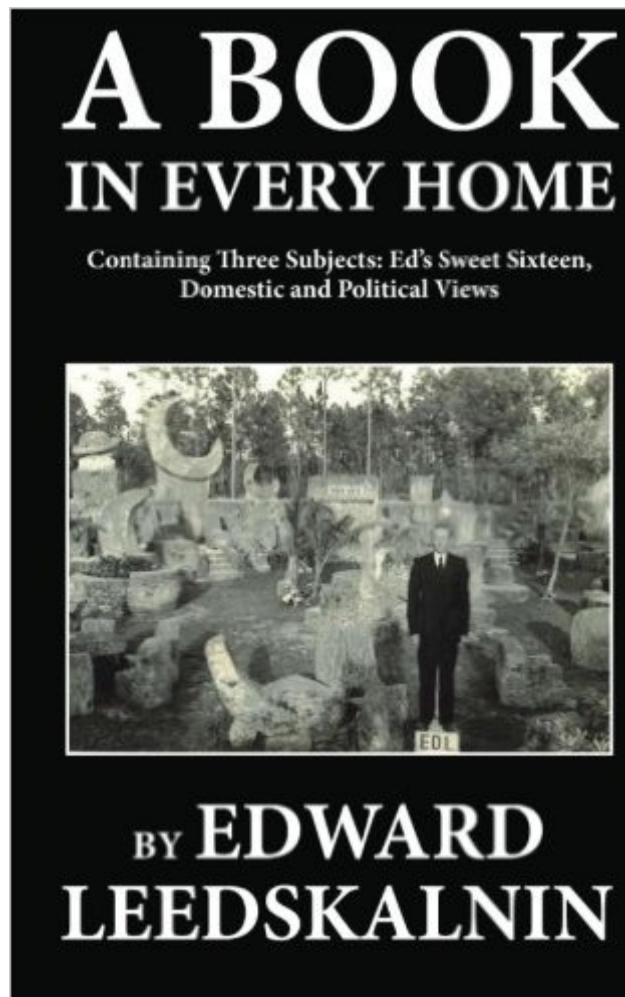


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A Book In Every Home Containing Three Subjects: Ed's Sweet Sixteen, Domestic And Political Views



Synopsis

Edward Leedskalnin (1887-1951) was an eccentric Latvian emigrant to the United States and amateur sculptor who, it is alleged, single-handedly built the monument known as Coral Castle in Florida. He was also known for his unusual theories on magnetism. His first and longest booklet, *A Book in Every Home*, a treatise on moral education, was printed on only the left-hand pages, and began with the following preface: "Reader, if for any reason you do not like the things I say in the little book, I left just as much space as I used, so you can write your own opinion opposite it and see if you can do better." In the first section, Leedskalnin vents his anger at his "Sweet Sixteen," arguing that girls should be kept pure, and that boys are primarily a soiling influence upon them. The second section continues along the theme of moral education, with several aphorisms aimed at parents regarding the proper way to raise children. The last, "Political" section, reveals that the reclusive Leedskalnin had strong political views. He advocates voting for property owners only (and in proportion to their holdings), and argues that "Anyone who is too weak to make his own living is not strong enough to vote." Some writers have suggested that Leedskalnin's booklet contains further information on his electromagnetic research and philosophies encoded in its pages, and the blank pages are provided for the reader to fill in their decrypted solutions. It has also been suggested that Leedskalnin's frequent referral to his "Sweet Sixteen" may in fact refer to the numerological and/or scientific relevance of the number sixteen to his research and theories.

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Customer Reviews

Definitely dated. His outlooks on gender roles are so quaint that they are somehow endearing. He leaves the right-hand pages blank so we can write in our own opinions and do better ("if that's possible"). For what Leeds Kalnin is known - the Coral Castle in Florida - it's interesting to have a peek at his opinions on personal, social and economic morals and norms - brings the man into the warmth of the hearth rather than having a look at him "at arm's length" for his enigmatic genius. I wouldn't argue his social standards or his inflexible stance on social responsibility. I would just nod and accept them as his own and then go about my own business. Certainly a novel perspective by one of our contemporary geniuses, and a quick read.

This book is really interesting the author encoded some message and parallelism with electromagnetism and coils building inside his writings... Its little weird for the people who read it in a literal way. But this book is hiding something more.

I only got this book because he only wrote 2 and I was hoping to glean some info from it on how he moved the blocks. Don't waste your money. VERY short pamphlet and mostly 1930s attitudes towards politics and women.

This is as clear as Black Turkish coffee, do not expect them to make it easy. There maybe a missing clue, like standing on your head on Thursday, when the moon is full. If you enjoy a mystery, a real mystery. . .this just might be. . . or a huge laugh on us.

I was curious about the author after watching a documentary about the coral castle he made and they mentioned books he had written. At first I couldn't believe this was for real, but upon reflection, that is probably why he never married and had children. It is sad to think that his life could have turned out differently, but then we probably wouldn't have the coral castle. I actually got mad part way though when he talked about not letting your children laugh with their mouths open and what it would do to their faces, but again, it just made me sad to think there might be other people out there that think this way, and how distorted and skewed their outlook on life is. It was a quick read, and I'm not sure it was worth the money spent on it, but it is curiosity that killed the cat, and satisfaction that brought him back....

Here are a few select quotes from this volume; read them and decide for yourself: "In case a girl's

mamma thinks that there is a boy somewhere who needs experience, then she, herself, could pose as an experimental station for that fresh boy to practice on and so save the girl." "A normal male is always ready to strive for perfection, the female is not." "When smiling, the teeth only should be shown. As soon as you show the gums, it spoils the good effect." "Children should not be encouraged to smile too much, smiling in due time will produce creases in the sides of their mouths. It would be better to save the smiles till they are grown up." Much more of the same, ad nauseam (though the booklet is a mere 26 pages). There is virtually no meaningful content of any kind - just a rambling discourse on the author's bizarre convictions, À la Dr. Bronner's Moral ABC.

Pretty weird but I am sure I am just missing something.

A marvelous collection of homespun wisdom that is sure to delight everyone of all ages.

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