches hiding near you in plain sight.

You do have to coax or allow your mind to get off its beaten path. All it takes is exploring trivial events with a nimble and elastic perception and a limber point of view.

And you do have to use triangulation. That is, you must have **three** points of reference.

- A personal dilemma or problem or question
- The randomly occurring minor event
- The key to deciphering or opening the cache (Chapter 4)

10. No Replacement Hassle

There is no "replacement" hassle. Unlike traditional geocaching, once the cache is opened and the treasure claimed, there is no need to replace it.

Rather, after voicing, silently or aloud, the traditional TFTC ("Thank you for the cache") you PLACE the treasure in your daily life to entertain you, to support, console or inspire you, or to help you reach your personal goals. Nevertheless, if the cache is considered useful to share with others, there is the option of logging the experience online by sending it to <u>francinejuhasz@comcast.net</u> and the author will put it online (on condition you wish to share your experience).

11. Many Caches Are Part of a Treasure Horde

Many caches don't exist alone. They are related to other caches, and often provide clues to identifying and deciphering those caches by offering a context in which to view other trite events differently. Once you identify and open these related caches, you'll have a treasure horde that is extremely valuable to you personally.

12. No Need to Miss a Single One

You can even hunt those that have occurred to or around you in the past. You need not miss a single one!

You will find, if you rummage at leisure in your past, that many of these geocaches were putting on their little dramas **long before you ever decided to look for them.**

Once you have learned the technique, try this out for yourself. Think back a few years in your life. Vagabond the past, combing it for trivial dramas that contained important personal information for you. You will find incredibly appropriate minidramas where you never expected them before.

And you'll realize this is not merely a game. It's the theater of Planet Earth. The theater of our globe. And that's why you play this game:

- to read reality differently
- to think differently about your world
- to enjoy, over and over again, that it's a peculiar world in which you live

13. Whole-Brain Activity

Geocaching with trivial events is a whole-brain activity. You use both the right and left sides of your brain. That is, you use not only your logical mind, but your imagination and creativity, metaphorical thought, reverie, image processing, symbol interpretation (especially of your own private symbols) and your power of association. In simple, easy steps.

R. W. Sperry, and Levy and Gazzaniga in his Cal Tech group, rocked the psychological community in 1968 with their ingenious split-brain research. It revealed that each half of the brain perceives reality in its own way. The left half of the brain, the verbal half, is what we use to see the logical, common side of reality. It's the side we use to engage in traditional geocaching.

The right half of the brain is holistic, intuitively creative, with a metaphoric cast of mind by means of which nonverbal realities, such as music, art and dramatic gestures can be perceived.

Each slightly unusual event in our lives seems as if it were crafted to tame and frazzle the linearly simplistic **left** side of our brains. However, to the **right** side of our brains, it appears as a parallel version of what's going on inside us, acting out some universal symbol or one of our own particular private symbols, or wearing a metaphoric "mask".

The right side of our brains can detect this because it is equipped to perceiving the wholeness underlying all things.

14. Wormholes to Exotic Spaces

Although finding a traditional geocache can be exciting and great fun, **finding a trivial events geocache can be a "wormhole" to an exotic space.**

A wormhole, as it is used in science, is where two different worlds or universes touch.

The best part about geocaching with random daily events is that when you open the cache (by decoding it) you tumble through the ordinary into an exotic new environment – an enchanted realm that is full of surprises. Somewhere you've never been before!

You may find yourself seeing a bigger picture of the world than you have ever imagined. You may find your world isn't as alien as you thought, but friendly and numinous. You may feel you're living in a different world altogether, that is built differently. You may even discover your notion of reality has to be upgraded. Perhaps...perhaps it's a better world than you think.

The bottom line is, randomly occurring trivial events contain explosively brilliant clues to extending not only your personal success, but your experience of reality as well. Daily happenings become geocaching containers for valuable, personally relevant treasure .

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