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Norwegian Wood: Chopping, Stacking, And Drying Wood The Scandinavian Way



Synopsis

The latest Scandinavian publishing phenomenon is not a Stieg Larsson "like thriller; it's a book about chopping, stacking, and burning wood that has sold more than 200,000 copies in Norway and Sweden and has been a fixture on the bestseller lists there for more than a year. Norwegian Wood provides useful advice on the rustic hows and whys of taking care of your heating needs, but it's also a thoughtful attempt to understand man's age-old predilection for stacking wood and passion for open fires. An intriguing window into the exoticism of Scandinavian culture, the book also features enough inherently interesting facts and anecdotes and inspired prose to make it universally appealing. The U.S. edition is a fully updated version of the Norwegian original, and includes an appendix of U.S.-based resources and contacts.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (56 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I bought this as a gift for my crazy, wood-chopping and wood-burning obsessed father. Then I liked it so much I never gave it to him, and kept it for myself. Now I have to buy another, but I will gladly do it. This book is amazing. It is hardcover and the binding felt solid, I like the feel of the paper in the book. It's weird, but books with poor quality paper can just ruin it for me. The book discusses the Norwegian way of "dealing with" wood. I waited (I think) 2 years for it to be translated in English as I knew it would be the perfect gift. But it is just so damn interesting I couldn't let it go. There are many full colored pictures of wood, and even more words about wood. It's a book that is entirely about wood. I don't know how else to describe it. You'll probably like it. Buy 2; one for you, one for the

most outdoorsy wood chopping obsessed person you know. Disclaimer: if you DON'T like woodsy stuff, you probably shouldn't buy this book. Because that is ALL it is about.

This book is as wondrous in English as it was in the original Norwegian. Startling variety and depths of insights. You'll never look at your firewood - or your fireplace - in quite the same way again.

Excellent translation, very readable.

Being currently immersed in the task of putting up the winter firewood, while also writing blog posts and making youtube videos about splitting firewood, the release of this book was good timing. I've been putting up my own firewood up for a long time, so I have some perspective on the subject. The book is very much written for the Norwegian audience and it's perspective is very much Norwegian/Scandinavian. It is as much a human and cultural interest book revealing a view of the Norwegian relationship with forests, wood, work and heat, as it is a practical book and has feet in both areas. As a very pragmatic person, I would have preferred to see more well laid out how to information. It is not a how-to manual that will show you how to put up firewood. However, it is still full of much of that kind of useful information, especially for those who live in a similar context to that in which the book is framed. This is a well written, well constructed, well researched and easy reading book. I think for anyone who lives in a Northern forest of birch and conifers would be glad they read this book. In fact, I'd say it's a must read. Also, anyone who is just a wood burning/cutting/splitting enthusiasts, as some of us are, would enjoy it and almost surely learn something new. Even as a fairly well seasoned wood geek, I learned some neat stuff. It also has a romantic aspect that will pluck the pragmatic heart strings of many firewood enthusiasts. You can see a more thorough review on my website, skillcult.

A close relative recently purchased a piece of land where we've enjoyed cutting down old trees and chopping wood. I enjoyed the process of chopping wood so much that I ordered the #1 rated axe on . The axe is a beast. The book was purchased as a bit of a gag but it turned out to be one of the most enjoyable things I've read in a long time. This is a beautifully written book. I was equally surprised to learn that my axe is talked about in the book. Amongst all the traditional values of the Scandinavians when it comes chopping, stacking, and drying wood - even they couldn't deny the Fiskars X27 and it's raw power. Buy the book, you won't be disappointed.

All right, I'll add to the chorus: This is a fabulous book. If you're even slightly curious, buy it. In my

case, I've been heating my home exclusively with wood for 5+ years (I know, I know, "newb!" shout many). I went into the process of selecting and ordering a high-efficiency insert with my eyes open and did a LOT of research. Then I did a LOT of research on wood, wood sourcing, wood chopping, wood stacking, wood storing, wood moving, wood burning. A LOT of research. You name it, I read up on it. Mostly on-line, thanks to some terrific forums, as they seem to have the latest "state of the art" opinions on efficiently turning wood into heat. After all, processing wood is a whole mountain of backbreaking work, and as a city slicker recently converted to the suburbs, I wanted to make sure I was doing all that work as efficiently as possible. Given all that background research, I was hesitant to buy this book: "I doubt it'll have anything new. I'm sure it's a compendium of old news I've already seen." It can't teach *me* anything. But I found myself adding it to my cart anyway, on a whim (and, perhaps, for an opportunity to read through a book with a feeling of smug superiority? naw). Largely, if you're experienced and/or Scandinavian and/or well read on the topic, there's not a *lot* of new information here. But, it's all presented so charmingly, so engagingly, so compellingly that it's nearly impossible to put down. And even my over-researching self found a few new tidbits to try. There's something in here for everyone, and reading through the stuff you might already know is entertaining enough that it's still time well spent! It's so charming, in fact, that I repeatedly thought to myself, "I wish I could read Norwegian fluently, as I bet it loses some small touches between 'well written' and 'fantastic' in translation." Great, funny, informative, opinionated-without-being-off-putting book. Actually, maybe more than anything else, it made me start wondering about a vacation in Norway! Further, it should be commended for its physical presentation: This is a -beautiful- book, with a nice, heavy cover, lovely thick paper, nice pictures, great layout, etc. Just on that note, it would make a lovely gift presentation. Much care, effort, and cost went into publishing this. The pictures suffer a touch from being on matte paper instead of glossy, but I bet that was a choice made with environmental concerns in mind (or, perhaps, the thought that this book might need to be used as kindling in a dire situation! :)). I will be looking for books from Abrams Image publishing in the future, just because of this book. Great book. Punches way above its weight class and cost. Grab it. Worst case, you can light a month's worth of fires with it, if you disagree!

This was ordered as a gift for my husband, who spends a lot of his time thinking about firewood. He loves this book! I feel like I've read it now because in the 2 weeks he's had it he has read it three times reading several excerpts from it to me at each new reading. He has found it to be well written and full of handy practical tips. I can tell that this simple book is going to alter the face of our wood stores for many winters to come. A great buy.

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