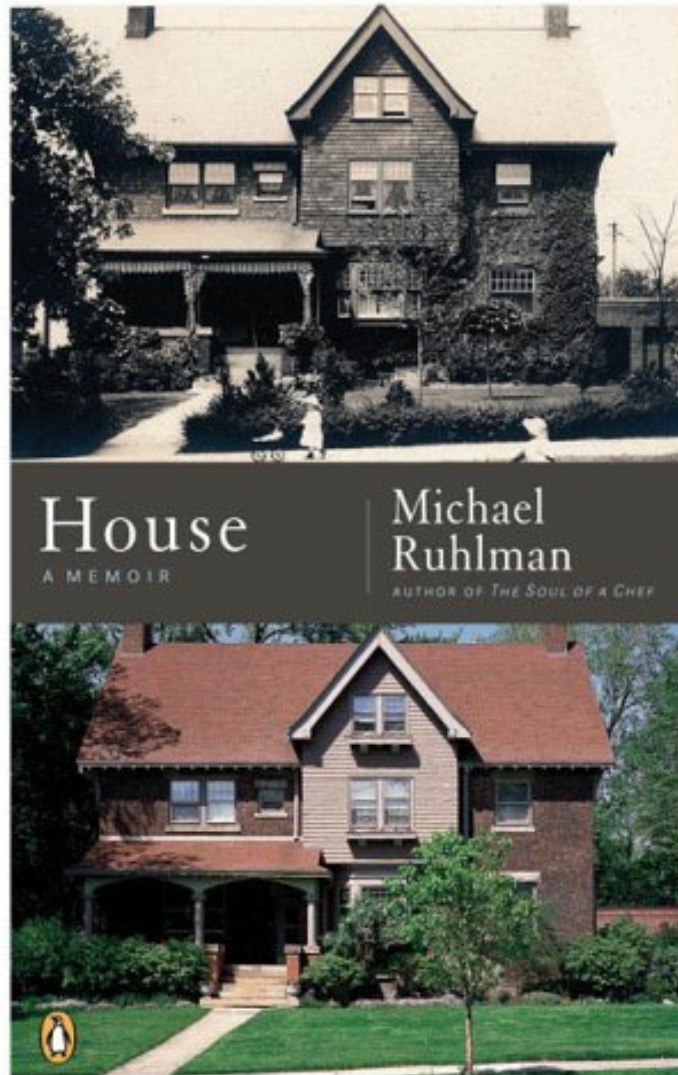


[Free download] House: A Memoir

House: A Memoir

Michael Ruhlman

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Michael Ruhlman : House: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised House: A Memoir:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More than bricks and mortarBy CarrotsRuhlman captures the essence of home and a unique sense of place in the story about his return to his hometown, and the house that transforms his family's life. Through the dust and dirt, conquering self doubt and marital challenges, he distills the essence of home and what it provides for him and his family. Any homeowner can understand his odyssey, and can

share in the highs and lows of the experience - the fights with contractors, compromise upon compromise, fear of bankruptcy and despair. It is an easy read, and a wonderful one at that. Buy it. Read it. Love it. There's no book like home, and *House: A Memoir* will take you there. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. worth a quick read if you like old houses
By NancydI heard the author speak about his Culinary book and read that; then I found this one, which I found very interesting, I always like to read about house renovations because I will never have enough nerve or energy to do one myself. I also learned about the history of Cleveland, OH, which I appreciate more. I recommend it for a quick read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Home Sweet Home
By M. Sandmaieran engaging look at the meaning of home, through the experience of one couple who "trade up" to one they love but which demands a lot work.

Michael Ruhlman's uncanny knack for taking a wide range of subjects and making them completely his own has gained him acclaim and popularity. In his latest offering, he owns the subject both figuratively and literally: his home. *House* really began in 1901 when a family moved into a brand-new house in Cleveland Heights full of hope for the future and pride in their stunning home. But as time moved on, upkeep began to wane and, in the end, the house went on the market. And there it stayed for quite some time, until the Ruhlman family decided to buy the dilapidated building. With the always-tedious home-buying process and expensive repairs soaring into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, the American Dream can seem like the American Nightmare. Detailing the purchase and renovation of a single family home, *House* explores the importance of the place we live in, our yearning to establish it, and the importance of the actual structure, its impact on our intellectual and spiritual lives, and on the struggles of a family. Packed with useful information and stories written with a storyteller's flair, *House* is a dramatic narrative by a gifted writer who eloquently concludes that be it ever so humble, a castle or a row house downtown, there's truly no place like home.

From Publishers Weekly "The architect... looked up at the stained, buckling kitchen ceiling, inhaled and exhaled deeply before saying, 'I hope you didn't pay a lot for this house.' " These were not encouraging words to Ruhlman (*The Soul of a Chef*) and his family, whose new fixer-upper in Cleveland Heights had "big-rodent nests" filling the walls and "sheets of [code] violations big as a telephone book." Blending reportage and memoir, Ruhlman details his home's complete history, putting it in context with an account of the first American suburb in 1869 and a description of his family's first Christmas in the house in 2001. His well-researched history of the suburbs will interest anyone who's ever lived in one, but his in-depth chronicle of his town will enthrall only those familiar with it. The book is strongest when it focuses on personal details. The stories of the lazy real estate broker, the often-unreliable contractors, and the spiraling budgets will be familiar to any homeowner. The house puts a strain on Ruhlman's family, and Ruhlman doesn't shy from depicting the weaknesses of his marriage, even as it exposes him as overly complacent and his wife as a shrill martyr. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Booklist For anyone who has ever bought an old house or for anyone who may be contemplating such a purchase, Ruhlman's new book is a must read. With grace, honesty, good humor, and a sense of resignation, he recounts his own near-irrational infatuation with a rambling, neglected old house in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that pushed him to the brink of psychological and financial ruin. Ruhlman's recounting of arriving at a sale price shows how house lust befogs the mind of the normally cool and financially savvy. Even the carefully guarded comments of the house inspector on the questionable states of plumbing and roofing don't trigger the expected defensive alarms. The house takes on a persona of its own, combining the irresistible tug of sentimental security and the seductiveness of a home-wrecking floozy. Adding substance to his narrative, Ruhlman ruminates on the rise of American suburbia and its mixed legacy. And he throws in a bit of interesting Cleveland history. This book will especially appeal to fans of Ruhlman's previous portraits of restaurants and chefs. Mark Knoblauch Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Written with an urgency that rivals any episode of "ER"