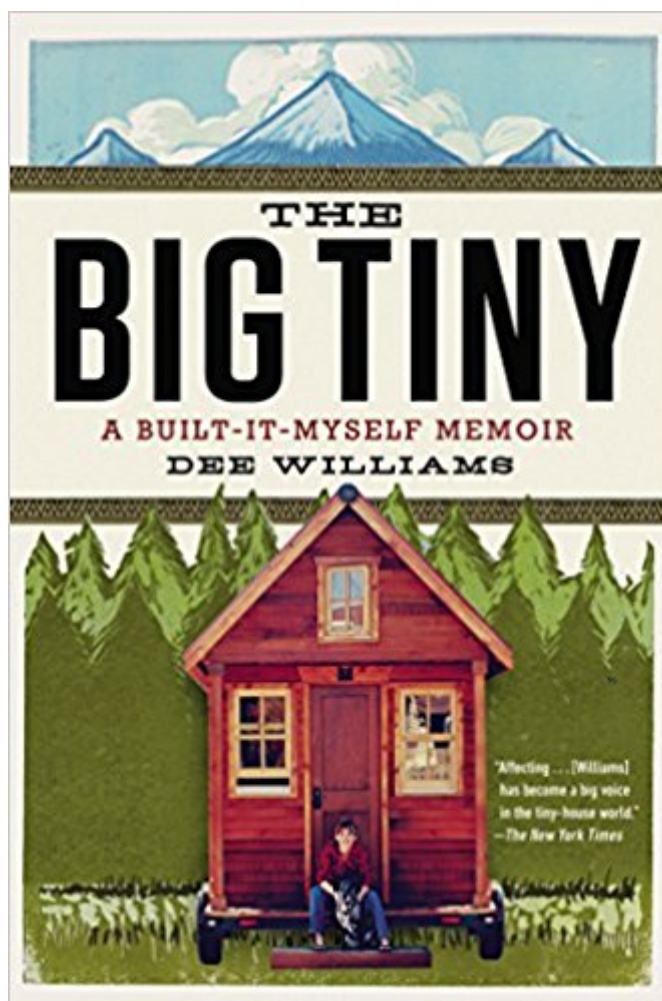


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# The Big Tiny: A Built-It-Myself Memoir



## 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

Even those who are contemplating downsizing may not be familiar with the DIY tiny-urban-house movement Williams describes. Imagine a floor space smaller than an average-size living-room rug with an external peak elevation of less than 10 feet and an open-space “ceiling” height of less than seven feet. Now picture a sleeping loft above the 84 square feet below.

That's it. The entire house. Williams explains that she was driven by a need to build a home and to be at home “in the world and in my body” after awakening in a hospital following a cardiac incident that caused her to reevaluate and change her life. “Feeling like a

woman learning to swim, Williams recounts studying DIY manuals as bedtime reading, and learning, hands-on, the finer points of using the correct tools to build a floor frame and much more as she undertakes securing prefabricated walls to the trailer-skeleton. She calls on friends for help with hoisting walls. Here Williams has built an engaging and inspiring how-to/memoir that goes beyond the DIY perspective. --Whitney Scott --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Visitors to [Dee Williams’s] property may be forgiven for thinking someone had taken up residence in a beautifully built pine-and-cedar toolshed out back.” [an] affecting memoir she writes in *The Big Tiny* of finding a centeredness and peace in her little house, of being less fearful, more alive. Some of the best passages are when she describes the sensory experience of being inside: smelling raw cedar and knotty pine; listening to the weather. •Steven Kurutz, *The New York Times* “[N]o one makes the idea of living in a home the size of an area rug more appealing than Dee Williams.” Williams’s inspiring memoir will resonate with anyone on a quest to downsize, de-stress, let go or feel at home an endearing, funny writer [The *Big Tiny*] is a book as intimate and draw-you-in-close as Williams’ little abode. She reveals her fear and fearlessness, allowing readers to feel like visitors across her tiny table, knees touching, her dog by your side. •Janet Eastman, *The Oregonian* “[A] delightful encounter with the Tina Fey of the sustainability world, an empowered woman unafraid to admit she accidentally glued her hair to her house, as well as an incisive thinker on contemporary experience.” a hilarious and poignant memoir Williams does more than share the travails of building, moving into and living in her bitty abode. She writes a down-to-earth manifesto for living life with intention and for geeking out, diving in, caring too deeply and trying too hard in general. •Mary Louise Schumacher, *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* “In *The Big Tiny*, Dee Williams creates a portrait of humanity through her own compelling experience. That she has written about home and life with such humor and vulnerability, and in her own unique vernacular, makes her story all the more universal.” •Jay Shafer, author of *The Small House Book* “Williams has built an engaging and inspiring how-to/memoir that goes beyond the DIY perspective.” •Booklist “The *Big Tiny* is irresistible. Dee Williams is as much fun on the page as she is in person. Comic, silly, and soulful, she takes us on her journey to simplify her life and along the way tunes in to our own inner desire to pare down to our nearly naked selves.” •Jim Lynch, author of *The Highest Tide* and *Truth Like the*

SunÃ Ä Ã¢ The Big Tiny is a beautifully written narrative, one that goes beyond happiness and living simply. The power of DeeÃ¢ s words will touch your heart, make you laugh, cry, and change your life.Ã¢ Tammy Strobel, author of You Can Buy Happiness (and ItÃ¢ s Cheap) Ã Ä Ã¢ The Big Tiny is comedic, eloquent, and damn informative all at the same time. If Dee WilliamsÃ¢  story hasnÃ¢  inspired you to reevaluate your life already, this book just may be the swift kick in the pants you needÃ¢  the final awakening blow all rolled into one biblio-burrito of bad-assness.Ã¢ Derek Ã¢ DeekÃ¢ Diedricksen, HGTV host and honcho of Relaxshacks.comÃ Ä Ã¢ Dee Williams aims for happiness 85 percent of the time, but I think youÃ¢ ll be 100 percent happy with the wisdom she shares in this beautiful book.Ã¢ Ã¢ Chris Guillebeau, author of The \$100 Startup

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!

This book is not just for tiny home people. Yes, it has a wonderful adventure of building a tiny home that I'd recommend to everyone starting/continuing/finished that path. This book is for anyone who wants to understand why building a tiny home resonates so strongly with certain people. It's hard to explain until someone like the author opens up her life, sharing the kookiness yet sanity of it all. I wish the book didn't end, and hope that one day I may meet and thank her for being an "aunt" that I can relate to.

She caught me off guard so many times with how big her story really is. I couldn't put it down. Yeah, there were a couple thin spots, but so many places where she reached in my chest and grabbed my heart. At least, for me, it was a very wonderful book, working on many levels, from practical problem solving to some very funny nuances and asides. and well, some places that brought me unexpectedly to some tears...I wanted to write her immediately when I'd finished it, to tell her that it

was life changing even for a 60 year old guy like me. I love her spirit and courage and that she shared it with us. And I loved her friends and community and especially the chapter title--"Hobo a Go Go" THANK YOU DEE WILLIAMS Thank you so much

This book is a vibrant memoir, and I enjoyed it more and more as I went along. I wish it had included a bit more practical information about how the author built her house along with her memorable anecdotes of odd things that happened during the building process. I also wish she had been more explicit as to how she resolved her zoning quandary with the City of Olympia. It sounds as though they allowed her to stay in her friends' backyard because she was the daily caretaker for their ailing aunt next door. When the aunt died, the author doesn't say whether she was permitted to keep her tiny house where it was. I hope so, but the book doesn't tell us that. I love the idea of having a tiny house, but the zoning issues appear to be unsolvable in many locations. I'd love to know how the author managed it.

I live a blessed existence with my husband, son and scottish terrier. We are in our mid 40's, live in a 3000+ sq ft house and don't want for anything EXCEPT for a much simpler existence. This book helps to paint that picture so clearly from a how to build perspective to how you might feel emotionally before, during and after making such a huge adjustment like downsizing. I loved every single page. 3 days straight and I read it cover to cover. I feel like I've made a new friend in Dee Williams.

Ok after reading this book, I admire Dee very much for just clearing away the Extra's we all have all over our house that we don't use, things we pay for that we don't really need etc.! Sometimes it takes an unexpected event, to really bring about a very beneficial change in the way we think and how we live and also to show others what life can be like without all the baggage we carry around. I am now clearing away all my extras in my house and hope to find some property and set up my own small little house.!! Thanks Dee for showing the reader a way to actually build a little house, and of what a person really needs to have to have an enjoyable life..I think we are all guilty of too many toys, too many bills and expenses, and then wonder why we are under so much stress.!! I wish Dee the best and this book was an eye opener. Buy It!

I am obsessed with Tiny Houses, and this memoir was a joy to read. The author shares how she arrived at the idea, and how she proceeded forward, including all of the struggles and challenges,

pros and cons along the way. This is a truthful revelation of what it's like to build and live in a Tiny House by a woman who has now been living in hers for over 10 years. I had the pleasure of meeting Dee when she came to my town and spoke at the local library, and I found her to be very open, authentic, and warm. If I were ever in her shoes, I would follow her example.

I actually got the book because I am interested in tiny houses. This book provided me the information I was looking for which is one person's experience with building and living in a tiny house. It also fulfilled what my belief is about memoirs. A person introduces themselves and you get to know the somewhat uniqueness that every person has. It is a rare individual that can share well the less attractive and failing elements which we all have. We tend to want to paint the portrait and leave off the mole. The author has a talent for offering tone and flavor along with reporting the facts. It was nice to meet you Dee and get to know a bit about you.

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