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Reviewed by Rhys Tait

Trail Magic: Going Walkabout for 2184 Miles on the
Appalachian Trail

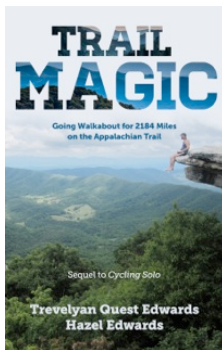
by Trevelyan Quest Edwards, Hazel Edwards

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In 2012, Trevelyan Edwards walked the Appalachian Trail (running more than 3,500km along the eastern seaboard of the United States), which is a bit like waking up in Melbourne and deciding to walk to Jardine National Park in the northern tip of Queensland. Along the way, he discovers that nobody uses their real names any more, the food you carry is best measured by calories to the gram, and a thing called 'trail magic' exists.

This novel is formed from a series of blog posts and emails sent home to friends and families, and it has the kind of moreish quality that anyone who's ever fallen for a blog will know. Because Trevelyan was relying on sparse public computer access, there are some gaps in the trail narrative, and if he ever does something this crazy again, I'd highly recommend that a 500 gram tablet would be a worthwhile weight for him to carry. His relaxed writing style is highly readable and I found myself wanting more. But the length is perfect for a younger reader who likes orienteering, hiking and the outdoors.

5 stars