

## Kidder: "House"

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### General Information

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### Description

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder talks about "House," his non-fiction account of the building of his Massachusetts home from foundations to eaves, and the embattled (and often battling) characters who built it.

### Keywords

House, Home, Memoir, Construction, Building, Carpentry, Wood, Architecture, Ordinary People, Tradition, Ancient, Passion, Inspiration, Pulitzer Prize, Tracy Kidder, Writers Speak

### Transcript

Kidder: "House"

JANE PAULEY, anchor: Do you ever dream about building your own home? It can be a mixed experience, both exhilarating and incredibly draining. Pulitzer Prize winning author Tracy Kidder has documented the building of a house, a real one, from the first architectural drawings to the day the owners moved in. It's a story filled with carpentry, craftsmanship, and an incredible amount of human emotion. The book is called, very simply, House.

Whatever made you think that writing a book about a house would be interesting?

TRACY KIDDER, author: Well.

PAULEY: Not to mention compelling as it is.

KIDDER: It's an ancient endeavor, first of all. It's full of passion. You know, it's a really intimate thing that a group of strangers gathered together to do. And carpentry, that's the way I came into it, is just a wonderful thing, to work with wood, the smell of new wood, the feel of it. And I was lucky; I got a fascinating group of characters.

PAULEY: That's what I'm getting at, these aren't everyday, they are everyday people but there's...

KIDDER: There's no such thing as an ordinary, ordinary, person I don't think, you know. And this ordinary story is a sort of timeless one it seems to me. You know, it's a triangle it's a manage-a-tois without sexual connotations.

PAULEY: Do you feel the same satisfaction in holding this book between hard covers, as I am, as they do with their house? Or are you jealous that they have a house to show for the project?

KIDDER: Well I'm a little jealous of that house and of the abilities that all these people mustered, but I'm pretty proud of my book too. I hope it stays around for a few years, anyway.

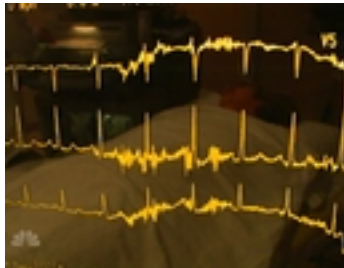
PAULEY: Do you like it as well as *The Soul of a New Machine*?

KIDDER: I like it better. I like it better than anything I've ever written. I think it has more heart to it.

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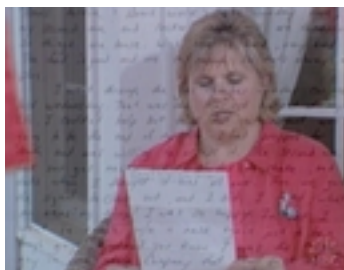
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