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Rustic Retreats: A Build-It-Yourself Guide by David Stiles (Dec 10 1997)

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From Storey Publishing, LLC : Rustic Retreats: A Build-It-Yourself Guide by David Stiles (Dec 10 1997) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rustic Retreats: A Build-It-Yourself Guide by David Stiles (Dec 10 1997):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. if your looking to make something to live like ancient Indian tribesBy Arthur Sharp "Rustic" that's key word here. these plans are mostly for very rustic structures. There are some really neat ideas if your into "perishable" structures, a lot of glorified tents really, if your looking to make something to live like ancient Indian tribes, or maybe hippies in a commune this may be the book your looking for. the plans are decent, and very artistically presented.I was not looking for the type of structures mentioned above however, I was looking for things like what are shown on the cover. The plans for the cover building are in the book, but they are about the only set that are nearly that well defined of a structure. This was to me a classic case were I never would have bought this book had I gone into a store and looked at it thoroughly, the web description, and sample were in my opinion a bit misleading.again, its a nice book for a certain type of plans, just not what I thought it would be.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding book in every senseBy readerI am simply amazed that people find this book lacking. For example, lacking photos, descriptions of doing electricity or plumbing, or whatever. For me this book defines the genre -- it is the most outstanding book on innovative shelter I have ever read.The authors give extensive details. A single example is the illustration of how to get 1000 pounds of logs to your remote site: balanced across 2 canoes! The authors define many building techniques that are never discussed in "how to build your house"

books because those books assume that you have power tools, ready access to a lumber supply, and in all probability the need to satisfy building inspectors. This book has different assumptions: you are going to build something in the wilderness (or at least your back yard) that does not even attempt to conform to the standards of the uniform building code. I love each and every project they describe, but currently I am assembling the material for the Ivy Covered Grow Hut. I ordered a used parachute on eBay and the glue on and I am buying the bender boards tomorrow. The concept of something like an igloo covered in ivy (I will use jasmine) being built way out there in the wilderness as a nomadic shelter is brilliant, simply brilliant. It satisfied a need I did not know I had, but when satisfied gave me great joy. I can backpack in most of the materials myself (the authors suggest that 2 people should build this shelter, but that is not the situation I find myself in) so perhaps it will take me 2 trips instead of the single 2-person weekend the authors anticipated. The bottom line is that if you want a conventional house-like shelter, this book is not the book you want. But if you want to live like Thoreau or Huck Finn, this book is exactly what you need. The pencil drawings were the only way to convey the details -- photographs would have had distracting extraneous details. After I build the Ivy (Jasmine) Covered Grow Hut I think I will build a tree house. One with a spiral stair so my dog can get up there. And a Huck Finn raft -- the dog and me floating down some lazy river, catching fish for dinner and being rocked to sleep by the water. I really cannot recommend this book highly enough, and I have read many many books on various types of construction, as well as having built my own home, which the building inspectors photographed to show to their friends. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. ... Boy Scout or Girl Scout this would be a great book. The reviews and front pic are misleading. By Katrina Gauld If I were a 12 year old Boy Scout or Girl Scout this would be a great book. The reviews and front pic are misleading. The book is very juvenile and not very practical for actual use. I can buy a nice tent and set it up to accomplish a better retreat than most of the items in this book. It does have some rustic enclosures that could be built if you were ever lost in the woods, or on a survival trip but not at all something that anyone wanting to build a small retreat would want to use. Who wants to stay in a bark covered pyramid. If you have spent any time in the woods or handling bark you would know that you would be sharing your "retreat" with some more primitive crawling creatures. Not my idea of fun and I am a country girl. I am returning the book. Very disappointed in this.