

Off the Grid: Inside the Movement for More Space, Less Government, and True Independence in Modern America

By Nick Rosen

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Inside the subculture of off-grid living

Written by a leading authority on living off the grid, this is a fascinating and timely look at one of the fastest growing movements in America. In researching the stories that would become *Off the Grid*, Nick Rosen traveled from one end of the United States to the other, spending time with all kinds of individuals and families striving to live their lives the way they want to—free from dependence on municipal power and amenities, and free from the inherent dependence on the government and its far-reaching arms. While the people profiled may not have a lot in common in terms of their daily lives or their personal background, what they do share is an understanding of how unique their lives are, and how much effort and determination is required to maintain the lifestyle in the face of modern America's push toward connectivity and development.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Fed up with "the hyper-consumption of the past thirty years, the pointless acquisitions, the hopeless materialism, and the obsession with celebrity trivia," British journalist and filmmaker Rosen sets out across the U.S. to find the perfect off-the-grid community "beyond the reach of the power cables and water lines that intersect the modern world." His journey brings him into contact with a colorful collection of rebels and outcasts--aging hippies, anarchist kids, a middle-aged couple with an "off-the-grid McMansion" in Colorado--and he sprinkles his tale with the sorts of practical tips likely to appeal to anyone considering a similar adventure: the Clivus Multrum is "the Hummer of composting toilets." What Rosen lacks is a knack for storytelling; he would have done well to step back and let his subjects speak for themselves. Instead, he constantly inserts himself into the frame and insists on passing humorless judgment on nearly everyone he meets (and a fair number of people he doesnTMt), and even whole cities are roundly dismissed (Boulder is "the smuggest town in America"). His curmudgeonly asides are off-putting, and itTMs disappointing to see the bookTMs idealism and noble reach devolve into grouching.

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From [Booklist](#)

Journalist Rosen walks a fine line between documenting the historic and political history of electrical power in the U.S. ("the grid") and sharing personal anecdotes and interviews with and about those who embrace life off the grid. In spite of the subtitle—Inside the Movement for More Space, Less Government and True Independence—Rosen more often reveals individuals struggling for financial support, embracing faded hippie ideals, or trapped in never-ending neighborhood conflicts that are as much about petty brinkmanship as flipping a switch. All of this is very entertaining, but Rosen's habit of choosing sides through his negative descriptions of some subjects (repeatedly describing one man's comb-over and comparing another woman to Mr. Toad in the *The Wind in the Willows*) while blatantly embracing others brings his journalistic objectivity into question. As a collection of oddballs (from extraordinarily wealthy to poverty stricken) this is a diversionary read, but it does not prove the existence of the cohesive movement it alludes to. --Colleen Mondor

Review

"Bottom Line: A compelling look at a relatively invisible subculture. B+"

-*Newsweek*

"Remember from your youth the potheads, the guys who slept in their rust-bucket cars, the women who baked their own bread from scratch and bartered it for used shoes? They're back. You can reunite in this quirky, unsettling and fascinating look at 21st-century men and women who have cut the cord to power and water and choose to live, for a variety of reasons, 'Off the Grid.'"

-*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

"A timely and gripping read with an entertaining, often inspiring cast of misfits and visionaries, *Off the Grid* offers a peephole view into the future of apocalyptic America."

-Lydia Millet, author of *Oh Pure and Radiant Heart* and *How the Dead Dream*

"Nick Rosen sees going off the grid as a political choice. In *Off the Grid: Inside the Movement for More Space, Less Government, and True Independence in Modern America*, he writes that corporate greed,

massive layoffs, healthcare wars, ecological disasters have caused many true believers to question the American Dream. "Most of the people I met on my tour of America," writes the British Rosen, "are losing faith in the grid, both in its literal and metaphorical sense. They don't feel a sufficient advantage to being inside the fabric of society." ... He travels across the U.S. visiting individuals, families and communities that have chosen to live free of the "Meter Man." He distinguishes between the back-to-the-landers, the hippies, the anarchists and the survivalists and writes about the issues they face as they go off-grid - zoning problems, permits and social ostracism.

-The Los Angeles Times

"Journalist Nick Rosen profiles the brave souls who live sans electricity bill, from the predictably fringe-ish (9/11 Truther survivalists, old-order Mennonites) to the surprisingly ordinary: A Colorado mom explains that off-grid living is the only way she can afford to raise her kids "where neighbors are neighborly, and there is plenty of clean air." Thoreau couldn't have said it better himself, and luckily Rosen knows it. *Off the Grid* makes a convincing case for living deliberately, without too many Waldenisms."

-Mother Jones

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Musselwhite:

Here thing why this Off the Grid: Inside the Movement for More Space, Less Government, and True Independence in Mo dern America are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good but it really depends in the content from it which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. Off the Grid: Inside the Movement for More Space, Less Government, and True Independence in Mo dern America giving you information deeper and different ways, you can find any publication out there but there is no publication that similar with Off the Grid: Inside the Movement for More Space, Less Government, and True Independence in Mo dern America. It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your current eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is might be can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your means home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the branded book maybe the form of Off the Grid: Inside the Movement for More Space, Less Government, and True Independence in Mo dern America in e-book can be your choice.

Caleb Jones:

Now a day people who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not need people to be aware of each facts they get. How people have to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Studying a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information mainly this Off the Grid: Inside the Movement for More Space, Less Government, and True Independence in Mo dern America book as this book offers you rich information and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Olive Griffin:

The book untitled Off the Grid: Inside the Movement for More Space, Less Government, and True

Independence in Modern America contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains your ex idea with easy means. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was authored by famous author. The author will bring you in the new period of time of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official website in addition to order it. Have a nice read.

Jillian Harrington:

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