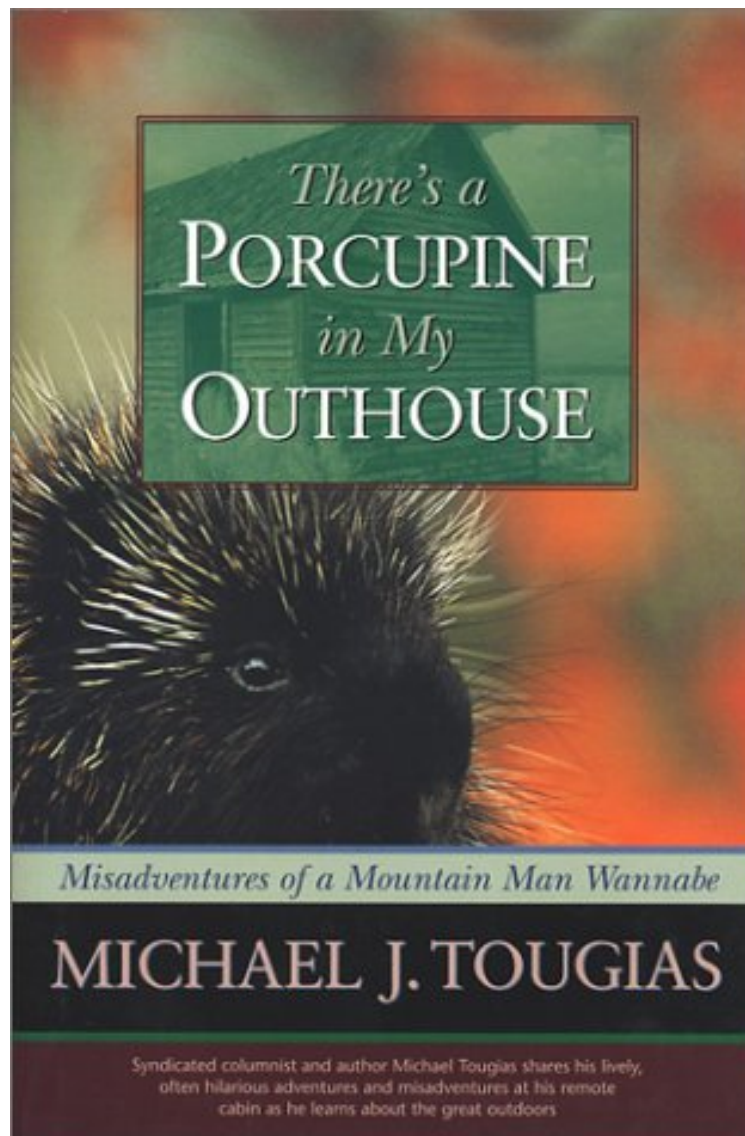


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There's a Porcupine in My Outhouse: Misadventures of a Mountain Man Wannabe (Capital Discovery)

Michael Tougias

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Michael Tougias : There's a Porcupine in My Outhouse: Misadventures of a Mountain Man Wannabe (Capital Discovery) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised There's a Porcupine in My Outhouse: Misadventures of a Mountain Man Wannabe (Capital Discovery):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book is really funny, while at the same time has a lot ...By

Barbara Patterson I bought this book because I really do have a big porcupine living in my woodshed at my Adirondack camp. This book is really funny, while at the same time has a lot of useful information in it about living in the woods and a rustic cabin. The author shares a lot of real-life, but amusing, experiences about being in the woods when it's pitch black at night, having no plumbing, etc. All of which I could relate to. I recommend this book to anyone who has a cabin, wants a cabin, or wants to feel that they are not alone in the funny experiences that can happen in the woods. In fact, I plan to leave this book in my cabin now for my guests to read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By HC Reminds me of other funny popular nature and traveler stories. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Thoroughly enjoyed the book!

A natural history narrative that describes the author's evolution from a hapless flatlander aching to become a mountain man into an accomplished outdoor writer. Tougias' journey begins when he buys a remote mountain-top cabin in the hopes of becoming a real "mountain man" and gets much more than he bargained for. Misadventure follows calamity in his encounters with wildlife, the locals and nature. Here, he reveals his deepening respect for and connection to the natural world and how this transforms his ideas on all aspects of life. As his love of the outdoors grows, so does his feeling for responsibility and stewardship toward the environment.

"...a funny, honest and personal history..." -- Woonsocket Call "...describes his adventures in a northern Vermont cabin..." -- Sally Pollak, Burlington (VT) Free Press "...he's turned his early missteps and discoveries there into the subject of an amusing new book..." -- Jody Feinberg, The Patriot-Ledger "A very funny memoir...he is one of New England's leading nature writers." -- Book Views "A wonderful read! You'll enjoy this book thoroughly by a gifted writer..." -- Into the Outdoors "He writes eloquently with vivid descriptions and I looked forward to each new adventure." -- The Boston Herald "Sweetly humorous" -- Worcester Magazine "There is a great deal of spiritual and reflection in his fine narrative that never gets preachy." -- Telegram and Gazette Winner of the 2003 IPPY Award in the environment/ nature/ ecology category! -- Independent Publishers Book Awards About the Author Syndicated outdoor columnist and author Michael Tougias is one of New England's leading nature writers. He is the author and co-author of 14 books including River Days, New England Wild Places, Quiet Places of Massachusetts, Exploring the Hidden Charles, and King Philip's War. His columns appear in the Springfield Union News, Taunton Gazette, and Attleboro Sun Chronicle and he frequently contributes to Outdoor Life, Field and Stream, Fine Gardening, Flower and Garden, Yankee Travel, the Boston Globe, Farmer's Almanac, and Trout Magazine. Tougias gives about 125 presentations a year and he is the host of "Exploring New England" on New England Cable News. He lives in Franklin, Massachusetts. Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. In 1978, when I was twenty-two, I spent \$8500 on a tiny A-frame cabin and six acres of land overlooking a pond in Northern Vermont. I thought I would live out my mountain-man fantasy that had been planted from reading adventure books as a kid. I would be Jim Bridger, Daniel Boone, and Lewis and Clark all rolled into one, knowing exactly what to do in every outdoor situation. I fancied myself as lord and master of my six acres. My very first act as a landowner was to go out and chop down a tree. Now some 23 years later, I look back at those early years at the cabin and realize I had it backward. I haven't controlled the land or conquered it, but instead I've been humbled by what I learned about nature, even though I've barely begun to understand its rhythms and many mysteries. This ramshackle cabin has been a kind of university for my outdoor education, although I am far from graduating. I think I will be a life-long student—but grateful for each and every lesson which I had no idea was coming. I've had encounters with wildlife from bears to bats, friendships with life-hardened locals and neophyte flatlanders, terror at being lost in the woods, moments that require true ingenuity, and a greater awareness of that incredible commodity—time. Time to explore the natural world and time to reflect inward, questioning paths chosen. It didn't occur to me to write a book about the cabin and my observations until I started to get letters from readers of my weekly outdoor column. Normally, I'd rarely hear from readers but whenever I wrote about the cabin I'd invariably receive several letters. They would encourage me to write more about my "shack on the mountain" and the adventures and misadventures that occurred. Some readers even wrote asking if they could rent the cabin, saying they wanted a vacation that involved roughing it, that they liked the idea of an outhouse! After I received dozens of these notes, I took a look at my cabin's guestbook and journal and decided to tell the story of the first few years at the cabin. This book is a chronicle of growth during my twenties, mistakes I made along the way, and my evolution from the concept of "conquering" the land to one of stewardship. I wrote it with a light touch because some of the things I did are a bit embarrassing, and now that I'm in my late forties I've learned to go easy on myself. Hopefully, you will too.