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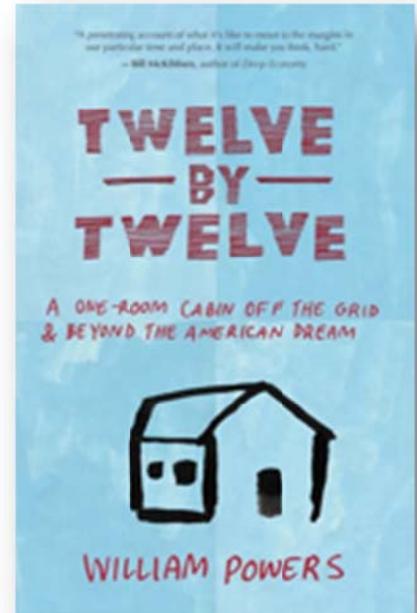
A One-Room Cabin Off the Grid & Beyond the American Dream

By William Powers

The American preference for “living large” – from televisions to cars to homes – seemed to be embedded in our cultural DNA. Then skyrocketing gasoline prices and plummeting home values encouraged many to rethink their priorities. But what does “living small” look and feel like? There are precious few pioneers showing us the way to a “smaller is better” lifestyle. But William Powers, journalist, author, and global development specialist, has found a “modern-day Thoreau” in Dr. Jackie Benton, a physician living in the North Carolina woods. In his new book, *Twelve by Twelve: A One-Room Cabin off the Grid & Beyond the American Dream*, Powers introduces readers to Benton who lives in a 12' x 12' cabin and the surrounding acres she cultivates and practices “permaculture” – “the things your grandparents knew and your parents forgot.”

When Powers takes her place in the 12 x 12, he experiences the way Benton’s “See. Be. Do.” way of life reaches inward and outward. His despair at the problems he sees is met by a new sense of being and a changed way of doing.

Whether we are being downsized out of homes and jobs or downgrading our cable access, growing our own or going on food stamps, we yearn for meaning and purpose. We want to act with hope, work for change we can believe in.



Resonating with the growing “slow food,” simplicity, and sustainability movements, and with Kingsolver, Dillard, and McKibben, *Twelve by Twelve* asks — and answers — our questions about living lightly, artfully, and joyfully in the twenty-first century.

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About the author

William Powers has led development aid and environmental initiatives in Latin America, Africa, and Washington, DC. The author of the memoirs *Blue Clay People* and *Whispering in the Giant’s Ear*, his essays on global issues have appeared in media including the New York Times, the Washington Post, The Atlantic, and Slate. He has been interviewed on programs including *Fresh Air* and *Living on Earth* and is a senior fellow at the World Policy Institute. Powers lives part-time in New York City. His website is www.williampowersbooks.com. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Dan O’Connell at 617-480-6585 or dan@danconnellmedia.com.



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Author: William Powers

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