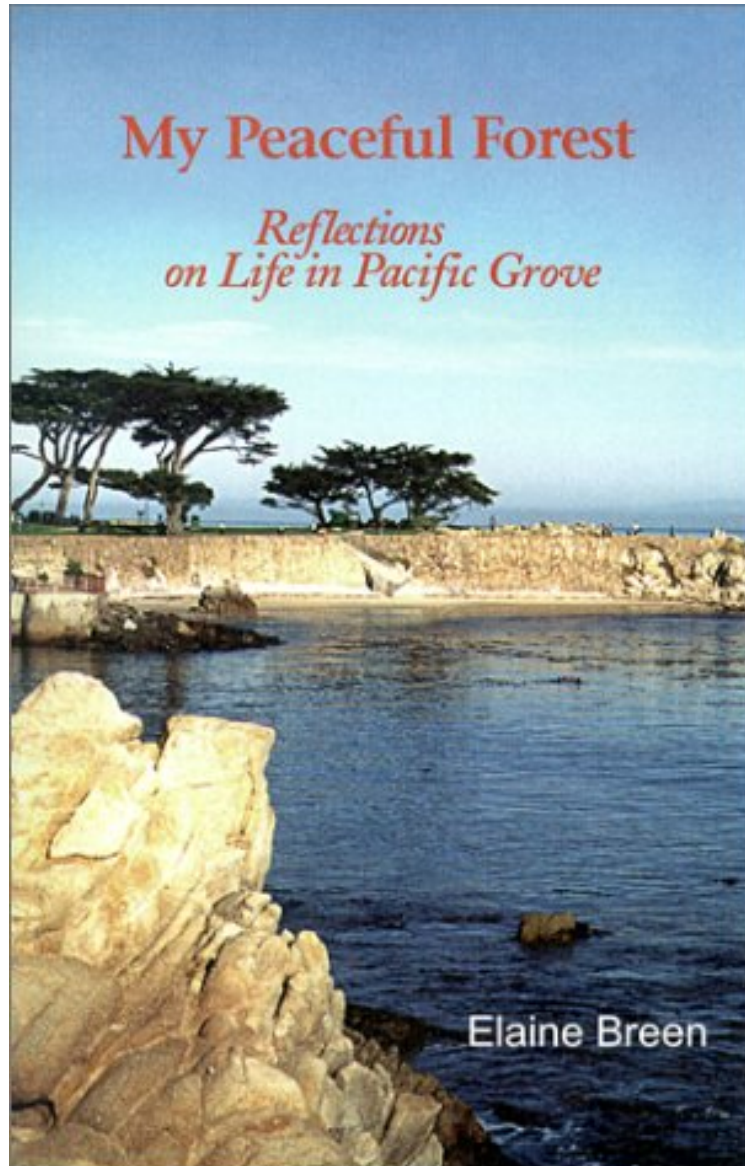


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## My Peaceful Forest : Reflections on Life in Pacific Grove

*Elaine Breen*

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**Elaine Breen : My Peaceful Forest : Reflections on Life in Pacific Grove** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Peaceful Forest : Reflections on Life in Pacific Grove:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Elaine has done it again.By James Andersen Jr.I loved "My Peaceful Forest"! Elaine has such a refreshing writing style. I just came in from shoveling a foot of snow, and I curled up to a warm fire, a cup of tea and got lost in this book. It's best to read it when you want to get away from it all after a tough day. 105 pages of delight. It makes you want to visit the village of Pacific Grove, have a piece of apple pie at Toasties

or sitting on the park bench watching the seals and otters swimming near the beach (but not together). I share Elaine's love of cows and Snickers bars. I wonder if you sprinkle chocolate chips on a cow, will you get chocolate milk? (you have to read the book to understand that). Anyway, great job once again Elaine! May God be with you when you bring your '82 Volvo in for its 500,000 mile checkup....I can't wait for your next book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. HilariousBy Joanne Hartford"My Peaceful Forest" is hilarious! Give yourself a treat and turn off that computer and cell phone for an hour, and I guarantee you will smile all the way through this refreshing book. If we all viewed life through the eyes of this author, society would be stress-free indeed! It's easy to relate to the lighthearted memoirs of this REAL family. Elaine Breen epitomizes the phrase, "stop and smell the roses".1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. My Peaceful ForestBy A CustomerI could not put My Peaceful Forest by Elaine Breen down until I had read the entire book! Whether you're a resident of Pacific Grove, California, or not, Elaine's insight and humor will keep you turning the pages. My Peaceful Forest will make you smile, will tug at your heart a little but mainly is a simple tale of life and it's ups and downs from a Mother's, Grandmother's, and Wife's perspective.

Elaine Breen's humorous and sometimes irreverent reflections on her life in a small coastal town in California, as a mother of eight children, and as a woman in her 70's who wears a lot of purple, will surprise and entertain readers. It is the author's particular world view--seeing normal day-to-day events with a twist, humor, and irony--that brings life into her writing. This book is a treat that will lighten your heart and remind you not to take life too seriously.

...a collection of essays that are a delight to read, reflections on everyday things ... a witty and charming book. -- Carmel Pine Cone About the AuthorElaine Breen has written all her adult life. Raising eight children and being married to a television executive has provided abundant source material for her creative writings. Now in her 70's, Elaine continues to write about what she sees and experiences, bringing life to day-to-day events with a sense of humor, twist, and irony. She lives with her husband, Tom Breen, on the Monterey Peninsula in California. In addition to their eight children, Elaine and Tom have eight grandchildren. "My Peaceful Forest: Reflections on Life in Pacific Grove" is Elaine's first book.Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.SIMPLIFY! OR THE PROCESS OF ELIMINATION There seem to be a lot of books now about simplifying, minimizing, doing without, getting poor, being happy and carefree. This is a good thing for us all to do and I am cutting way down. At Christmas we eliminated dessert and the drawing for gifts. The babies opened some things which was fun to watch and someone arrived with a few homemade cookies which we pounced on and devoured before they were properly unwrapped, getting a little tinsel in our teeth. For the new year I have eliminated gardening. I've been taking bets on what is going to win in my front yard--the kikuyu grass, the large or small oxalis, or the evening primrose. I am betting on the primrose. It is a sneaky little thing with a coy wild rose-like flower. It has already taken over the Santa Barbara daisies and the wallflowers. The deer love it and hop over the fence and grab any little old blossom so we never see them. The oxalis has beaten up the woolly thyme. No more gardening. I will simply play armchair general and watch the battle from my front window. Next thing we are doing without is dinner. I try to eat lunch out as often as possible and cook a veggie at night. We wander out to the kitchen at odd times and put stuff on trays, take it to our respective desk or TV set. Around eleven pm we stroll out again and get some shredded wheat. I eliminated ironing a long time ago feeling that it is uncivilized. I've found that vacuuming in corners usually is not rewarded. No one says, "Oh, your corners are so clean!" so I don't do corners unless someone is coming--from a distant state. We eliminated one car--staying with the labor intensive 1982 Volvo (made for a tall Swede) encourages one to walk. Son Bill up in Garberville says he is a minimalist. That must mean that he doesn't eliminate but just minimalizes. He must do a little ironing, a little cooking, a little gardening. I prefer the clean sweep. Get rid of it all. (Except the stuff the kids made for me at school, all unsigned of course.) There are people I'd like to eliminate--the various and sundry, sometimes tired and bedraggled, ahead of me at the post office. I would simplify my life by simply leaping over the barricade and shoving into first in line. But I'm told that is not done here in Peaceful Forest. Of course, one would like not to be the one eliminated. One should be careful. It's so easy to eliminate Mama by putting her in a safe place--with a very simple lifestyle.