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The Nesting Place: It Doesn't Have To Be Perfect To Be Beautiful



Synopsis

Perfection is overrated. Popular blogger and self-taught decorator Myquillyn Smith (The Nester) is all about embracing reality—especially when it comes to decorating a home bursting with boys, pets, and all the unpredictable messes of life. In *The Nesting Place*, Myquillyn shares the secrets of decorating for real people—and it has nothing to do with creating a flawless look to wow your guests. It has everything to do with embracing the natural imperfection and chaos of daily living. Drawing on her years of experience creating beauty in her 13 different homes, Myquillyn will show you how to think differently about the true purpose of your home and simply and creatively tailor it to reflect you and your unique style—without breaking the bank or stressing over comparisons. Full of easy tips, simple steps, and practical advice, *The Nesting Place* will give you the courage to take risks with your home and transform it into a place that's inviting and warm for family and friends. There is beauty in the lived-in and loved-on and just-about-used-up, Myquillyn says, and welcoming that imperfection wholeheartedly just might be the most freeing thing you'll ever do.

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Customer Reviews

For the past five years Myquillyn Smith, *the Nester*, has been encouraging women to embrace the home they are in. She's known throughout the blogging world as *The Nester* and writes a blog called *Nesting Place*, a site from which she wants readers to leave with hope, motivation, and inspiration for their homes. She lives in North Carolina with her husband and

three boys, their hockey paraphernalia, and plenty of brown dog hair. Everything in their house is washable, destroyable and imperfect. They have moved thirteen times in eighteen years of marriage. They are renters. And they love their home. Website: www.thenester.com

We bought our kitchen table when we moved back to the farm many years ago. It was a pine rectangle with square pegs and sturdy legs. The saleswoman told us that the craftsmen pounded the wood with chains and ball-peen hammers to give the table its distressed finish. We paid dearly to have a kitchen table that looked older than it really was. This was the most expensive piece of furniture we'd ever bought. I protected the table so fiercely, you might think it had once served duty in the Upper Room. The delivery men brought the table to the farm a few days after Thanksgiving that year. But even if it had been arrived in time for the holiday, I wonder if I would have let the fork-wielding toddlers eat from it. After all, this table had been beaten to distressed perfection. And this was as well-worn as I wanted it to look. Ever. About a year after our big purchase, I gave up the urge to stand guard. Maybe it's because I had no choice but to surrender to this truth: We bought the table because, well, we actually needed a place to eat. And I suppose I also realized that we live on a farm, not in the Louvre. I wish I could turn back time and read this fantastic book by Myquillyn Smith before decorating our home on the farm. This is a book for anyone who wants to find new freedom -- not only in her own home, but in her very life, so she can actually live and enjoy her home, rather than perfect and protect her "stuff." This is an invitation to love the home and the life you're in, rather than wishing for something more or something different. Beware perfectionists (my hand is raised): This book is going to change the way you look at everything. This is a book that helps you dwell in the home and in the life you have, rather than trying to over-manage and perfect the places where you live and love. The content is warm, inviting, and insightful. It's a positively beautiful book filled with lovely photos and helpful ideas. And I love the way it looks on that beat-up, well-loved pine rectangle in my kitchen.

I would start off by saying that this book wasn't what I expected, but I feel like I'm constantly having that reaction when I pick up a non-fiction book. I thought this book would be a little more about putting this colour with this colour or this style looks great in this area or perhaps some great inspiration on how to find hidden gems at thrift stores. Instead, this book was more about appreciating your home for its imperfections. Stop dreaming and comparing your home to those in magazines and on blogs, you need to love your home how it is, and grow from there. In the beginning of the book, the author takes you through the story of each of

the 13 homes she's had since she married her husband. She shares her mistakes as a first time home buyer and her stories of living in a scary neighborhood and living in dream homes. She also shares her experiences from having money to barely scraping by. It is all these experiences that have helped her to love the home she lives in. To top it off, she is actually currently renting. So you don't need to be a homeowner to make your home all fancy. Myquillyn's writing and sharing of her personal experiences helps you to connect with her, but there were times where I felt like I was reading the same thing over and over again: love your home for its imperfections, it's not about how much money you put in it, but that you love it, etc, etc, etc. I do like that she emphasized the fact that a well lived in home is still beautiful. She shares several photos of her home in action: people lounging around, and items all over the coffee table. She also shares a photo of a room staged for a magazine shoot, and then a photo of the same spot on a day-to-day basis. She says that even a messy house can serve its purpose, but don't let it become too cluttered. We all have our own opinion of messy! This book is filled with beautiful photos from her home. Getting a physical copy or reading on a colour e-reader is a must. I started reading on my kindle and had to switch to my phone because it just didn't have the same impact in black and white. I think the photos were my favourite part of the book, and gave me more design ideas than what I was reading. Overall I felt that for the most part this book was easy to read. I wasn't falling asleep from boredom, but I think I was looking for a little more inspiration and design ideas than a more philosophical read on loving and living in your home. It is a very humbling read; we should all be thankful for what we have as there's always someone worse off than we are. The one thing that I really took away from this book, was a story about sponsoring a child. It may sound random, but at the end of the book the author talks about a teen boy that she sponsors in Tanzania. She had the opportunity to travel there and meet him. He was so proud of his little hut of a home where he slept in mud every night, but he was so happy to have a shelter with his family. When he had previously sent them a letter, he has asked her how many windows she had in her house and she was torn with telling him the truth of the abundance of windows in her house, or lying. It was such a moving story and it makes me want to sponsor a child (something I've always wanted to do but have never had enough money for well in my mind anyway). This book was given to me by booklookgloggers.com in exchange for my honest review.

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