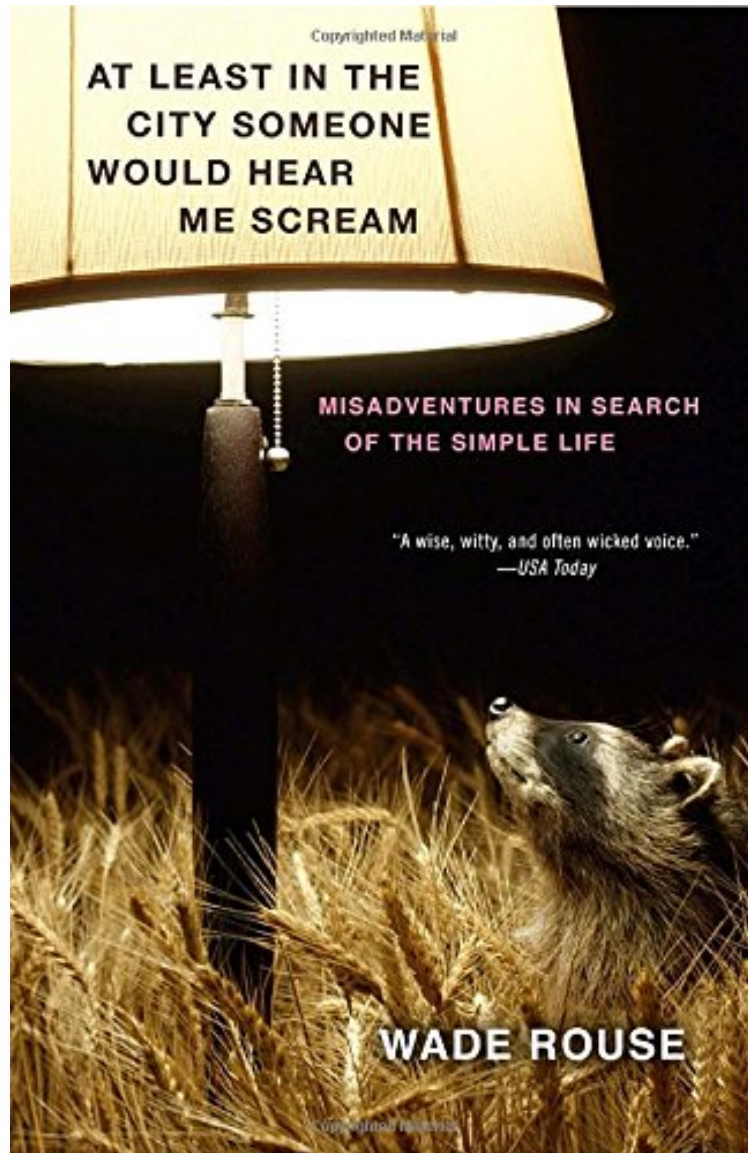


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At Least in the City Someone Would Hear Me Scream: Misadventures in Search of the Simple Life

Wade Rouse

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#508986 in Books Wade Rouse 2010-06-01 2010-06-01Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.30l, .50 #File Name: 0307451917320 pagesAt Least in the City Someone Would Hear Me Scream Misadventures in Search of the Simple Life | File size: 31.Mb

Wade Rouse : At Least in the City Someone Would Hear Me Scream: Misadventures in Search of the Simple Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised At Least in the City Someone Would Hear Me Scream: Misadventures in Search of the Simple Life:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Even though I probably look like some of the people Wade Rouse makes fun of ...By sandy mcevenEven though I probably look like some of the people Wade Rouse makes fun of I dont have an extensive budget for clothing and I buy my shoes at Payless I identify with him. I love the outdoors, but if Im out in the sun too long, my skin turns bright red, I start running a fever and I have to go to bed for a day or two. I love country life, but I want to be able to go to the theater and find people I can talk books with. While Wade or should I call him Thoreau, in honor of the Walden writer, or Lucy, as in I Love has different reactions to country life, somehow I think our souls were cut from the same bolt of cloth. (Although, somehow, his turned out to be silk while mine is cotton.)The book is so funny that I almost fell off my indoor exercise bike six or seven times in an hour. My family kept coming in to check on me to make sure I was all right. From his adventures with a raccoon to his shopping spree at a gardening store, many of us who live in rural areas can identify with him. (In my case, the raccoons pooped on the roof and destroyed the tiles and I bought a rhododendron bush because I loved its leaves, even though it never ever throughout eternity has grown in dry New Mexico, according to all the critics on my Facebook page.)Theres a heartbreaking yet hilarious chapter on his childhood stay at a Christian camp where all the cool kids spoke in tongues. And there is beautiful, tender, loving homages to a grandmother who read to him on an Ozark porch from Walden and The Bible, her two favorite books. While Wade shares memories of bullies who honed in on him because he was gay, there is ample evidence that his grandmothers lessons from her two beloved books armed him with what he needed to be himself.An obsession with Erma Bombeck, the 1960s humorous family newspaper column icon, may have influenced Wades wit; I think she would have been proud of his next-generation of humor at home writing. The book is rather elegant, in its own way, written beautifully and truthfully. There doesnt seem to be much of that exaggeration that makes some humorous essays break up like a duck egg placed in a dishwasher. (Youll have to read the book.)And the reader can only hope that Wade and Gary are living happily ever after; the loving portrait of his partner leaves you pulling for them. Gary is one charming human being. In the end, youll probably feel as I do, that you want to live next door to them.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. like. deep like.By WayneChicagoAt Least in the City Someone Would Hear Me Scream: Misadventures in Search of the Simple Life [Hardcover]Author: Wade RouseEver heard of this book. It's soooo funny, and yet well-written, about a gay couple than moves out of Chicago to a cabin in Michigan, and all their trials and tribulations with everything from the wildlife, to the townsfolk, the people in the wooded trailer down the street, the winters in the MI cabin, etc. They're around the Saugatuck area. The book, although I wouldn't call "deep", does have a sub-message about chasing your dreams while you can, and you may or may not get what you're looking for. It's a fun ride, an easy and breezy read, and although slightly heavy-handed on the homosexual side, it's a complete gas!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Memorable Memoir!By Yolanda S. BeanThis is a fun-to-read memoir! The premise of a St. Louis professional and writer and his partner uprooting their lives to move to rural Michigan certainly provides a lot of comedic fodder. Rouse balances the hilarity (and frivolity) with his use of Thoreau's Walden as a guide to adapting to country living and embracing a new lifestyle. Through the Walden frame, Rouse touches on bigger issues like relationships, religion, pet ownership, following your dreams - but still manages to include detailed descriptions of each of his fashion choices.There are several laugh-out-loud sections here (my favorite involving a rousing game of Candyland). Rouse's tone feels both lively and intimate. It's easy to imagine sitting across from him at a fancy coffeehouse and hearing him relate his stories in the same exact manner. Similar to many other modern essayists, Rouse's writing is reminiscent of David Sedaris. But with more fashion sense and a sort of sparkling flair. Luckily, he lacks the angry and bitter undertones of Augsten Burroughs which makes this a lovely and entertaining read.The Walden theme really centralizes this memoir. Unfortunately there are a few repetitive turns-of-phrase that work against it. The repetition makes this a less fluid read and more of a collection of essays than a completely cohesive memoir. I am definitely intrigued by Rouse's skill with words, though, and I definitely plan on checking out his other books.

We all dream it. Wade Rouse actually did it. Finally fed up with the frenzy of city life and a job he hates, Wade Rouse decided to make either the bravest decision of his life or the worst mistake since his botched Ogilvie home perm: to uproot his life and try, as Thoreau did some 160 years earlier, to "live a plain, simple life in radically reduced conditions."In this rollicking and hilarious memoir, Wade and his partner, Gary, leave culture, cable, and consumerism behind and strike out for rural Michigana place with fewer people than in their former spinning class. There, Wade discovers the simple life isnt so simple. Battling blizzards, bloodthirsty critters, and nosy neighbors equipped with night-vision goggles, Wade and his spirit, sanity, relationship, and Kenneth Cole pointy-toed boots are sorely tested with humorous and humiliating frequency. And though he never does learn where his well water actually comes from or how to survive without Kashi cereal, he does discover some things in the woods outside his knotty-pine cottage in Saugatuck, Michigan, that he always dreamed of but never imagined hed findhappiness and a home.At Least in the City Someone Would Hear Me Scream is a sidesplitting and heartwarming look at taking a risk, fulfilling a dream, and finding a homewith very thick and very dark curtains. From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers WeeklyHaving escaped the idiocy of rural life in his growing-up-gay-in-the-Ozarks memoir

America's Boy, the author returns to it in this flamboyant fish-out-of-water saga. Inspired by Thoreau, Rouse and his partner moved to a cottage near the Michigan resort town of Saugatuck in order to simplify; wean himself from his addictions to shopping, tanning and cable; and resolve childhood traumas by being brashly gay in a nonurban setting. Saugatuck is actually quite gay-friendly, but trials abound: the eerie quiet of the countryside, the apocalyptic snows, a marauding raccoon fended off with lip balm and breath spray, the scarcity of gourmet yuppie-chow, the humiliation of wearing waders instead of Kenneth Cole boots, the slow, unfashionable locals who ask, rather perceptively, 'Don't you ever take anything seriously... things that don't affect only you?' Rouse's battle with his own narcissism is a losing one; indeed, it feels like the real point of offering his pink-outfitted self to the suspicious gazes of hunters and other yokels is simply to accentuate what a fascinating spectacle he is. Alas, Rouse's comically campy, but rarely truly funny, writing is so trite that few readers will share his self-involvement. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From BooklistAs he turns 40, Rouse (*Confessions of a Prep School Mommy Handler*, 2007) admits to becoming the ultimate cliché: he's mentally and physically exhausted, hates his job, and realizes there is a void in his life that the city is no longer filling. He and his partner, Gary, take a vacation in Saugatuck, Michigan, a Midwestern Marthas Vineyard, and on the spot decide to sell their home in St. Louis and move to the woods. Rouse vows to become a modern-day Thoreau and sets out to follow 10 life goals, roughly along the tenets espoused by Thoreau in *Walden*, Rouse's favorite book. Rouse chronicles the hilarious escapades of these two neurotic urbanites as they ensconce themselves in the woods without magazine subscriptions, malls, Trader Joes, HGTV, or lattes. Rouse feels like a Martian confronting the locals at the general store, and suffers extreme anxiety when attempting ice fishing and karaoke. Gay or straight, any reader who has tried to fit in somewhere outside his or her comfort zone will readily empathize with Rouse's rousing and ultimately successful lifestyle change. --Deborah Donovan

This is David Sedaris meets Dave Barry. every page is good for a laugh. Library Journal "Rouse chronicles the hilarious escapades of these 'two neurotic urbanites' as they ensconce themselves in the woods without magazine subscriptions, malls, Trader Joe's, HGTV, or lattes. Rouse feels like a Martian confronting the locals at the general store, and suffers extreme anxiety when attempting ice fishing or karaoke. Gay or straight, any reader who has tried to 'fit in' somewhere outside his or her comfort zone will readily empathize with Rouse's rousing and ultimately successful lifestyle change." Booklist

"Wade Rouse is a true oddball: half Henry David Thoreau, half Oliver Wendell Douglas. AT LEAST IN THE CITY SOMEONE WOULD HEAR ME SCREAM is a funny, good-natured chronicle of a fish out of water, slowly learning to breathe." Tom Perrotta, bestselling author of *Election*, *Little Children*, and *The Abstinence Teacher*

In AT LEAST IN THE CITY SOMEONE WOULD HEAR ME SCREAM, Wade Rouse's inner Eddie Albert does battle with his inner Eva Gabor. I won't tell you who wins, but the fight is immensely entertaining. A.J. Jacobs, bestselling author of *The Year of Living Biblically*

Somewhere between Thoreau's *Walden Pond* and Oliver Douglas's *Green Acres* lies Wade Rouse. In AT LEAST IN THE CITY SOMEONE WOULD HEAR ME SCREAM, Rouse details his quest to shed the trappings of his fabulous life to live more simply except no one told him how hard the simple life would be. Rouse is a master raconteur and his transition from city slicker to country mouse is filled with side-spitting humor, heart, and, of course, bands of marauding raccoons. This book has now taken its place at the top of my favorites list! Jen Lancaster, bestselling author of *Such a Pretty Fat* and *Pretty in Plaid*

From the Hardcover edition.