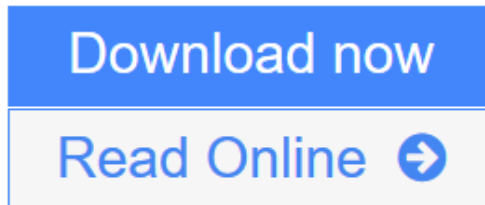


Be Thrifty: How to Live Better with Less

Pia Catton (Compiler) , Califia Sumtree (Editor)



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Book by

Be Thrifty: How to Live Better with Less Details

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From Reader Review Be Thrifty: How to Live Better with Less for online ebook

Melanie says

This is a terrific book! Based on the premise that the word "thrift" is a derivative of the word "thrive," the book gives countless suggestions on how to enjoy life while saving money along the way. Whether you are looking to save a few dollars here and there, or really wanting to have begin a thrifty lifestyle, this book will help you do it! From basic home repairs, (and when to just call an expert), packing lunches, growing herbs, getting out of debt, maintaining your car, vacationing, and taking care of yourself, I found this book to be a great resource!

Bree says

one of the better money, thrift, frugal living books i have read. there was a lot of information about many different things in life. they were not vague as other books tend to be. they have great examples. some advice is common sense but still a good read.

Teckla says

Very interesting with lots of good ideas about different ways one can save at the grocery store and elsewhere but also at home.

Melanie says

An easy and fun read, though probably better used as a reference than as a read-through book. A nice general guide to living life within one's means. This book is a compilation of many short articles written by experts in different subjects. Provides tips on how to DIY lots of things, from making your own facial exfoliation scrub to how to rewire a lamp to how to cut a child's hair.

Colleen says

Most of the information here is just plain common sense, which is good considering there seems to be a lack of common sense out there nowadays.

However, even for someone with a healthy common sense perspective, this book holds several treasures:

- How to make your own Mozzarella Cheese (there goes my diet, lol!) and household cleaning products.
- Step-by-step instructions to cut your own hair.
- Basic fix-it yourself techniques.
- I finally know my Planting Zone!

- Natural pest control options.
- Thrifty shopping tips and where to go to get online bargains.
- Tips on how to haggle like a pro.
- How to maximize your take home pay.
- 20 great wines for under \$10.
- How to remove tough stains using eco-friendly items found in most homes.

Plus, lots of handy recipes.

Blog on Books says

Living better on less is the theme of a cute, small yet comprehensive book called “Be Thrifty* not Cheap” edited by Pia Catton and Califia Suntree (nice name!) (Workman). In it, the pair cover a lot of ground – from stretching your food budget to D.I.Y. household repairs – all the while, stressing ways to be smart rather than stressed. Their advice, from bulk calculations, to negotiating skills (look them in the eye and be nice) to even philosophical quotes from Cicero and Socrates, all serve to make their point in an informative and enjoyable read. The basics? Buy well, quality over quantity and keep things working a long time; think of saving as new found income. They even give you a real penny to get started!

Katrina Pieri says

Includes some great eco-friendly tips on how to be green and thrifty simultaneously.

Carmine says

inspired me to rewire a lamp. Also has a lot of tips you'll find in other, similar books (make a price guide for grocery shopping so you know if you're actually getting a good deal, etc.) but it felt like it pulled together a lot of good ideas that I would actually use. Enjoyed the cost-benefit analysis of gardening- yes, gardening is worth it if you figure out what is going to work for your garden. For example, Corn isn't really worth it when around here good local corn is going to come available for less than a dollar an ear when it is in season and can be cooked and frozen compared with the space you would need to grow it. Beets on the other hand are a bit pricer, do well in our garden and are things my family likes to eat so we plant lots.

Aron Lawrence says

I have some mixed emotions about how the book was put together, but overall, it's an excellent reference guide. It's like the encyclopedia of thrift.

First of all, the book itself is very well designed. The texture, paper quality, font, color and illustrations are all excellent. Even the binding has a new type of hinge on it that I haven't seen before that allows you to open the book up fully without any problem. The cover is cut at the exact same dimensions as the pages instead of having a lip like most books, which is also uncommon. The overall styling and design is very modern, and that's a plus because this is the type of book that you should have on your shelf, ready to grab

and look something up whenever you need to, not in ebook format.

The reason I'm calling it an encyclopedia is because it's pulled together from many sources, and has a lot of different authors and references. This is the one part that felt a little bit weird to me. I just read *I Will Teach You To Be Rich* by Ramit Sethi, and I noticed some of his ideas sprinkled in there, almost verbatim. For example, he recommends trying an a la carte method of dealing with subscriptions. Such as, cancel your gym membership and pay a walk-in price every time you go, and see if that ends up being cheaper. Or cancel Netflix and buy individual TV episodes on iTunes instead. He uses some statistics about gym memberships to back up his point, and it's all found copied in this book. He's referenced in small text along the side of the page, at least.

Ramit is also quoted toward the end of the book, talking about personal finance. Again, he's referenced, but it came across very strange to me. Ramit has a very forceful way of writing that's easy to identify, and it's disorienting to be jumping through different voices and tone from paragraph to paragraph.

On another occasion, I found a recipe that I liked. I Googled the first couple sentences of introduction so I could find it online and print out a copy. I found it easily on Google Books, ripped from a cookbook. Funnily, the only thing changed was that the original says it's a great vegetarian recipe, and the copy says that you might want to consider adding in chicken or turkey. In this case, there was no reference on the page saying where the recipe was taken from.

It's annoying that there's so little original material, but the fact is, the stuff that they use is very good. They've taken the best tips they could find, and compiled them all together in one concise volume. You want to know more about any specific area? Just look up the books or authors referenced in that section.

That's why I've given it 5 stars. If you're new to living a thrifty lifestyle, this book will help open your eyes to many different areas of life where you're probably wasting money. For someone like me, who has read dozens of books on personal finance and thrift, there's still something in this book that you can pick up on. For me, it was trying some of the thrifty recipes. I know there are a lot of cookbooks out there specializing in cheap meals, but I never considered getting any because I'm on a relatively expensive gluten-free diet, and it seemed better to try to avoid foods that usually contain gluten instead of modifying all these recipes with more expensive ingredients. Now I realize that there's a lot for me to learn in this respect, and I'm inspired to look into it more. If this helps me trim my food budget by even 1%, then the book will pay for itself.

Give this book a try. Especially if you're just getting started and you don't know where to begin.

Maura says

This book is full of ideas and things you wouldn't even think about when it comes to being thrifty. There are recipes for food, directions on making baby wipes, cleaning supplies, staples to keep in your pantry, budgeting tips, how to unclog a toilet and so much more.

Laura M says

This is a really good book, even for those that have been living the frugal life for a while. There were certain chapters I skimmed over or skipped (I don't have kids, I don't need to know how to frugally buy a Chanel suit, etc.) but others I liked so much I am tempted to purchase the book (true to my frugal nature, I checked

this one out from a cooperative library).

Sarah Eiseman says

Loved, loved, loved this book! It was a culmination of a number of different contributors talking about ways to do more with less. I literally sat in the car (while my daughter slept in the back) and read this book cover to cover. It was a super-quick read, but it was also very timely and realistic. Obviously, some chapters were more meaningful than others, but by and large I got something out of the entire book. I might actually go out and buy a copy (as opposed to taking it out of my local library). LOL!

Kami Weeks says

Definitely for new frugality converts. Some old info, some new - I could do without the two pages dedicated to the essay detailing how buying a Chanel suit is frugal, and also directions on how to make my own mozzarella cheese.

Rene says

I would say this is less a frugal living book and more a frugal living encyclopedia, which is to say there is a little information about a lot of topics. In fact, there was so much that I feel like I couldn't really get the full benefit of the book having checked it out from the library so I might need to get a copy of it for myself. I think some readers might complain about the lack of depth, but I feel like that's really unachievable unless you wanted a truly encyclopedia sized set. That being said, the index of the book contains a list of all the source materials they used for the book so if you want more depth on a specific topic, you can easily find a book dedicated to just that one thing.

In the realm of frugal living, the book seems to focus primarily on Do It Yourself activities. It includes everything from maintaining your home and car to cutting your own hair (or your family's hair). It even includes a section on knitting, though it claims it's not a frugal activity, which I have to disagree with. You might be able to buy a sweater at a thrift store for \$8, but when you make it yourself you can use more elaborate patterns (which you can get for free) as well as better quality materials and construction. Plus, if you think of knitting as entertainment, the number of hours you can spend making even a small item means that your hobby comes out to pennies-per-hour in fun.

I think the benefit of this book is that it does give a lot of options for costs savings, so the reader can pick and choose which activities apply to their lifestyles, range of skills, and willingness to be radically frugal. Then they can do further research on the topic to really improve their cost of living without reducing their quality of living.

Elizabeth says

A useful, wide-ranging resource. Some of the chapters will be more relevant for some than others (I do not need to know how to build a campfire!), but overall this book is a great tool to help anyone become a little more thrifty. It's also a great jumping-off point for different methods of thriftiness. None of the chapters are comprehensive, but all have useful information that is a good starting point for deeper research into areas of interest.
