



Pick Your Battle: Your Guide to Urban Foraging, Hollywood Movies, Late Capitalism, and the Communist Alternative (a memoir)

By Douglas Lain

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Pick Your Battle is a book that speaks to the desire for a return to nature that propels movements for sustainability, without entirely succumbing to this desire. While remaining true to the utopian spirit he finds in various ecological trends and lifestyles, Lain dares to examine how the ideas embedded in movement for permaculture fare after being subjected to radical scrutiny. Imagine that Slavoj Zizek or Guy Debord had written a breezy but ironic memoir about urban foraging.

Pick Your Battle confronts the apocalyptic sentiments expressed by left figures such as Christopher Hedges who, in his February 2010 essay for Adbusters entitled **The Zero Point of Systemic Collapse**, argued for the need to abandon reformist struggle and batten down the hatches. The book confronts the ideas expressed by figures on the right like Alex Jones and Glenn Beck. But, while Beck worried in 2010 about what is coming out of Europe, while he fretted about the possibility that the French book **The Coming Insurrection** might be a harbinger of what is to come, Lain sees such a possibility as a hopeful sign. The story in **Pick Your Battle** revolves around Lain's foraging expeditions in Portland as he gets and then loses a job at a Comcast call center. This is a philosophy book, a memoir, and a radical self-help book for people living during an epoch when the self is under siege.

Pick Your Battle is a book that quotes Karl Marx and Carlos Castaneda in somewhat unequal measure, a book that hopes to convince even those of us who are stocking up on canned goods and freeze dried ice cream that a radical change to the economic and social order is more likely than total annihilation.

"Pick Your Battle" was successfully funded through Kickstarter.com on July 13th, 2010.

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Editorial Review

Review

I was amazed, throughout, at how strongly I connected with his stories and thoughts. This is the anarcho-Buddhist answer to Fight Club. --**Kaolin Fire, GUD magazine**

From the Inside Flap

I love the way Lain seamlessly weds the personal, the memoir, the ideas, the story, and the politics of the book. It's a great and difficult genre he's inventing and playing with. - **Daniel Coffeen, UC Berkeley**

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About the Author

Douglas Lain is the author of dozens of short stories and two novels and the voice behind the Diet Soap podcast. His short stories have regularly appeared in nationally distributed literary magazines and journals such as Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet and Amazing Stories since 1999, and his first book "Last Week's Apocalypse" was a collection of these stories published by Night Shade Books. His most recent short story collection "Fall Into Time" was released in May of 2011 by Eraserhead Press and includes his short story "Noam Chomsky and the Timebox," which originally appeared in the British Science Fiction magazine Interzone. The Diet Soap podcast is dedicated to applying imagination and intellect to what Lain thinks of as "the problem of Late Capitalism" the podcast is in its 2nd year and reaches well over a thousand listeners every week. The podcast has featured conversations with Penelope Rosemont of the Chicago Surrealist group, radical author Michael Parenti, the performance artist Reverend Billy, the radical homemaker Shannon Hayes, and many others.

Users Review

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