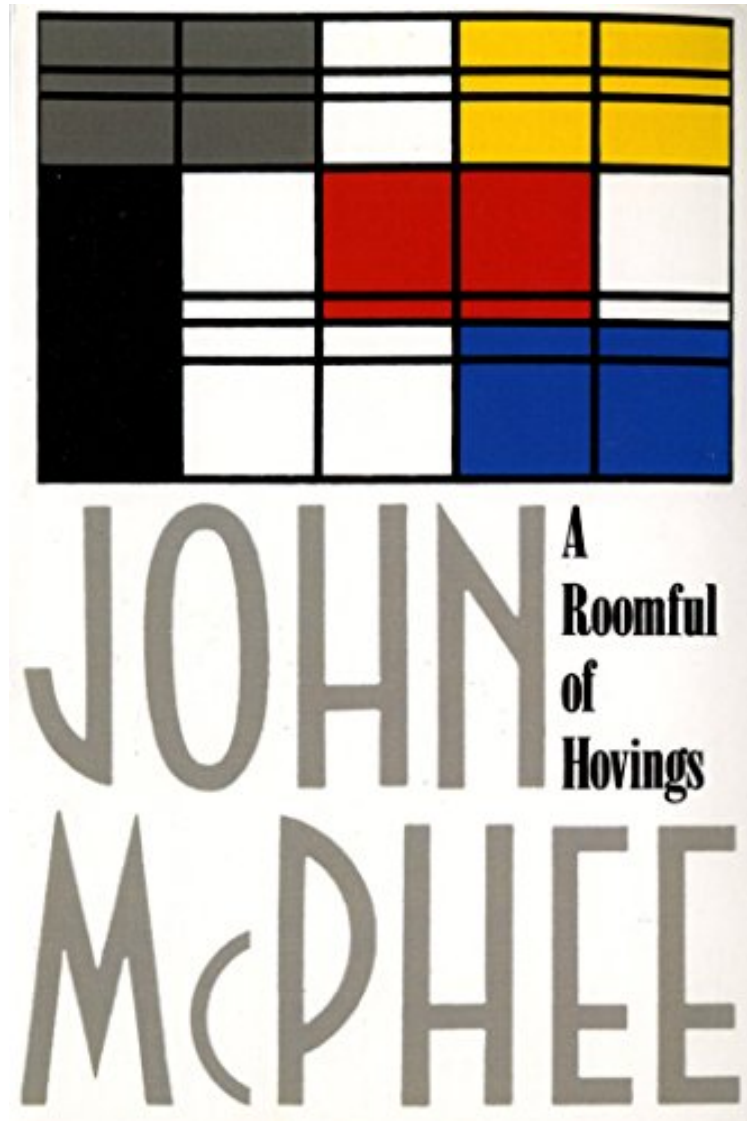


(Read download) A Roomful of Hovings and Other Profiles

A Roomful of Hovings and Other Profiles

Von John McPhee

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Von John McPhee : A Roomful of Hovings and Other Profiles before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Roomful of Hovings and Other Profiles:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. McPhee's Hoving into view...Von WilliamOriginally, I picked this book out to read more about Thomas Hoving, as I had recently completed his 'King of the Confessors' and, as an appreciative receptor of McPhee's writings on geological history ('Basin and Range', 'In Suspect Terrain', et cetera), I hoped to find the same sort of insight in his biographies. I was completely unfamiliar with the other subjects of the 'other Profiles' - they were merely an added

bonus. Nor was I to be disappointed. McPhee's portraits, whether of eccentric and unusual landscapes or of interestingly striated and deformed personalities, are fascinating. Aside from the humanised portrait of Hoving (who from his own writing appears to be something of an intellectual leviathan with the boundless energy of a cheetah after one too many coffees), there are the portraits of Euell Gibbons, a forager for the edible delicacies of the vacant yards and open spaces of wildernesses both urban and rural (who, amusingly, is described as 'the late' Euell Gibbons, which immediately led me to wonder, perhaps uncharitably, whether he had succumbed to one of his experimental foods); Robert Twynam, the Man Who Grew the Grass at Wimbledon (capitalisation my own) - an account which one might expect to be as interesting as, well, watching the grass grow, but really turns into a manner of deft psycho-horticulturo-sporting commentary; Temple Fielding, traveller and hotel connoisseur extraordinaire, whose favourite hotels became the basis for the ratings of an entire guidebook industry; and Carol Brewster, whose entry into the Sudanese civil service is a tale of intrigue and interest in a strife-torn corner of Africa. These five biographical sketches, drawn with McPhee's effortless, almost conversational prose, are held together by one primary common thread: their subjects are intensely interesting men, pursuing occupations that, for various assorted reasons, are also intensely interesting. It is a book that grips and enthralls strangely, for it is not what one would expect to be a gripping, enthralling book. That, I believe, is its secret. I can't imagine anyone not finding favourable comments for any of John McPhee's books - for once, popularity in a modern author is entirely justified. McPhee is a lucid, amusing, and thoroughly fascinating guide, no matter the subject which he has chosen about which to write. By all means, read 'A Roomful of Hovings', or, for that matter, any of his books, if your fellow-travellers on this beknighted little planet hold any interest at all for you. John McPhee is a fine a guide as one could ask.

Kurzbeschreibung In this unique book, John McPhee takes us into the world of several fascinating people. His inimitable style reveals the intricate details of his characters lives. Pressestimmen "McPhee writes as well as anyone in America. His prose is simple and lyrical, his images are sharply focused. And here are five profiles that prove it. His subjects: Thomas P. F. Hoving, art historian, sometime political influence, former floorwalker; the late Euell Gibbons, famous forager of edible wild plants and author of "Stalking the Wild Asparagus"; Carroll Brewster of the intrepid team of M.I.T. Fellows, in the Sudan; Robert Twynam, tender of the lawn at Wimbledon; and Temple Fielding, mercurial and influential author of the popular travel guides to Europe." --Clarence Peterson, " Chicago Tribune" "McPhee writes as well as anyone in America. His prose is simple and lyrical, his images are sharply focused. And here are five profiles that prove it. His subjects: Thomas P. F. Hoving, art historian, sometime political influence, former floorwalker; the late Euell Gibbons, famous forager of edible wild plants and author of Stalking the Wild Asparagus; Carroll Brewster of the intrepid team of M.I.T. Fellows, in the Sudan; Robert Twynam, tender of the lawn at Wimbledon; and Temple Fielding, mercurial and influential author of the popular travel guides to Europe. Clarence Peterson, Chicago Tribune" "McPhee writes as well as anyone in America. His prose is simple and lyrical, his images are sharply focused. And here are five profiles that prove it. His subjects: Thomas P. F. Hoving, art historian, sometime political influence, former floorwalker; the late Euell Gibbons, famous forager of edible wild plants and author of Stalking the Wild Asparagus; Carroll Brewster of the intrepid team of M.I.T. Fellows, in the Sudan; Robert Twynam, tender of the lawn at Wimbledon; and Temple Fielding, mercurial and influential author of the popular travel guides to Europe." --Clarence Peterson, Chicago Tribune Kurzbeschreibung In this unique book, John McPhee takes us into the world of several fascinating people. His inimitable style reveals the intricate details of his characters lives.