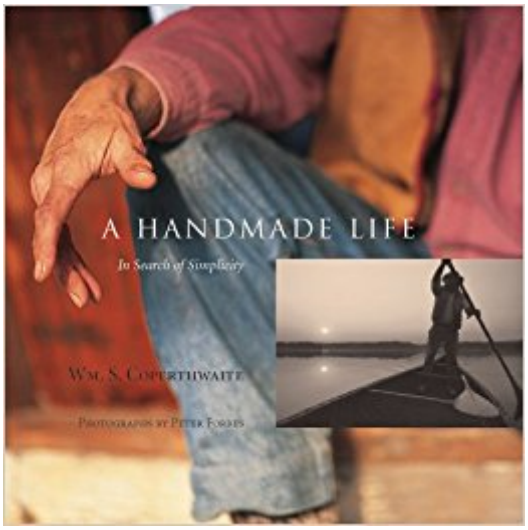
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A Handmade Life: In Search Of Simplicity



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Synopsis

William Coperthwaite is a teacher, builder, designer, and writer who for many years hasexplored the possibilities of true simplicity on a homestead on the north coast of Maine. In the spirit of Henry David Thoreau, Emily Dickinson, and Helen and Scott Nearing, Coperthwaite has fashioned a livelihood of integrity and completeness-buying almost nothing, providing for his own needs, and serving as a guide and companion to hundreds of apprentices drawn to his unique way of being. A Handmade Life carries Coperthwaite's ongoing experiments with hand tools, hand-grown and gathered food, and handmade shelter, clothing, and furnishings out into the world to challenge and inspire. His writing is both philosophical and practical, exploring themes of beauty, work, education, and design while giving instruction on the hand-crafting of the necessities of life. Richly illustrated with luminous color photographs by Peter Forbes, the book is a moving and inspirational testament to a new practice of old ways of life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Serene and thoughtful, this rambling scrapbook by Maine native and yurt-house builder Coperthwaite provides a vision of a life lived simply and self-sufficiently. From violence to education to how to build a "democratic chair" or make an axe, Coperthwaite covers an abundance of topics as he describes his version of a "handmade life" and explains why such a life is desirable. Never quite didactic, Coperthwaite meditates on topics-such as the idea of employment as exploitation-more than he preaches about them, moving glibly from idea to disconnected idea. A

recipe for "a bread so good to both the palate and to health that a diet of bread and water would be a delight" is placed next to an anecdote about a young Eskimo girl named Maggie, for example. And the author’s own poems, along with poems by D.H. Lawrence and Emily Dickinson, intersperse the narrative. Peter Forbes’ engaging color photographs illustrate Coperthwaite’s concepts-no easy feat given their breadth and diversity. 67 color photos, 10 b&w illustrations. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Publishers Weekly-Serene and thoughtful, this rambling scrapbook by Maine native and yurt-house builder Coperthwaite provides a vision of a life lived simply and self-sufficiently. From violence to education to how to build a "democratic chair" or make an axe, Coperthwaite covers an abundance of topics as he describes his version of a "handmade life" and explains why such a life is desirable. Never quite didactic, Coperthwaite meditates on topics-such as the idea of employment as exploitation-more than he preaches about them, moving glibly from idea to disconnected idea. A recipe for "a bread so good to both the palate and to health that a diet of bread and water would be a delight" is placed next to an anecdote about a young Eskimo girl named Maggie, for example. And the author’s own poems, along with poems by D.H. Lawrence and Emily Dickinson, intersperse the narrative. Peter Forbes’ engaging color photographs illustrate Coperthwaite’s concepts-no easy feat given their breadth and diversity. 67 color photos, 10 b&w illustrations. (review refers to an earlier edition of the book)"This book, a richly textured exploration of Bill Coperthwaite’s work and thought, encourages us to take the lessons of his life to heart. Each of us has the potential to craft our own lives with our own hands--actively, joyfully, and nonviolently, drawing upon the wisdom of our ancestors, striving for justice in the present, and fulfilling our obligations to those who will inherit our legacy."--John Saltmarsh (review refers to an earlier edition)

Simplicity and common sense are in short commodity. Take some time to read this book, and then take a few minutes to find just one thing you can do to make your life a bit simpler, and much more rewarding.

One of the best reads I have had. Somewhat quirky but delightful. It was not what I expected, but oh such a pleasant surprise. A mix of philosophy with emphasis on both current and timeless issues. Love it!

I had the privilege to get to know Bill on his 400 acres in ME. Brilliant man. His book is a Bible to me.

I've given away many copies. I have a copy on my Kindle. My favorite book.

It is a very nice book, but the author tends to drift around on his subjects, and I did no agree with some of his philosophy regarding schooling for youngsters. However, it is worth reading if you are into the simple life, as I am.

The man's philosophy and his book have a thread in my own personal tapestry. Its definitely one of the 10 best books I have ever read.

Best book ever! Author died to young -

I came across this book at Rancho Mastatal, in Costa Rica, a sustainable living center. It's so inspiring, clearly written, and full of small encouraging stories and examples.

I love this book and try to have a spare copy around to give to friends and people that I meet who wish to lead a more grounded, intentional, and simpler life. Lush photos and simple elegant philosophy.

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