

The Meaning of Home

Edwin Heathcote

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Edwin Heathcote : The Meaning of Home before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Meaning of Home:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful bookBy grek102Love this book - got it for my husband for Christmas and we read it aloud together. It's very small and a quick read, but it's very interesting, and we learned a lot! Highly recommended!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. What Houses Mean to WesternersBy Karlie LaumerThe Meaning of Home was actually a really pleasant read. I didn't know what to expect, but the author was full of wit and charm, and made what could have been a very dull topic full of life and humor. This book simply takes a look at what various aspects of the house have meant over history, and what they mean - possibly - now. The author does admit that he is simply looking at Western views, as that is what he himself is familiar with, but he hopes that someone might do this from an Eastern point of view to compare the two. You may wish to have some form of internet handy when reading this book, as the author does reference many paintings and books that I've never heard of or seen, so being able to look at the painting that he is discussing in his book might help lend a hand at understanding

some of his points. But at the same time, I didn't get too detracted by not taking the time to look up a painting during my read of this book. All in all, this book was a quick and pleasant read of what a house means to people in the Western world throughout history. I plan to keep this on my bookshelves, and will re-read it again in the future, with that internet handy this time around!

We are so familiar with the features of our homes – the rooms, fixtures and myriad little decorative details – that we have forgotten how to look at them. We might explore a church, read a book or watch a film, and attempt to decode its symbols and references, but we rarely look at our homes with the same critical eye. Yet from the most ordinary apartment to the most extravagant mansion, every home is a deep well of meaning. From windows to wardrobes, fireplaces to door knockers, Edwin Heathcote attempts to fathom the elements of our everyday domestic lives. He explores how, over time, ancient ritual elements transmute into practical features, and how some of these, charged with latent symbolic meaning, have persisted in modern dwellings despite having lost their original uses. Home will never quite look the same again.

"The Meaning of Home is at its heart a journey back to early civilization... Enjoyable and informative." - The National Post (Canada)