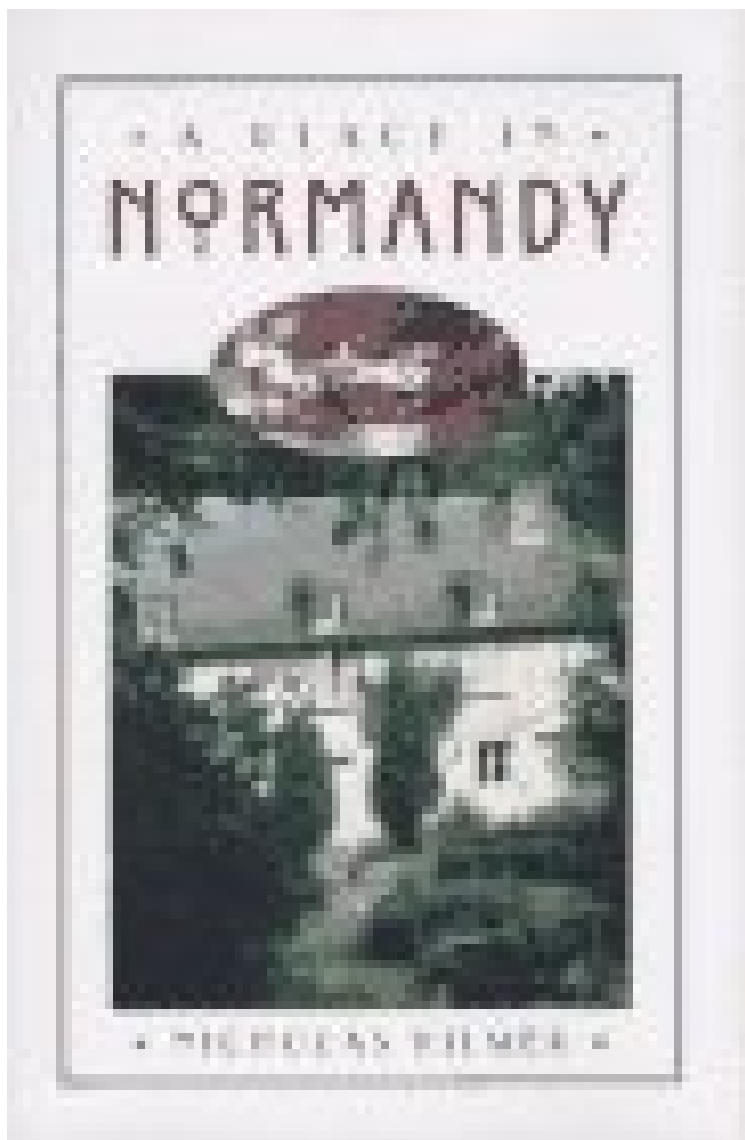


[Download] A Place in Normandy

A Place in Normandy

Nicholas Kilmer

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Nicholas Kilmer : A Place in Normandy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Place in Normandy:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A House and Its Family in Normandy By William F. Foster Nicholas Kilmer is an agile writer and creates a chronicle of the labors with the "House in Normandy" which I believe he still owns. This book is more than the chronicle in that it also involves a treatment of his grandfather, Frederick Freiseke, one of the American Impressionists of some note and lesser acclaimed. Nicholas' parents, founders of the Green

Hedges School in Vienna, VA are also involved in the House in Harmony. This is an interesting book that places the house in Normandy as a frontispiece, figuratively, but is interesting because of the people who appear in the narrative. A worthwhile book by the grandson of Joyce Kilmer. 6 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A full-contact love affair with a romantic house
By Anne Hillis
Nick Kilmer's lush, exuberant prose takes the reader through an eventful week, during which, by means of flashbacks and vignettes, we experience his dithering over the purchase of his family's wonderful house in Normandy. He will have two gardens (one in Cambridge and one in Normandy), two roofs that need attention, piles of books and letters and projects and paintings in every stage of finishment, and one wife who cannot say no, and cannot say yes, to this expensive disaster that is his family's ancient home. Pleasantly meandering, we visit stone-age Normandy, the days of the war, the ancient farmer's wife in whose arms (he tells us) his grandfather died, newly baptized (but still staunchly Republican ...) A fine read, growing better with each rereading. Let's have more from this writer.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Edward Knippers
An excellent and entertaining book.

.com A Place in Normandy is the story of the author's struggle over whether to retain his grandfather's home in Normandy-, France--a place that evokes enchanted childhood memories--or sell it. The farmhouse was the place where his grandfather, Impressionist painter Frederick Frieseke, created some of his greatest works. (His other grandfather was the poet Joyce Kilmer.) Nicholas Kilmer recalls several days in late spring he spent preparing the house for summer renters. As he considers his wife's arguments for selling the house, he weighs his own attachment to its quaint quirks, the beautiful surrounding countryside and the history and traditions the family home embodies.
From Publishers Weekly
What distinguishes this account of the trials and joys of fixing up an old French farmhouse from many others like it is that Kilmer didn't buy the place but inherited it; also three generations of his family spent memorable years in it and in its Norman village of Mesnil, near Pont l'Eveque. Long established, warm relations with the villagers protect Kilmer from regarding them as quaint or exotic. Even more unusual, although he and his wife, Julia, appreciate the excellence of French produce, Kilmer doesn't dwell on the familiar marvels of French cuisine. Instead, while shoring up the neglected place--roof, plumbing, bearing walls, electric wiring--is the impetus for his book, it also becomes an excursion into family history and a meditation on French village life since the 1920s, when his grandfather, American Impressionist painter Frederick Frieseke, bought the house. He traces each generation's structural additions and alterations, the gardens they planted, their parties, weddings, funerals, communions, crises and pleasures, and the distinctive beauties of the countryside. This quiet book subtly catches the rhythms of life and the flavor of an American family at ease in another culture. Photos. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Library Journal
In the wake of the success of Peter Mayle's *A Year in Provence* (LJ 4/1/90) and its successors have come several books about Americans and their homes in France. This one differs from other offerings because the house of the title has been in the author's family for three generations and the accompanying photographs depict the house and his grandparents in the 1920s as well as in more recent times. Whether to keep the ancestral home or sell the wreck of a place, with antique wiring and a bathroom shower stall whose floor caved in during the author's latest visit--that is the question, and can we doubt the answer? As one of the masons brought in to look at the house says, "A house like this is always getting into trouble, but it takes a long time to fall down completely." Kilmer (*Harmony in Fresh and Black*, Holt, 1995) has written more about his house than about Normandy or the neighbors or French culture. It is not as charming as Mayle's books but can find a home in travel collections.
?Mary Ann Parker, California Dept. of Water Resources Law Lib., Sacramento
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