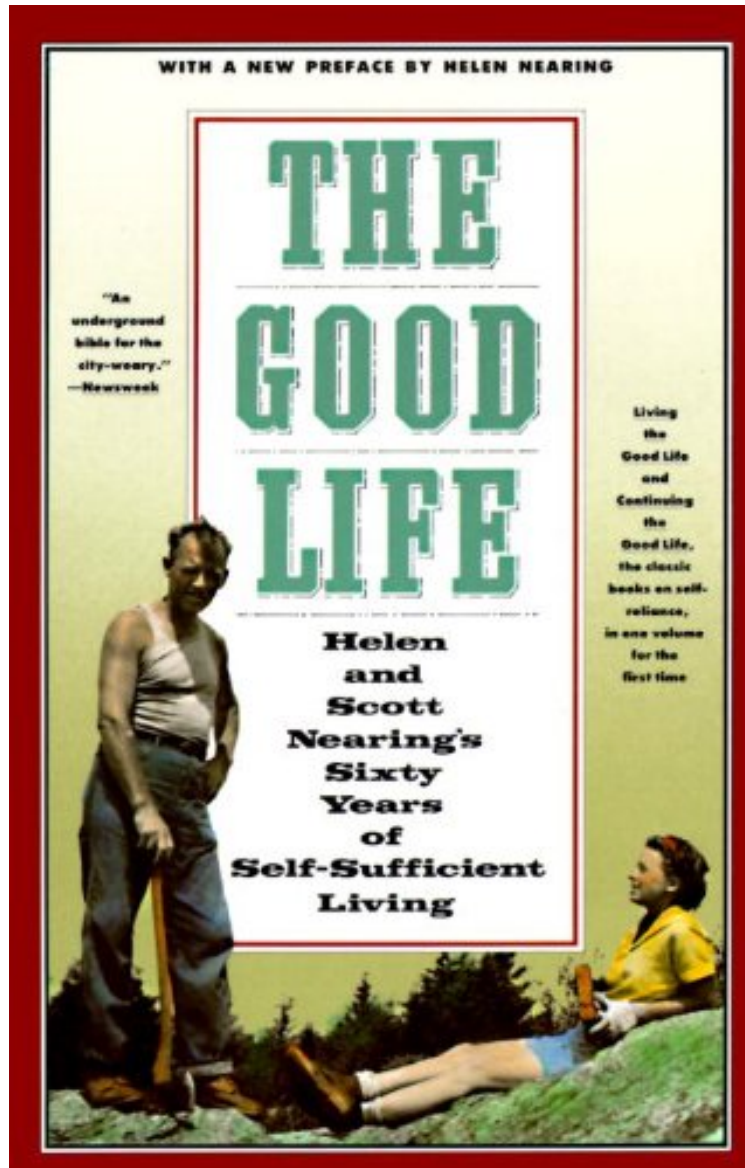


(Free) The Good Life: Helen and Scott Nearing's Sixty Years of Self-Sufficient Living

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Scott Nearing, Helen Nearing
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Scott Nearing, Helen Nearing : The Good Life: Helen and Scott Nearing's Sixty Years of Self-Sufficient Living before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Good Life: Helen and Scott Nearing's Sixty Years of Self-Sufficient Living:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Mandatory Reading for Homesteaders By Scott Sauchuk 'The Good Life' consists of two previously published books: 'Living the Good Life' and 'Continuing the Good Life'. Both books have completely different flavors. 'Living the Good Life' (1954) was written in the Nearings' still youthful and rebellious years, while 'Continuing the Good Life' (1979) shows the Nearings in a mellowed, tolerant old age. Living the Good Life has some very useful information on gardening, food storage, and stone construction. The book is a mix of practical advice and the Nearings' philosophy of living, which includes self-reliance, vegetarianism, and socialism or communism. The authors do a good job of outlining their "design for living". A plethora of quotes tends to disrupt the writing. The Nearings move from New York City to the Vermont hills, but say little of how they learned "the good life". Much of the book was written as though the authors knew better than the Vermont natives from the start. Surely, there were some humbling moments and follies that they experienced, but none are related. A little self-deprecation would have made the Nearings more likeable. The authors had attempted to establish a commune or socialistic village in Vermont. However, the independent country folk refused to buy into their collective experiments. With only a handful of members, the Nearings made little economic or social progress. With intense scorn regarding the independence of rural America, the Nearings admit failure of their experiment and move off to Maine. 'Continuing the Good Life' abandons the philosophical ranting found in the first book and focuses on practical advice for modern homesteaders. The Nearings even relax some of their own vegetarian beliefs, as evidenced by eating dairy products and occasional eggs. By abandoning much of their preaching, they become more likeable. Although some of their endeavors are amusing, such as building a 1.5 acre pond with pick, shovel, wheelbarrow, and some concrete, we respect them for adhering to their beliefs and having so much energy at such an advanced age. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I identify with the authors, in wishing to live a life of self reliance, and I am so glad we did. By Helen Lyons After observing my husbands family living that life of borrowing money and expecting someone else to pick up the tab when they were in trouble, I never wanted to live that lifestyle. Also I think today is so much like it was back there in the thirty's before the great depression. Self reliant people are happier people I have observed. I really am tired of the people who whining about the economy, while they are sitting in their rocking chairs watching tv. TV they say is too expensive they say. I think just turn it off. Gas is too high. I think just stop driving your large gas guzzling truck and do like I do either stay home or drive something cheaper. I lived back in those depression days, and we didn't whine, we just did what we had to and was thankful for what we had. This is a book I can relate to, I never once heard them whining about their circumstances. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must Read for any off-gridder By VieuxCarre Love this book. Really excellent information.

This one volume edition of Living the Good Life and Continuing the Good Life brings these classics on rural homesteading together. This couple abandoned the city for a rural life with minimal cash and the knowledge of self reliance and good health.

"Helen and Scott Nearing are the great-grandparents of the back-to-the-land movement, having abandoned the city in 1932 for a rural life based on self-reliance, good health, and a minimum of cash. . . . Fascinating, timely, and wholly useful, a mix of the Nearings' challenging philosophy and expert counsel on practical skills."—The Washington Post Book World "A prophetic account of the creation of a self-sufficient little Walden . . . that has been an underground bible for the city-weary."—Newsweek "The Nearings are plain daylight, solid prose, sound information."—The New York Times Book "As close to a Walden for our times as we're likely to see." —Yankee Magazine From the Publisher "Helen and Scott Nearing are the great-grandparents of the back-to-the-land movement, having abandoned the city in 1932 for a rural life based on self-reliance, good health, and a minimum of cash...Fascinating, timely, and wholly useful, a mix of the Nearings' challenging philosophy and expert counsel on practical skills."--Washington Post Book World From the Inside Flap This one volume edition of Living the Good Life and Continuing the Good Life brings these classics on rural homesteading together. This couple abandoned the city for a rural life with minimal cash and the knowledge of self reliance and good health.