What happens when two New Yorkers (one an ex–drag queen) do the unthinkable: start over, have a herd of kids, and get a little dirty?

Find out in this riotous and moving true tale of goats, mud, and a centuries-old mansion in rustic upstate New York—the new memoir by Josh Kilmer-Purcell, author of the New York Times bestseller I Am Not Myself These Days. A happy series of accidents and a doughnut-laden escape upstate take Josh and his partner, Brent, to the doorstep of the magnificent (and fabulously for sale) Beekman Mansion. One hour and one tour later, they have begun their transformation from uptight urbanites into the two-hundred-year-old-mansion-owning Beekman Boys.
Suddenly, Josh—a full-time New Yorker with a successful advertising career—and Brent are weekend farmers, surrounded by nature's bounty and an eclectic cast: roosters who double as a wedding cover band; Bubby, the bionic cat; and a herd of eighty-eight goats, courtesy of their new caretaker, Farmer John. And soon, a fledgling business, born of a gift of handmade goat-milk soap, blossoms into a brand, Beekman 1802.

The Bucolic Plague is tart and sweet, touching and laugh out loud funny, a story about approaching middle age, being in a long-term relationship, realizing the city no longer feeds you in the same way it used to, and finding new depths of love and commitment wherever you live.

Features:
* ISBN13: 9780061336980
* Condition: NEW
* Notes: Brand New from Publisher. No Remainder Mark.

Author's caution:

"This book is not about living your dream. It will not inspire you. You will not be emboldened to attempt anything more than making a fresh pot of coffee."

This is an example of the kind of self-deprecating humor you will find throughout this book. If I am laughing out loud before page 1, I'm pretty sure that I'll enjoy this book.

Josh Kilmer-Purcell goes on with that quote to compare The BUCOLIC PLAGUE to other memoirs that are "written by courageous souls who have broken with their past, poetically leaving behind things such as drugs, career ennui, and bad relationships." Of course he's writing with tongue firmly in cheek, and as an advertising exec, he's learned the value in setting the bar low so as to exceed expectations.

In spite of his disclaimer, this book does address career ennui, relationships, and does inspire one to figure out how to live "Your Best Life Now."

After buying a mansion and farm with his partner Brent as a weekend getaway from their busy lives in Manhattan, Josh was inspired after attending an Oprah taping to figure out how he could really live his best life. He decided that his best life would be living full time in the bucolic setting of their new country home, growing vegetables, raising goats and becoming a part of the local community.
His partner Brent receives his inspiration from another media mogul: Martha Stewart, for whom he works as a "wellness expert." After an appearance on her show, their goat's milk soap business and their Beekman 1802 "brand" takes off, causing what was meant to be an escape and a place of restoration to become a plague -- on their relationship and to their time off.

The humor in this book kept me flying through the pages, as did Brent and Josh's struggles and extraordinary experiences (like creating and cooking from an heirloom garden). Kilmer-Purcell is right that he is not writing to change the reader's life, as some memoirists seem to set out to do. The fact that he's just sharing his experience helps it to avoid that completely self-important trap that many memoirists fall into.

I came to care about this farm, the community, and its owners. I wanted to see them succeed, because their effort and intent was valiant, but also to prove to myself that it was possible to go for it and achieve your dream.

I loved this book. I'm surprised at how much I loved this book. It seemed to end somewhat abruptly (maybe because I just wanted it to go on and on?), but I was reminded that real life doesn't tie itself up neatly with pat resolutions.

Fortunately, those interested can follow Brent and Josh on THE FABULOUS BEEKMAN BOYS on Planet Green Discovery TV, but whether you watch or not, you must read the book.

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