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Woodswoman: Living Alone In The Adirondack Wilderness



Synopsis

Ecologist Anne LaBastille created the life that many people dream about. When she and her husband divorced, she needed a place to live. Through luck and perseverance, she found the ideal spot: a 20-acre parcel of land in the Adirondack mountains, where she built the cozy, primitive log cabin that became her permanent home. Miles from the nearest town, LaBastille had to depend on her wits, ingenuity, and the help of generous neighbors for her survival. In precise, poetic language, she chronicles her adventures on Black Bear Lake, capturing the power of the landscape, the rhythms of the changing seasons, and the beauty of nature's many creatures. Most of all, she captures the struggle to balance her need for companionship and love with her desire for independence and solitude. *Woodswoman* is not simply a book about living in the wilderness, it is a book about living that contains a lesson for us all.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anne LaBastille is an author, ecologist, and photographer. She is the author of numerous books, including the *Woodswoman* and *Woodswoman III*. LaBastille was also a very accomplished technical writer, having published over 150 articles. LaBastille died in 2011.

I enjoyed reading this book, in fact I read it in one sitting. Good break from the day to day events in our normal life in the civilized world where we struggle with few day to day survival skills or endure real hardships for the most part. I would recommend this to anyone.

Anne LaBastille was a pretty amazing woman. In a time where most women wouldn't think of being on their own, she went out and built her own cabin in the Adirondacks and lived there alone. And this book is the telling of her first couple years out there, and a little bit of her history before that. With a divorce from her husband in her future, Anne needed to set out and find her own path. After loving hiking, camping, and the outdoors, she decides to buy some land in the Adirondack wilderness and build a small cabin out there. Without electricity and running water, or even an indoor toilet, it's very rustic, but it's where she finds home. Spending her time writing, or with her dog, she finds peace out in the woods, and when she craves company she can always go into town. She even goes over a couple harrowing experiences she has out by herself. But the best thing about being there, is that she gains even more appreciate for the wilderness and the animals that live there. Anne is the main character in this book. Well, aside from her dog. So we really only see her through her eyes, and she doesn't spend much time on herself. Hardly any actually, she describes the wilderness around her. She does touch on the few romantic interests she had in her life, but they are all positive, despite the relationships ending. Even the man she divorces is shown in a mostly positive light in the book. And her neighbors, aside from a few, are described positively as well. She does tend to show a distaste for litterers and peace disturbers, but really, who could blame her? Sometimes this book could drag on a little with the descriptions of the wilderness. Although there were pictures to show a little bit of what it was like, it was hard to see what she was trying to describe sometimes. But in all, I found it a very interesting book. I liked the way she lived her life and how she seemed to be so at peace with her decisions. Hers seemed an ideal life in some ways, although I'm not sure I'd ever be ok without an indoor toilet. But to each their own. An interesting book. I will definitely look into reading the sequel. I'm sure it will be just as interesting as this one. Woodswoman Copyright 1976 278 pages Review by M. Reynard 2012

I spent my childhood in Ticonderoga, Potsdam, and Port Henry which were all part of or adjacent to the Adirondack Park. Anne LaBastille's book brought me home to my childhood in a place of unbelievable beauty. She captured the wonders of the icy cold, clear mountain lakes and ponds. I could practically taste the crispy skins of fresh caught brookies sizzling in a cast iron frying pan. Some reviews have faulted Anne, wondering how she could have all those pictures, when she has pointed out how while her cabin was isolated she was part of a community of both permanent residents of the mountains and lakes, and of visitors. I am looking forward to reading the other books by Anne specifically because of her involvement with the ecology movement. The Adirondacks are a

special place and need to be protected from the ravages of those who destroy their beauty with clear cutting, mountain topping and fracking. They haven't been really wild ever as they were home to Native Peoples before the coming of the colonialists. One thing that should be noted is Anne's mention of the railroads through the mountains as an alternative to building roads and filling the mountains with cars. In many cases the railroad right of way is already there. All in all reading this book takes me home, home to the mountains.

This is the story of a woman, who heads out into the woods to live off the land. The story is personal and very well written. She shares her joys and struggles and difficulties being a woman in the wilderness. I would highly recommend this novel.

I am a first time reader of the Woodswoman series but I must admit that I was immediately hooked! I read the book front to back within several days and am anxious to continue with the others (please make ebooks). The authors descriptive imagery and passion for the untamed wildness was so inspiring and contagious I wanted to pack up a sack and head out to see it for myself. The best part is she points you towards other Adirondack guides and literature as the book progresses so an interested reader can delve into more fantastic Adirondack history!

The "Woodswoman" series is quite interesting if you love nature and enjoy stories of people building their own log cabins in the wilderness, and their adventures in the wild. Anne La Bastille's home wasn't complete wilderness -- she writes at length of problems with vacationers roaring loud motorboats on her idyllic Adirondack lake -- and of neighbors nearby. However, her books are full of adventures with wild animals, as well as her beloved German Shepherds. These books are homey and genuine, heartfelt, warm and enjoyable, but they are not particularly literary, which was a disappointment to me. After reading all the excellent reviews of her books, I expected fine writing, but found nothing of the quality one could enjoy in "Wild" by Cheryl Strayed, or "Indian Creek Chronicles" by Pete Fromm, or "Call of the American Wild" by Guy Grieve. It is best to approach these books without expectations that you will be stimulated by their literary quality, but rather approach them as you would the stories that a friend shared with you.

Finally, a book written by a person who lived the experience she wrote about. Anne LaBastille's life is more in line philosophically with Henry David Thoreau, than other books about such people who decided to live in the wilderness areas of North America. Her style is also easy to read and provides

the reader with a good understanding of what she was feeling when she experienced nature around her.

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