

Kidder: "House"

<http://www.icue.com/portal/site/iCue/chapter?cuecard=34673>



General Information

Source:	NBC Today Show	Resource Type:	Video News Report
Creator:	Jane Pauley	Copyright:	© NBC Universal, Inc.
Event Date:	10/09/1985	Copyright Date:	1985
Air/Publish Date:	10/09/1985	Clip Length	00:01:39

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.

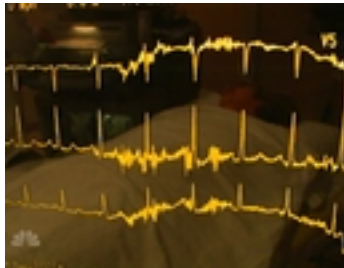
PAULEY: Do you like it as well as *The Soul of a New Machine*?

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

Related Cue Cards

Stress on the Rise Over Paying Mortgage, Rent
<http://www.icue.com/portal/site/iCue/chapter/?cuecard=31834>

In a 2007 Internet survey by the American Psychiatric Assoc., 32 percent of respondents say they feel "extreme" stress, and 48 percent report a rise in stress -- often due to anxiety about economic issues.



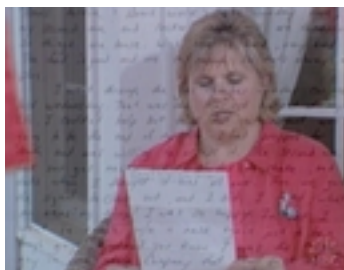
NYC Neighborhood a Snapshot of Immigration Debate
<http://www.icue.com/portal/site/iCue/chapter/?cuecard=2233>

The diverse community -- part Mexican-American, part Irish -- at the corner of 49th St. and Skillman Ave. in Queens, NY is a microcosm of the concerns and possible impact of immigration reform.



"Dear Mom and Dad" -Letters From the Battlefield in Iraq
<http://www.icue.com/portal/site/iCue/chapter/?cuecard=4468>

On Mother's Day, one mother reads excerpts from letters sent home by her son, a machine gunner, from the battlefield in Iraq.



More Home Repair Do-It-Yourselfers Are Women
<http://www.icue.com/portal/site/iCue/chapter/?cuecard=2333>

Instead of hiring contractors and handymen, a growing number of women are attending workshops to learn how to do home repair, remodeling and renovations themselves.

