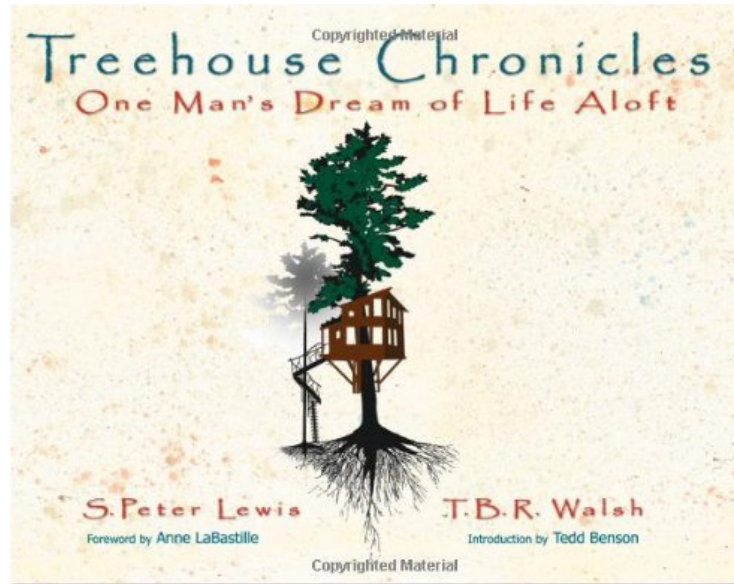


Treehouse Chronicles: One Man's Dream of Life Aloft

S. Peter Lewis, T.B.R. Walsh

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#2327316 in Books TMC Books 2008-12-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 .68 x 9.30 x 12.041, 2.25
#File Name: 0972030743132 pages | File size: 42.Mb

S. Peter Lewis, T.B.R. Walsh : Treehouse Chronicles: One Man's Dream of Life Aloft before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Treehouse Chronicles: One Man's Dream of Life Aloft:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. OutstandingBy DannoWell, as others have said this is not a how-to. I have read many of those. I bought his book largely based on the reviews for it because it sounded as though the content would really relate to me and many life experiences I have had. I enjoyed this book. It was inspirational and having had many treehouses as a boy and having built small simple ones for my daughter and son hoping I would never be "too old" to capture some magic this book brought me to a place that made me smile. I related to it so well that I asked my wife to read it to understand me better and why I will just go out and sit staring at nothing for long periods of time before starting a project. his book puts into words what I have tried to explain to others and failed at it. I agree with all the others here that the illustrations and photos are fantastic and complement the text nicely. For anybody wanting inspiration for creating some outdoor magic such as a treehouse or anyone that simply enjoys the treasures of being outdoors this is a wonderful book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Inspirational and attractiveBy Steve in MaineTreehouse Chronicles: One Man's Dream of Life AloftThis is not a how-to book on treehouse building. Rather, it's a book about philosophy, friends, family, and place written by a gifted writer who uses his folly as a foil. It is eminently readable as well as very browseable. There are one-page asides on various topics throughout as well as good pictures and striking watercolors a'plenty. While the technical details of the construction are mostly absent from the book (for instance, the roof is mentioned not at all) there are still plenty of nuggets buried within. I was particularly taken with the chessboard they created. Also, the drawbridge was a neat idea and will probably be referenced in one of my future designs. The main flaw I see in this work is there is a sort of deus ex machina in the person of Ted. Ted is endowed with preternatural mental abilities and always shows up at the right time to help the hapless author out of his latest jam. I'm afraid this may cause those of us who lack a Ted to hesitate before

undertaking a folly of this type. Another big problem is the way they fastened their structure to the tree. In their effort to not harm the tree by drilling holes, they do potentially catastrophic damage to the future health of this stately pine. I have seen this over and over. Call an arborist before starting, he will (hopefully) set you straight. Despite their tree health faux-pas, I expect this elder giant will make it through fine. The real reason to crack this book is to be inspired. This is an uplifting book. The little aphorism that I will take with me from this book is attributed to the author's mother: "Dreams need feet. Give feet to your dreams." Highly recommended for the dreamer. An interesting book for the builder. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Inspiration Beauty By Luisa Adams The Treehouse Chronicles is a book for everyone who loves good writing, beauty, honesty, practical wisdom, and proof that dreams do come true. I am not a carpenter, nor do I know one thing about building. This beautiful book captivated me from page one. The art work compliments the pages and progress of the enormous project. Best of all, I am inspired to start thinking in the realm of possibility and promise. The author, S. Peter Lewis is not the only one rewarded with this project, so is the reader!

This is the story of what happens when big people decide to be kids again and they have tools and lumber. A beautifully written tale about building an elaborate two story treehouse in the Maine woods, Treehouse Chronicles is reflective and insightful, and carries the reader along as a dream is made real. We meet the author's family, and friends, and a squirrel with an attitude, and you will be captivated by this poignant and humorous story of process, a house is hung in the sky. Packed with over 180 spectacular photographs, evocative watercolors, and line drawings, this book is simply delightful. Once in a while, a great book will come along that takes your breath away. Treehouse Chronicles is one of those books. - Foreword By Anne LaBastille, ecologist, author and adjunct professor of natural resources, Cornell University. - Introduction by Tedd Benson, renowned timber frame builder, designer, and author. --- From the first page, readers will be captivated by the authors charm and wit. Combined with Lewis exceptional writing and photographs and Walshs illustrations and watercolors, this beautifully done "coffee table book" is a rare find. With carefully chosen words and a self-deprecating sense of humor, Lewis tells the tale of a grown man eager to build a house in the sky. Beginning with his days in Colorado, Lewis shares with readers his journey back to Maine where he and his family settle into an old farmhouse, destined to enjoy the land and the history it offers. Upon their return to Maine, Lewis, and his family and friends participate in fulfilling Lewis dream of building a magnificent treehouse. Through journal entries, reflection, sketches, and illustrations, Lewis takes readers through the four-year process from beginning to end. As he shares his ideas, dreams, foibles, and follies, Lewis gives readers much more than a glance into his life during this time. He gives them the hope of a dream of their own, seen through his eyes. "Some people have laughed and chalked the whole thing up to some bizarre mid-life crises something I had to get out of my system I suppose I could analyze the thing to death, working under the assumption that there should be some deep meaning. But I wont. Building this treehouse was just something I wanted to do and while doing it I discovered I was still just a little kid. Thats reason enough to hang a house in the sky." While many books claim to offer "something for everyone," Treehouse Chronicles can stand by this claim. For the nature lover, Lewis tells of forest creatures, farm animals, majestic trees, and crystal clear lakes and streams. For engineers and carpenters, he offers detailed insight into the plans for the treehouse from start to finish, explaining how the treehouse literally "hangs in the sky." Historians will enjoy Lewis description of his 185-year-old, hand-built home, the stone walls surrounding the property, and Lewis musings about how the propertys original settlers might have lived. From a more reflective, emotional perspective, the author lovingly examines his relationships with his family and friends. This passage offers a perfect example of Lewis admiration of his parents: "Mom taught me to be amazed every day; Dad taught me how to fit stuff together. It was a magical combination the treehouse was inevitable." Most likely, this magnificent book is not one that readers would knowingly search for online or seek out in a local bookstore. Rather it is more likely to be found by accident. Whether it is sought out or stumbled upon, this book will not disappoint. This fascinating collection of one mans thoughts, ideas and dreams, wrapped in a beautifully illustrated package, is apt to inspire everyone who reads it. - Dana Blozis, ForeWordreviews.com

"Few among us will spend three years turning a whimsical idea into an astonishing reality... Lewis did just that." -- Dallas Morning News, December 16, 2005 "The book, like the building process itself, is part vision quest, part how-to, part meditation on nature, family, and community." -- Boston Globe, October 20, 2005 "[This] book inspires us to follow our dreams." -- St Petersburg (FL) Times, December 11, 2005 The book, like the building process itself, is part vision quest, part how-to, part meditation on nature, family, and community. -- Boston Globe, October 20, 2005 From the Publisher Listed as one of the "Best Outdoor Books of 2005" by Ron Watters, Chairman, National Outdoor Book Awards, Professor of Outdoor Education, Idaho State University From the Back Cover "Once in a while a great book comes along that takes your breath away." - DANA BLOZIS, ForeWordreviews.com "Oh how I'd love to spend days and nights in a two-floor, multi-decked, timberframe house hanging high in the branches of a very tall pine. That's the premise and the promise of this wonderfully entertaining book. The dream, subtly floating on each page is, well...everything. Treehouse Chronicles is enchanting." - JUDSON D. HALE, Sr., Editor-In-Chief, Yankee Magazine

and *The Old Farmers Almanac* "This is a rare and wonderful book, very difficult to categorize, but easy to love. Its the story of a mans journey home, in the largest sense of those words. This is a story about reconnecting with the land, to the natural world, and to family and friends. Its about love and work." - JAY PARINI, Axinn Professor of English, Middlebury College, author, *One Matchless Time: A Life of William Faulkner* "One of the nastiest tricks of our culture is to insist that we "grow up," replacing a playful relationship with the world around us with a businesslike and sober (and environmentally destructive) attitude. The authors, happily, have not succumbed to this virus; instead, they have produced something childlike, in all the finest senses of that word, as beguiling a house as there could be." - BILL McKIBBEN, author, *Wandering Home The End of Nature* "Treehouse Chronicles is a classic story of people working in partnership with nature, in their own backyard, to build that most basic of human structures: a house. Determined to be sustainable by using recycled and found materials and by implementing the principles of biomimicry, Lewis and his friends build a wondrous treehouse. They created an enchanting thing, a flight of fancy held in the sky by a living arm of the earth. Weaving fine writing, photography, illustrations, and paintings together, this book is as inspiring to look at, as it is to read." - L. HUNTER LOVINS, Natural Capitalism, President "In *Treehouse Chronicles* we find two men, without formal architectural or engineering training (lest we forget, Frank Lloyd Wright was not formally trained as an architect either) who take the simplest materialswood, steel, cable, and glassand toss them up into the air as art." - KENT HUBBELL, Professor of Architecture, Robert W. and Elizabeth C. Staley Dean of Students, Cornell University "Peter Lewis has captured something here that people need to be reminded of everyday; its the journey not the destination. In lifes great balancing act, Peter deftly moves between the demands of a young family, a full-time job, and an all-consuming construction project in his back yard. His treehouse dream comes true, and along the way, through introspective and often hilarious writing, beautiful watercolors and many photographs, the reader gains a new best friend." - PETE NELSON, author, *Treehouses: The Art and Craft of Living Out on a Limb*, cofounder, TreeHouse Workshop