



Nodin Press

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Cabin in the City

essays

John Toren

This collection takes its title from the introductory essay, in which the author describes the house where he and his wife, Hilary, have lived for more than thirty years, near a parkland corridor running for several miles on the western edge of Minneapolis. The essays that follow describe day-to-day events at home—the seasons, the garden, the passing deer, the birds, and the sounds of the night—and forays into town to farmers' markets, galleries, parks, and cafés. A few depict ventures farther afield to the North Woods, the bluff country along the Mississippi River, and even as far as Nebraska in pursuit of a solar eclipse. Books also figure prominently in a few pieces, as do social events and the preparing and eating of food—especially vegetables. It's just one more way of letting the outside in.

From snowy owls to locust petals, from Ice Shanty Villages to Bastille Day bicycle trips, Toren conjures a life of small delights shared with family, friends, and an assortment of interesting characters met along the road.

“Reading John Toren's essays is like talking with a smart, well-read, observant, thoughtful friend with an open mind and generous spirit,” writes Artscape's Pamela Espeland. And a reviewer for the *Star-Tribune* said of one of Toren's previous collections, “Readers of these essays might not know where Toren will go next, but since he's such a smart, companionable guide, we follow happily.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

About the Author: writer, editor, book designer—John Toren has been involved in many aspects of the publishing world in the course of his career. His essays, and reviews have appeared in a variety of regional and national publications, including the *History Channel Magazine*, *Minnesota Monthly*, *Rain Taxi*, the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* and the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*. His travel guide, *The Seven States of Minnesota*, is now in its third printing. He is the recipient of several design awards from the Midwest Independent Publishers Association and he received an Utne Independent Press Award for general excellence in 2007. He and his wife, Hilary, live in Golden Valley, Minnesota.

978-1-947237-29-2 / 260 pages paperback / \$19.95

◆ NODIN PRESS : MINNEAPOLIS ◆