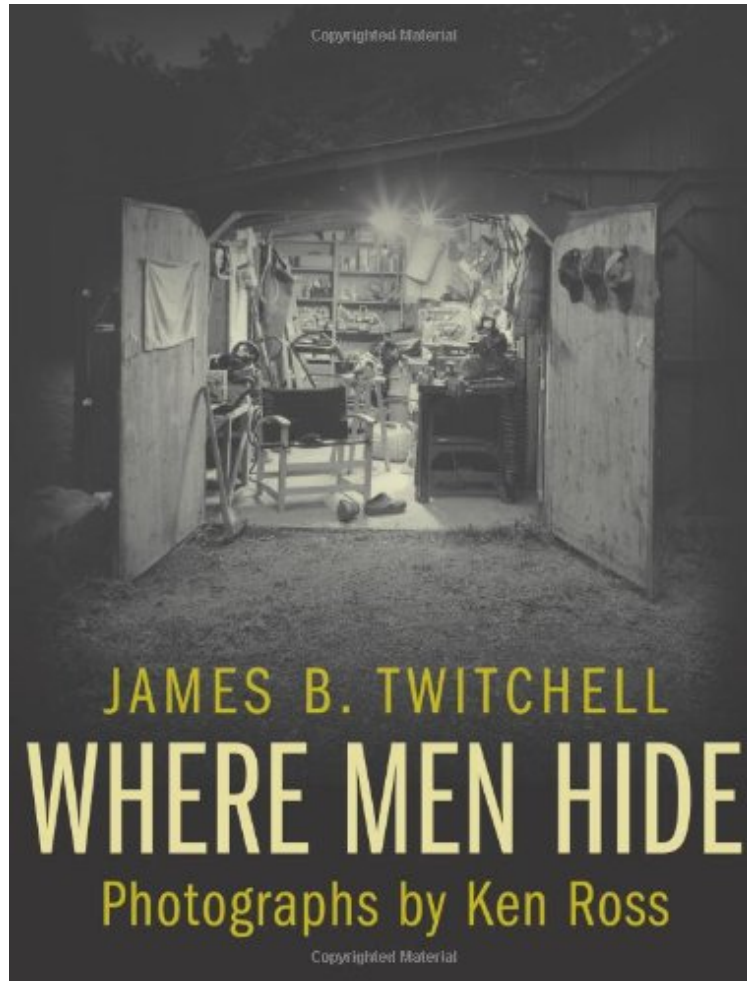


(Download free ebook) Where Men Hide

Where Men Hide

James Twitchell

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#3106332 in Books 2006-03-21Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.30 x .92 x 7.321, 1.47 #File Name: 0231137346264 pagesblack and white photosgreat photographystill lifesurroundings of men's personal space | File size: 65.Mb

James Twitchell : Where Men Hide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Where Men Hide:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good Man Cave History Book: Not a Coffee table BookBy Mr. DocI bought this book thinking it would be like other man cave books, showing pictures and brief descriptions of home theaters, etc. Instead the book covers various places where men have hung out in history: barbershops, easy chairs, garages, etc. I was actually pleasantly surprised by how interesting the book was. It has interesting history on the Masons and other guy hangouts fading into history. If you're looking for a coffee table book, this isn't it. But if you want to dig deeper into a man's desire to flee women, this book will do it.22 of 26 people found the following review helpful. I can't believe there are no reviews of this book yet...By Jack MalebrancheJames Twitchell is a professor of English, and his love of the language definitely shows in "Where Men Hide." His prose is smooth and entertaining,

and he seems to take great pleasure in revealing fascinating, little-known etymologies for words which are often quite relevant to whatever he is discussing. He also tells plenty of amusing or interesting anecdotes related to manhood, which are really what make "Where Men Hide" such enjoyable light reading. However, as Twitchell intended this book as "an architectural folly" - another fun etymological tangent, meaning he basically just intended the book to be amusing - many of the observations he makes about how manhood has changed over the past 100 years or so are not only insightful, but, in my opinion, often right on target. While his final conclusions about manhood are perhaps drearier, and more feminist friendly, than mine might be, his notes along the way are priceless. I could really go on and on about observations Twitchell made on each space - his chapters on deer camps, barber shops and workshops were among my other favorites - but instead I'll just recommend the book and try not to give away all of its secrets. "Where Men Hide" is a great book to simply have around - it even has pictures - and it's really a great light, easy read for any man. A lot of texts on masculinity are either anti-male or rather pretentious or preachy, and this is none of the above. It was just fun to read and insightful without over-reaching. I'd love to see more books like this out there!

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting premise, but doesn't necessarily come through in the execution... By J. Brewer Overall, this is an entertaining enough book, with a good fundamental idea, though the writing comes off as academic and self-conscious. That this book was a collaboration between a photographer who'd come up with the idea over the course of a few years and an academic approached to develop a narrative around certain key themes is often very apparent; while many of the photographs, even though reproduced in grainy black and white, are soulful and evocative for any man who has spent time in these "hiding" places, the accompanying text is often very dry, convoluted, and tangential to the respective chapter's topic.

"If you ask men if they spend any time hiding, they usually look at you as if you're nuts. 'What, me hide?' But if you ask women whether men hide, they immediately know what you mean." from Where Men Hide Where Men Hide is a spirited tour of the dark and often dirty places men go to find comfort, camaraderie, relaxation, and escape. Ken Ross's striking photographs and James Twitchell's lively analysis trace the evolution of these virtual caves, and question why they are rapidly disappearing. Ross documents both traditional and contemporary male haunts, such as bars, barbershops, lodges, pool halls, strip clubs, garages, deer camps, megachurches, the basement Barcalounger, and Twitchell examines their provenance, purpose, and appeal. He finds that for centuries men have met with each other in underground lairs and clubhouses to conduct business or, in the case of strip clubs and the modern rec room, to bond and indulge in shady entertainments. In these secret dens, certain rules are abandoned while others are obeyed. However, Twitchell sees this less as exclusionary behavior and more as the result of social anxiety: when women want to get together, they just do it; when men get together, it's a production. Drawing on literary, historical, and pop cultural sources, Twitchell connects the places men hide with figures like Hemingway and Huck Finn, Frederick Jackson Turner's theory of the American frontier, and the mythological interpretations of Joseph Campbell and Robert Bly. Instead of blaming the disappearance of the man-cave solely on feminism, simple fair play, or the demands of Title IX, Twitchell believes this evaporation is due as well to the rise of solitary pursuits such as driving, watching television, and playing videogames. By blending together anecdote, research, and keen observation, Ross and Twitchell bring this little-discussed and controversial phenomenon to light.

From Publishers Weekly The author of AdCULT USA and Lead Us into Temptation takes a vacation from consumer culture to explore male spaces, from the recliner to the boxing ring, with photographer Ross. An affable guide, Twitchell mourns the demise of the men-only barbershop, puzzles over the "dreariness" of male lairs and wanders into the cross-cultural history of deer hunting. His vivid personal accounts of, say, his fascination with Saddam Hussein's spider hole breathe life into what could have been a fusty set of clichés. Twitchell dissects Ross's photos of male insularity and advertisements reassuring men they can get away from it all. But in the end the book arrives at the obvious conclusion: men make their own spaces for good or ill, and these spaces are changing. He also falls into sweeping generalization ("Women go to convents to do good work. Men go to monasteries to get away from women"). Still, he is that rare thing in cultural studies, a raconteur, and his generalizations are sometimes thought provoking, as when he discusses why men-only groups are a selling point of megachurches. For men who like to think about manhood but not too hard and women who are wondering what the attraction is of that grimy garage, Twitchell makes an entertaining companion. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist In this postfeminist era, the realization that men seek refuge in their private spaces should be of no surprise. Twitchell, a professor of English, notes that in the advertising world, men have become a difficult target for pitches, raising concerns about the "disappearing male." While in a barbershop, Twitchell came upon a magazine article that focused on men's rooms and began to take note of the significance of gender inclusion and exclusion. That inspiration led to an exploration of specific spaces, from the physical, including barbershops, garages, fraternal lodges, and strip clubs, to the spiritual--states of mind sought through male bonding or the pursuit of God. Twitchell recruited Ross, the photographer of the magazine article that inspired him, and the result is an intimate look at more than 15 spaces of male retreat. Twitchell offers insight into the cultural milieu of the contemporary American male, integrating

related historical and cultural materials concerning men's quest for private spaces and how social trends and even the Internet impact that quest. Vernon Ford Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved For men who like to think about manhood... and women who are wondering what the attraction is of that grimy garage. (Publishers Weekly) Readers will find much to enjoy. (Library Journal) An enjoyable and provocative read. (Margo Hammond St. Petersburg Times) Carefully composed to capture what might be called the aesthetic of male clutter. (Mike Seely Seattle Weekly) By blending anecdote, research and keen observation, the author and photographer bring this little-discussed and controversial phenomenon to light. (menstuff.com) What Joseph Campbell did for mythology, Twitchell and Ross have done for garages, strip clubs and other masculine hideouts. (Finn-Olaf Jones Forbes Life) A funny, warm account of men and their self-made retreats... Twitchell pays homage to men's caverns of yore. (Jim Walsh City Pages) Twitchell describes, informs, explains, analyzes, and enlightens... In Twitchell's book I can see myself and men I know. (David Maloof Boston Sunday Globe) Twitchell explores what it means to be male. (US Airways Magazine) Arguing passionately for the continued importance of male bonding and of certain places where no girls are allowed. (Brilliant Magazine) Any library strong in sociology... will find this an important acquisition. (The Midwest Book review) Reading these essays is like listening to a witty and broadly knowledgeable after-dinner speaker entertain and enlighten. (Steven M. Gelber, Santa Clara University Winterthur Portfolio)