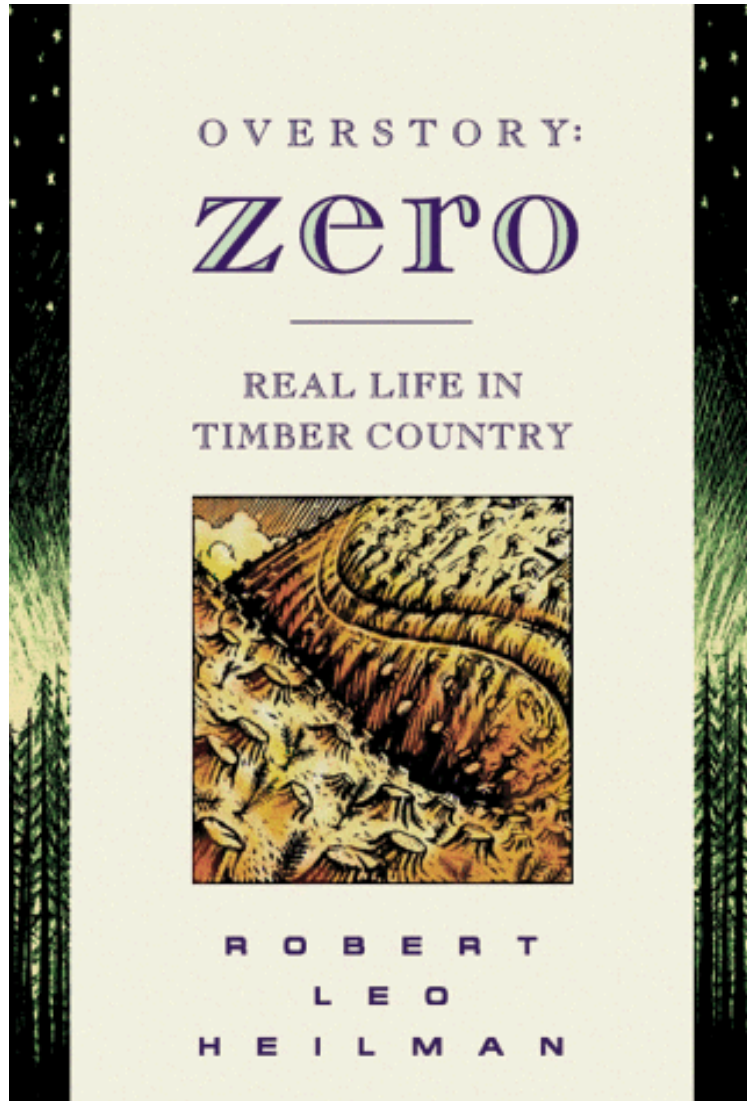


(Free) Overstory: Zero : Real Life in Timber Country

Overstory: Zero : Real Life in Timber Country

Robert Leo Heilman

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Robert Leo Heilman : Overstory: Zero : Real Life in Timber Country before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Overstory: Zero : Real Life in Timber Country:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Unexpectedly gorgeous writing illuminating the fight for the forests
By aaron mcmanus
When I first moved to Douglas County, Oregon to work at an educational forest, I was told to read this book in order to understand the culture of the community and the heart of the battle between big timber and the environmentalists. I couldn't put this book down. It's incredibly well written, artfully composed, and brilliantly put together. The book examines the relationships between people and nature through the personal experience of the

author's time as both an environmentalist and a logger. While that may seem contradictory, there are many people in Southern Oregon (and beyond) who are employed by the timber industry and quietly passionate about conservation. The day after I read this book many years ago, I called up the author and ended up coming over to his home for coffee. I wanted to hear the updates and his take on the local community 20 years after writing this book. He was kind, generous, entertaining, funny and highly cynical. He took a lot of crap from the local community for writing this book. He was demonized and shunned by many people. If you're not from a small town, you'd have a hard time understanding exactly how cruel a community can be. As a city kid, I was shocked by some of the behaviors I saw in this small town - the kind of behaviors detailed in this incredible little book. I'm ordering another copy of this book so I can check out the 2nd edition. A lot has happened in the past 20 years since this book was first published, and I can't wait to see Bob Heilman's treatment of it. He's a truly excellent writer, and it's a magnificent piece of cultural history. I'm excited that he's released 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Heilman's *Overstory Zero* was an excellent read 20 years ago. By James R. Kelly. Heilman's, *Overstory Zero: Real Life in Timber Country* was an excellent read 20 years ago, and the 20th anniversary edition is every bit as excellent a read today--and then some, with additional stories that hit the ground running. Robert Heilman takes you to rural Southern Oregon's loggers, tree planters, mill workers, and everyday folks in a manner that well... becomes literature. Creative non-fiction at its very best! 10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Over story - Zero: Real Life in the Timber Country*. By NiniGreat story if you live in Oregon, or are thinking about moving to Oregon. I bought this book and read it in 2004 when I planned to move to Roseburg, Oregon. It's good to know something about the history of an area where you live or plan to live.

This is a collection of personal essays by an author who knows what it means to be a logger, tree planter, mill worker and roofer in the "marginal population" of the Umpqua Valley in Oregon. In honest, gritty prose, Heilman writes about the complex relationships between work, nature, family and community at a time when community itself is as endangered as any job or tree.

.com "It's best not to look at the clear cut," Robert Leo Heilman writes, describing his grueling work as a tree planter in the timber country of Oregon. "You stay busy with whatever is in front of you because, like all industrial processes, there is beauty in the details and ugliness in the larger view. Oil film on a rain puddle has an iridescent sheen that is lovely in a way that the junkyard it's part of is not." Heilman's fine collection of essays, which gives the reader an inside look at the society of loggers, environmentalists, and people who never stop laboring while trying to survive, beautifully illuminates the details of the working life. Alternately joyous and heartrending, evocative of Thoreau and Whitman, these essays by a man who has lived the life he writes about, deserve to be read by a wide audience. From Publishers Weekly In timber industry parlance, overstory: zero means "clear-cut," or removal of all the trees in a stand of timber. Heilman lives in Douglas County, Oregon, the self-styled "Timber Capital of the Nation," a sparsely populated, economically depressed area. For five winters, he worked with a company reforestation crew, planting seedling trees at the rate of 700 a day. A high school dropout, Heilman had more than 30 occupations? logger, sawmill worker, roofer, house painter? before an on-the-job accident left him unable to do hard physical labor. He writes engagingly and with sensitivity about the life of a laborer, about the struggle of a backwater community to survive. Heilman looks at the blue-collar worker's and the middle-class professional's perceptions and prejudices regarding each other. This is a vivid portrait of a "marginal population" and an area in transition. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Heilman, a resident of rural southwest Oregon, uses this spare first book to explore what life has become in a region largely dependent on logging. His title refers to timber industry slang for a clearcut, and he is well aware of the damage logging has done to the landscape. Often writing about various jobs he or his neighbors have performed, he extols the virtues of blue-collar workers and their importance to their communities. By addressing a number of his vignettes to the concerns of a population marginalized by unemployment or minimum-wage jobs, he recognizes the pain of watching a community disintegrate as it draws up sides and neighbors become enemies. Highly recommended for all regional public and environmental collections. ?Tim Markus, Evergreen State Coll. Lib., Olympia, Wash. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.