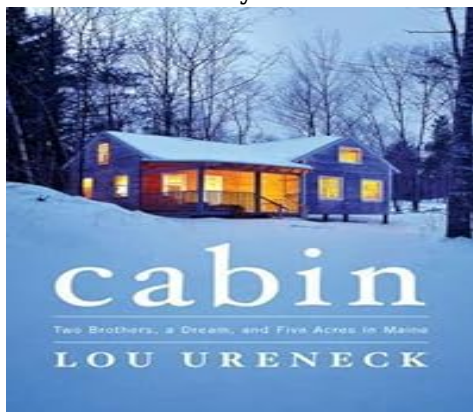


Cabin: Two Brothers, a Dream, and Five Acres in Maine By Lou Ureneck Confronted with the disappointments and knockdowns that can come in middle age-job loss the death of his mother a health scare a divorce-Lou Ureneck needed a project that would engage the better part of him and put him back in life's good graces. But as they raise the cabin Ureneck eloquently reveals his own evolving insights into the richness and complexity of family relationships the healing power of nature and the need to root oneself in a place one can call home. With its exploration of the satisfaction of building and of physical labor Cabin will also appeal to readers of Robert Pirsig's Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance Matthew Crawford's Shop Class as Soulcraft and Tracy Kidder's House. Lou begins his heartfelt saga thusly: The idea had taken hold of me that I needed nothing so much as a cabin in the woods - four rough walls a metal roof that would ping under the spring rain and a porch that looked down a wooded hillside. Lou's knockdowns could serve as classic textbook the midlife crisis we all face in one form or the other anywhere from our early 30s to our late 50s (Lou's cabin story begins when he's 58). Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung offers profound words on just this topic: Therefore if some great idea takes hold of us from outside we must understand that it takes hold of us only because something in us responds to it and goes out to meet it. Lou's response engages both heart and mind a boy's dream really - the dream of not slapping up a prefab vacation house but building an authentic cabin with craft and heft and tradition - a cabin that would serve as both expression and extension of the surrounding rugged Maine hillside. If I were to make a list of lessons learned about cabin building one of them would be: order your materials well in advance of when you need them and have them delivered in proximity to the building site. If you have been lucky or resourceful - luck being by far the more determinant of the two - the pain of the losses has been reduced somewhat by the satisfaction of the things you have gained along with way principal among these being children. Outwardly we had led different lives but inwardly we had similar values and impulses which had come out of our strong shared experiences as children and young men: blood loyalty and the resourcefulness that children learn from having to wash out their underwear and socks in the bathroom sink each night before school or lift an alcoholic stepfather out of the bushes and clean him up in the house. I was about twenty when I first read Tolstoy and each time I finished reading one of his stories I felt as if I needed to recover from the stun of an electric shock.] by then I had a chair in the cabin and I would just sit and watch the rain come down tapping the leaves splattering on the ground or blowing this way and that as the rain shifted. Catering to my own urges to build a cabin Lou Ureneck takes us on a journey of self discovery history and brotherly compassion as he and his brother build a cabin in Maine. Ureneck traces his history with nature back to his childhood in New Jersey to building his first home with his brother to leaving Maine for Philadelphia and then to Boston for a teaching position at BU.

Travel A good book that filled the yearning in my mind. Given all of the events of the last year and the hours upon hours of reflection I've done as a result: I've found myself drawn to spending as much time outdoors as I can, I've also come to accept that there are fewer days ahead than behind and that over the last decade I've wasted time that I cannot get back, That broken fences can be mended and new families created and nurtured: I would recommend this book to anyone who has fallen on rough times or is simply stressed out by the current state of the world, His first book Backcast won the National Outdoor Book Award for literary merit, He has worked as a reporter and editor at the Providence Journal the Portland (Maine) Press Herald and the Philadelphia Inquirer, Ureneck also was a Nieman fellow and editor in residence at Harvard University. He built a cabin in Maine with his brother Paul and wrote a book about it called Cabin, In the book he tells the story of Paul and him of the cabins construction and of his coming to consciousness about his love of nature. His most recent book The Great Fire is out in May 2015. His first book Backcast won the National Outdoor Book Award for literary merit, He has worked as a reporter and editor at the Providence Journal the Portland (Maine) Press Herald and the Philadelphia Inquirer: Ureneck also was a Nieman fellow and editor in residence at Harvard University, He built a cabin in Maine with his brother Paul and wrote a book about it called Cabin: In the book he tells the story of Paul and him of

the cabin's construction and of his coming to consciousness about his love of nature. His most recent book *The Great Fire* is out in May 2015. [{site_link}](#) Inspired by his *From the Ground Up* New York Times blog a beautifully written memoir about building and brotherhood: City-bound for a decade Lou decided he needed to build a simple post-and-beam cabin in the woods. He bought five acres in the hills of western Maine and asked his younger brother Paul to help him: Twenty years earlier the brothers had built a house together: Now Lou saw working with Paul as a way to reconnect with their shared history and to rediscover his truest self. As the brothers-with the help of Paul's sons-undertake the challenging construction nothing seems to go according to plan: Cabin: Two Brothers a Dream and Five Acres in Maine This author has a lot of words. As someone who lives in a Cabin that we built ourselves I wanted a book more about cabin building with that title, A good read if you're looking for a memoir; not so much if you're looking for a how-to or an idea book, Nonfiction History Travel Cabin by Lou Ureneck is a tale of two brothers a dream and five acres in the state of Maine, I had been city-bound for nearly a decade dealing with the usual knockdowns and disappointments of middle age: I had lost a job my mother had died and I was climbing back from a divorce that had left me nearly broke, I was a little wobbly but still standing and I was looking for something that would put me back in life's good graces: I wanted a project that would engage the better part of me and the notion of building a cabin-a boy's dream really-seemed a way to get a purchase on life's next turn, As I was reading this moving account it was as if I was right there at Lou's side every single step of the way, To share a taste of my experience I'll link my comments with Lou's actual words, In this experiment in mental health building a cabin with Paul was one of the reasons I wanted to build it at all, When you get around to reassembling your life as I was doing it's good to have someone at your side who remembers how the parts once fit together: ---- Fortunately Lou's younger brother Paul had a wealth of knowledge and expertise both as builder and construction manager: However Paul had something infinitely more valuable: he shares a deep brotherly bond with Lou. Growing up I had always been on the move from one place to another sometimes in the middle of the night: My mother and father had separated several times when I was very young and my father disappeared from my life when I was seven years old, ---- Lou fills us in on his backstory especially his years growing up in central New Jersey in and around Toms River. One memorable piece of his boyhood: out in rustic central New Jersey Lou made some money as a tracker catching muskrats and raccoons, This is an assembly of timbers fashioned into the shape of a raised H - two vertical posts connected near their tops with a horizontal beam. ---- Alas building a cabin yourself requires a commitment to detail. The steps are six in number: 1) foundation 2) frame 3) exterior siding 4) roof interior 5) siding and finish 6) plumbing heading lighting cooking, Lou shares enough of the nitty-gritty to satisfy any reader who would like to know what it would be like to undertake such a project. By the time you hit your sixth decade life's losses begin to pile up, It is the freedom that allows you to know and be yourself, ---- Lou has spent a good number of years as a college professor. This to say Lou has the ability to clearly articulate his hard won wisdom, All of this the similarities and the differences was playing out and would further play out as the cabin took its shape: ---- All through Lou's story a reader senses how blood runs thicker than water. I know I know it's a cliché but in this case it's 100% true, Never had literature spoken so directly to me or had life so fully opened up on the page: ---- As any reader of this review can appreciate an openness to world literature counts for so much, Cabin a journey of spirit an uplifting journey one I highly recommend. Lou and young brother Paul Lou Ureneck at his cabin in Maine Nonfiction History Travel A story about building, I try to recall the subject of the last books I've read, Scattered words occur to me: bonds love chase revenge friends house blood senses: Now doesn't every story have to do with building and demolishing? It's a good metaphor and I like it. Lou Ureneck reaches the roots and the branches of this metaphor: He starts by his recent misfortunes continuing by introducing us to his childhood his relation to his brother his mother and then his life as a husband and father. Every story gets disrupted by the gradual building of his cabin as we gradually get to know him his inner and outer world: The building of the cabin and the building of his whole life some rooms of which had been shuttered: There are plenty of them in the book created through inventive and acute

observations. Also there is a timeline which travels the reader back and forth focusing in details then showing the big picture and finally an overall excellent organization of the chapters. "It's difficult to give your life meaning if you can't give it coherence" was one of the first sentences I wrote down, After all the reader wants to turn anxiously to the next page, I found myself stopping in the middle of a paragraph and closing my eyes or gazing in emptiness around me. It makes you think slow down pause dig into your thoughts: I would add that this is a pleasure that makes us more intelligent sensitive above all more humane, The question is how did he achieve that? The writer studied and it shows. Studied on how to make a cabin on the historical background of Maine studied literature- and I always adore references to the sacred monsters like Tolstoy. He goes so deep into the basis of his feelings childhood thoughts roots needs that I wonder whether he should have been a psychotherapist. Finally Lou Ureneck passes through this the building the getting back to his feet with optimism. He could easily choose misery lying on his couch during weekends instead of going to Maine, There are the ones who cannot stand up when they fall the ones that focus on the misery and the problem itself. And then there are the ones that shout every morning to themselves: You have to wake up: The ones who prefer to keep their pride even if that means more difficulties, The ones that have a fire burning inside of them- in other words the urge to create the urge to build. Nonfiction History Travel If I thought I wanted a cabin BEFORE I read this book I not only wanted a cabin but I wanted to BUILD A CABIN IN MAINE: I would have liked more pictures of the interior and of the cabin layout: I enjoyed the book and would read other books by the author: There was a lot of technical information about building but it was interesting, The author had a lot of the same feelings I have about reasons to go to a cabin: I found the North Star and turned in place to take in the entire sky, It had been a night in which the stars actually sparkled; they glittered it seemed for my benefit: The temperature was well below zero and a pale wraith of smoke drifted up from the chimney as the woodstove inside pulsed with heat: I had stood there for a very long time letting the cold find it's way into my woolen shirt and I thought I would never be happier. Now and again I just stood by the door's rough opening and watched the water come down from the roof and fall from the eaves [: Nonfiction History Travel



Having lived in Oxford County for six years I wanted to read this book. Not only is it a heartwarming memoir it is written in a literary style that brought joy to my heart. My best friend who was a carpenter by trade read this book in almost one setting.) Nonfiction History Travel roughly equal parts memoir construction details and observations on nature (both Maine and his childhood in New Jersey): First area was reasonably interesting the others not so much for me: It was very well written so would appeal to others interested in those details, Nonfiction History Travel There are few books I return to time and time again and even fewer that I read twice in a row. The appeal of this books lies in its writing and its very human story. Filled with insights and discoveries cabin is a book any nature lover and cabin nut will enjoy time and time again, Nonfiction History Travel This book is simple in the best way possible. It's simply a story of healing in the context of nature and the ways in which the Earth itself is often the best backdrop for emotional reckoning, Short and sweet we follow two brothers who build a cabin in the forests of Maine the construction of which sets the stage for a deep sense of peace. This book hit a spot that I've been trying to scratch. A place where family and

friends can come together. Nonfiction.

Lou Ureneck is a teacher and writer. He lives in Boston. He also has been a merchant seaman and carpenter. Lou Ureneck is a teacher and writer. He lives in Boston. He also has been a merchant seaman and carpenter. I think my biggest angst is the title. The book was more of a memoir. The cabin itself added very little to the story. I won't lie. I needed it badly. You bet Lou needed it badly. The fundamental unit of timber-frame construction is the bent. Another is the freedom that comes with age. Building a cabin in Maine- from scratch. That was something new for me. The two parts of this metaphor grow hand by hand. This is not the only metaphor he used. It's one of the things I love about books. Of course a good story is satisfying. Is it enough though? Lou Ureneck achieved more. Roland Barthes named it the pleasure of reading. First and foremost he studied himself. I always thought that this is what defers people. Nonfiction History Travel I truly enjoyed reading this book. It started out slow but I grew to like it very much. The snow was deep and creaked under my boots, even though I know nothing about building with wood. (He's retired so he could do that. This book is one of them. Nonfiction History History Travel.