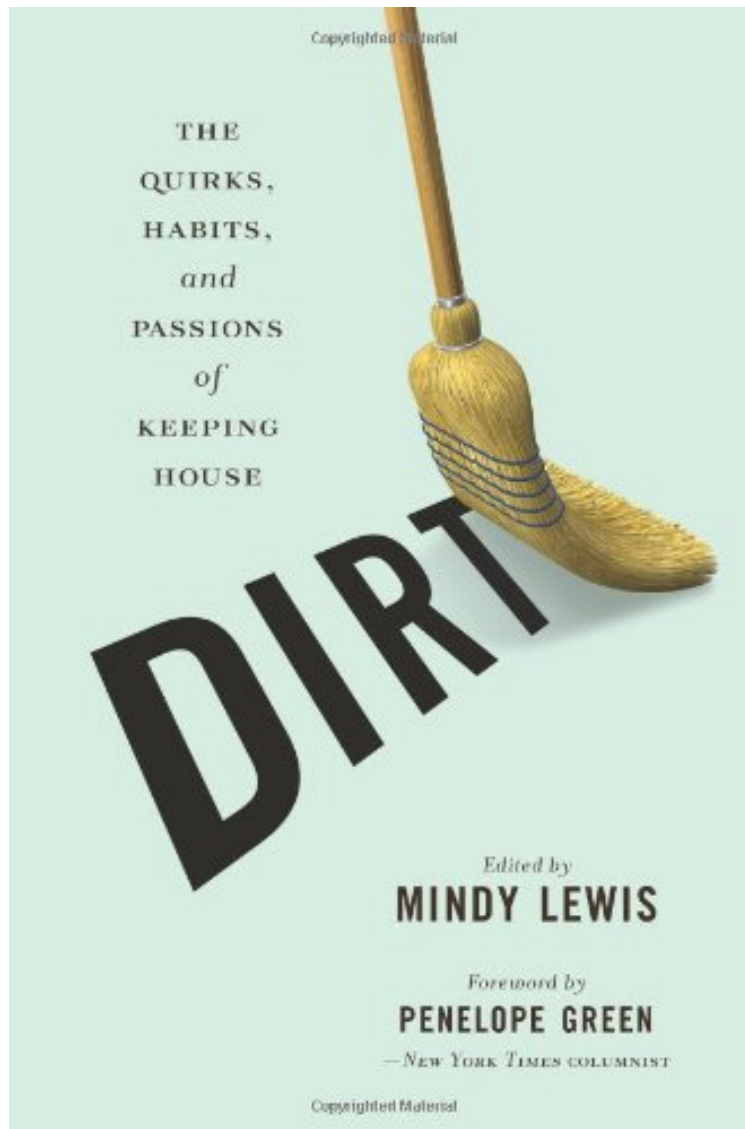


[Download pdf ebook] DIRT: The Quirks, Habits, and Passions of Keeping House

DIRT: The Quirks, Habits, and Passions of Keeping House

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#739652 in Books Seal Press 2009-04-14Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x .88 x 5.50l, .70 #File Name: 1580052614320 pages | File size: 22.Mb

From Brand: Seal Press : DIRT: The Quirks, Habits, and Passions of Keeping House before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised DIRT: The Quirks, Habits, and Passions of Keeping House:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Wonderfully affirming for a chronic slobBy ILikeClothesI sat down to read this and quickly found myself 100 pages into it. For the female version of Oscar Madison, I found this book not only entertaining, but it made me feel much more human than I ever gave myself credit for when it comes to keeping

house. I love that the essayists share stories of cleaning from their childhood -- I have such memories of chores from mine. Thanks to the authors for making me feel better about myself but also for giving me incentive to try to be a better homemaker. It's just me, by the way, no children but I have an incredible penchant for leaving things where they lie. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Throw This Book in Your Bag By Patty Dann I sat down to read "Dirt" and thought I'd be reading about individuals' cleaning habits and ended up reading about the whole world, from birth to death and everything in between, love, heart-break, money and passion, in stories ranging from tragic to comic. "Dirt" is the perfect book to give as a gift to everybody and to keep for yourself and dip into before you go to bed at night. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful Volume of Work By Shaina R. Gaul This book is a great read. I ordered it after reading a review in Bitch magazine and was happy to discover that it's all it's cracked up to be. We all know that housekeeping is the most socially accepted way of keeping women in check, and that's why it's such a relatable topic. Reading other women's views on this inflicted responsibility is comforting and empowering, and I truly believe that works of this nature are a vehicle for change. Clean on, sisters.

This is a collection to which everyone can relate: a multidimensional look at the universal challenge of keeping our stuff, our dwellings, and our personal space clean and uncluttered. How we feel about keeping house speaks volumes about who we are, our roots, relationships, and our outlook on life.

From Publishers Weekly Inspired in part by "the prime cleaner," her mother, essayist Lewis (*Life Inside: A Memoir*) brings Malveaux together with an impressive range of opinions and related issues regarding keeping house in the 21st century. In "Cleaning Ambivalence," Julianne Malveaux calls keeping house "a dreaded chore for some, a cheerful obsession for others, and a fact of life for most of us." Other standouts include Joyce Maynard, who traces the correlation between housekeeping arguments and the dissolution of her marriage; and Rebecca Walker, who imagines the efforts her grandparents, sharecroppers who "could be evicted without as much as a week's notice," put into creating a stable environment: "They must have grasped at whatever rituals they could...keeping clothes and linens sparkling clean and freshly ironed, displaying fresh fruit... to ease a pervasive feeling of powerlessness." It seems significant attention was paid to finding not just a talented collection of writers (also including Louise DeSalvo, Kyoko Morri, Richard Goodman and Louise Rafkin) but a diverse set of perspectives, keeping this collection fresh despite narrow subject matter. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Dirt—as in older than, poorer than, common as. Is dirt the lowest common denominator by which everything is measured? Lewis, the editor of this dirt-versus-cleanliness essay collection, reveals and considers the “emotional engines” attached to this ongoing struggle. Lewis feels that “our housekeeping styles express who we are on the most intimate psychological level,” likening them to writings that help us sort out messes and restore order. Outstanding contributions range from professional housecleaner Louise Rafkin’s reflections on the emotional nuances of homes (“I am alert to a cleanness of spirit in a place”), to Karen Salyer McElmurray’s sadness that her mom’s “rule of clean is slipping” as her mother’s unruly stacks of notes to herself increase with the onset of dementia, to Teena Apeles’ delightful description of the “Teena shuffle . . . a cleaning dance” performed in contiguous two-foot squares while listening to NPR, indie rock, or RB. Homemakers, sociologists, and all who harbor mixed emotions about housecleaning will line up (in neat, orderly fashion) for this unique and thoughtful compilation. --Whitney Scott “Inspired in part by “the prime cleaner,” her mother, essayist Lewis (*Life Inside: A Memoir*) brings...together...an impressive range of opinions and related issues regarding keeping house in the 21st century. It seems significant attention was paid to finding not just a talented collection of writers (also including Louise DeSalvo, Kyoko Mori, Richard Goodman and Louise Rafkin) but a diverse set of perspectives, keeping this collection fresh...” #8212 Publisher’s Weekly “CLEAN DREAMS: Thoreau’s dirty secret? He took his laundry home to Mother. And he’s not the only cleanliness fanatic to appear in *DIRT: The Quirks, Habits, and Passions of Keeping House* (Seal), an anthology edited by Mindy Lewis, who had an adversarial relationship with her vacuum. “For me,” confesses Katy Brennan, “the California Closets Web site is online porn.” Ann Hood, by contrast, has a fondness for dust bunnies. A tip from Alice Walker to her daughter, Rebecca: In hard times your house “must suggest a sparkling future. Room must be made for your ship to come in.” #8212 O Magazine “In *Dirt* (Seal Press), edited by Mindy Lewis (*Life Inside*), writers such as Ann Hood, Joyce Maynard, and Louise DeSalvo dish on their relationships with the humble work of vacuuming, closet organizing, bathroom scrubbing, and window washing.” —“Bookmark These” Elle Magazine “When all the heavy Passover cleaning is just a memory, sit back, put your feet up and enjoy a sparkling collection of essays edited by Mindy Lewis. In *Dirt: The Quirks, Habits and Passions of Keeping House* (Seal Press), writers tell of emptying closets, ironing, cleaning like their mothers, avoiding housework and, literally, waxing poetic. As Lewis...writes in her introduction, “In cleaning (much as in writing) we make sense of our lives, sort our messes, restore order to our psyches, work out our anger and frustration, rediscover the beauty in our lives and express our love for (and resentment toward) others.” The 38 contributors — who “come clean on how they deal with their dirt in their physical, psychological and relational environments” — include Laura Shaine Cunningham, Patty Dann, Richard Goodman,...Sally Koslow, Mimi Schwartz and Rebecca Walker, with a foreword by Penelope Green.” #8212 The

