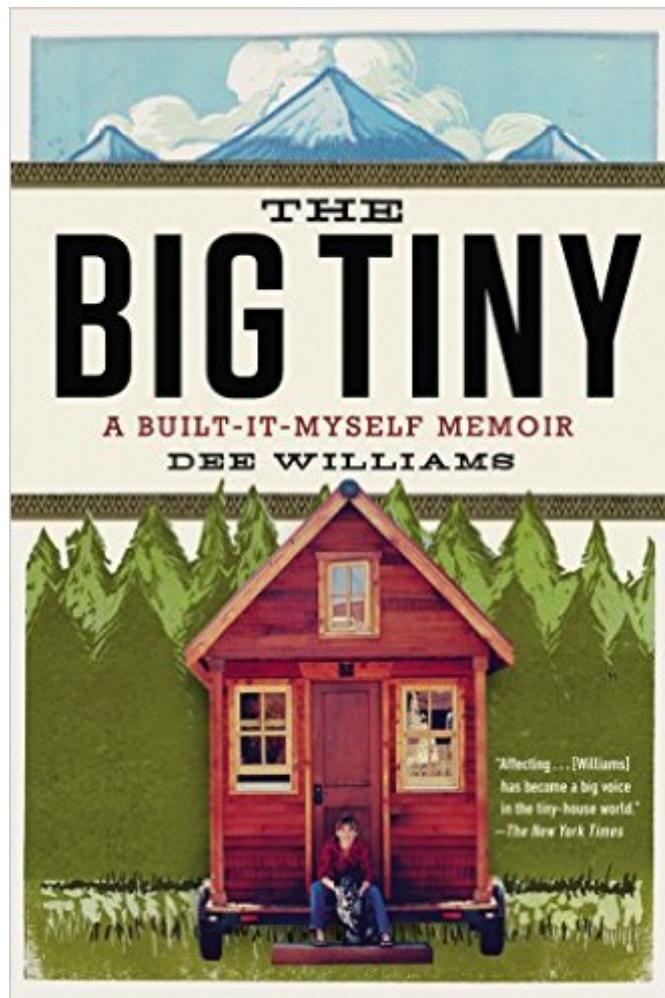


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# The Big Tiny: A Built-It-Myself Memoir



## Synopsis

Part how-to, part personal memoir, *The Big Tiny* is an utterly seductive meditation on the benefits of slowing down, scaling back, and appreciating the truly important things in life. More than ten years ago, a near-death experience abruptly reminded sustainability advocate and pioneer Dee Williams that life is short. So, she sold her sprawling home and built an eighty-four-square-foot house "on her own, from the ground up. Today, Williams can list everything she owns on one sheet of paper, her monthly housekeeping bills amount to about eight dollars, and it takes her about ten minutes to clean the entire house. Adapting a new lifestyle left her with the ultimate luxury "more time to spend with friends and family" and gave her the freedom to head out for adventure at a moment's notice, or watch the clouds and sunset while drinking a beer on her (yes, tiny) front porch.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Six years ago I had all of the things a successful young person was supposed to have, but I was unhappy and I wasn't sure why. One fateful new-year's eve, I stumbled across a YouTube video of Dee Williams and I felt a paradigm shift. I finally understood how to be happy. Since that time, Dee's story has not only changed my life, it has launched an entire movement of voluntary simplicity through tiny house living. Reading this book was like rediscovering the quintessence I originally found in Dee's tiny house story. The beauty of this book is that there is so much more depth than short videos could ever provide. In the book, Dee shares the context of her decision to go tiny, the

struggles she had in the transition, and the meaning of life discovery she made in the face of death. Dee's book is tragic, endearing, and surprisingly wet-your-pants funny. I loved this book!

A totally captivating, mesmerizing book. I love true stories that uplift and motivate us, This book does that and more. It stretches the mind to think outside the normal of striving to achieve the typical american dream and stop to reflect on what is important in your life. Dee Williams has faced a crisis of medical instability with no guarantee of her future. Instead she focuses on living now. She embraces the concept of ridding herself of the unneeded baggage in her life and all that goes with it. When she decides to build a tiny house to call her own she discovers a freedom that she didn't have in the past. In the process of reading her journey we too learn that less can really be more. The material things that Dee let go of gave her more back for herself to go, do and be who she wants, unburdened by the following of her heart. If you read this book I think you too will be challenged to rethink priorities and what you feel is important in your life.

When I first discovered the tiny house movement, a rush of hope filled my body. The freedom that comes with living simply with a small footprint sounds so right! And while many of my friends live light by moving often and calling the car home, this is a much more mature living situation. The thrill of looking through the Tumbleweed catalogue subsided over time and it wasn't until this memoir came out that I felt it possible to really commit to a tiny house. By reading how Dee Williams has done this for 10 years, I am back on the wagon.

I live in a smallish house (700 sq ft) and am fascinated by the tiny house movement and people who make minimalism and simplicity work. However, this book isn't a "you should do this" manual or just for folks who are interested in small houses... It's much more universal than that. It is a story of Dee's personal journey to find a meaningful life and a sense of home and community. I enjoyed her quirky sense of humor and was inspired by her mistakes and guffaws -- she's a newbie to construction (not a professional builder at that point) learning the ropes to build her own house, and she shares the struggles and triumphs along the way. She comes across as a genuine, approachable person that you'd love to trade stories with over a cup of coffee. I'm most impressed by how her little house allows her to experience solitude in a positive way and connects her more directly to nature, and how it also acts as a catalyst for a sense of community and "family" with a variety of awesome friends. When I first started reading the book, I thought it was kind of sad and tragic -- Dee faced health issues, loneliness and an uncertain future. But I kept reading and couldn't

put it down as I saw her transform what could be (and was at times) terribly sad and discouraging into an opportunity to create a new way to live and make every day count. By the end of the book, I was both crying and cheering and wish there were more to read. I recommend this book to anyone interested in finding "the good life" and inspiration to follow their dreams, whatever those may be. Dee, I hope you write a sequel!

As someone who's been following the tiny house movement for many years, and who shares a common bond with Ms. Williams in that I also am afflicted with congestive heart failure, when I heard she had written a memoir, I wanted to support the effort and read it. It's a personal journey, told in a personal way, so it's tough to be critical, but some criticism is warranted. I felt that her editors let her down somewhat, in that the prose was stilted in places - some of the similes and metaphors felt forced or awkward - and yet a few were well selected and effective. Several times I felt like we were taken down literary cul-de-sacs for non-germane excursions, and yet at other times I wanted more time to soak in the details along the primary route, such as during the building phase, and in the book's final denouement. At turns witty, profane, touching, rambling, buoyant, and quirky, Ms. Williams' book is much like the house (and life) that she's built - a one-off, imperfect, but honestly crafted artifact which will not appeal to everyone in terms of its form, but which ultimately is redeeming if it causes us to question the "first world's" consumer-oriented culture, where too much is never enough.

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