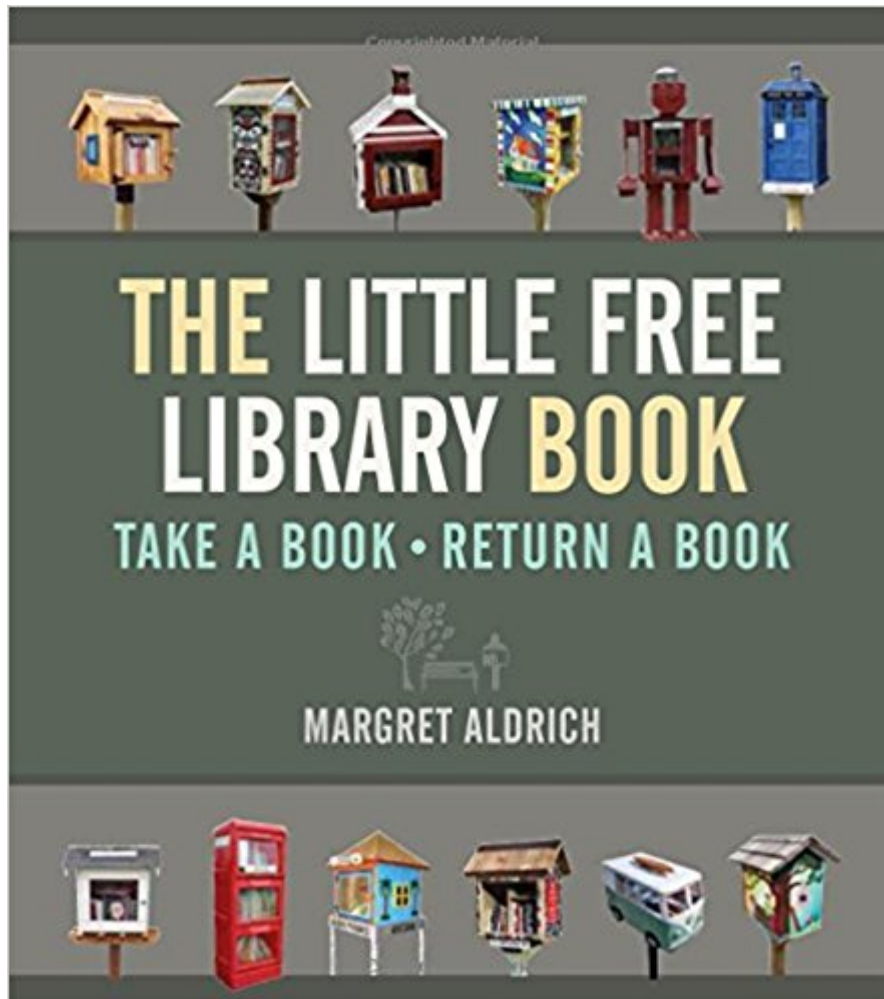


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# The Little Free Library Book (Books In Action)



## Synopsis

"The Little Free Library is a terrific example of placing books&#151;poetry included&#151;within reach of people in the course of their everyday lives. Free is always a good thing, and the project has a nice give-and-take feel to it. Here's hoping we bump into literature when we turn the next corner&#151;before we have time to resist!"&#151;Billy Collins"Take a book. Return a book." In 2009, Todd Bol built the first Little Free Library as a memorial to his mom. Five years later, this simple idea to promote literacy and encourage community has become a movement. Little Free Libraries&#151;freestanding front-yard book exchanges&#151;now number twenty thousand in seventy countries. The Little Free Library Book tells the history of these charming libraries, gathers quirky and poignant firsthand stories from owners, provides a resource guide for how to best use your Little Free Library, and delights readers with color images of the most creative and inspired LFLs around. Margret Aldrich is a freelance writer and editor. Her articles have appeared in the Utne Reader, Experience Life!, and elsewhere. She lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with her family.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Here is my "little story": Last year, I was walking in my hometown of San Diego, CA. I came upon a cul-de-sac, and saw a tall white post with a cute purple door, and a white Adirondack chair next to it. I hadn't a clue what it was, but thought it was the most adorable scene. I went up to the post, and of course, it was a Little Free Library. I had no idea what it was supposed to be, and thought the

homeowners just had a lovely idea. Then I noticed the LFL website on a post on top, and looked it up as soon as I got home. I was flabbergasted to read about this phenomenon, and was shocked at how many there were around the world. I am an avid, voracious, reader and had never heard of the Little Free Libraries. I felt like I was living under a rock. I looked up all the libraries in San Diego (there are well over fifty), plus others in Los Angeles and Northern California. Now it's my goal to visit as many as I can. I've been to 40 so far (I should have written my own book), and have many more to go, in other states and countries, as well. I love the fact that people are still reading. I thought all everyone did these days was stare at their phones for 24 hours. How fantastic to know that these libraries are there for all neighborhoods, and what a tremendous way to encourage everyone to read. Plus, the creativity shown in building these libraries is incredible. One of my favorites in San Diego is at a house on the beach. The homeowners put a cooler on a post, and put all their books in the cooler. What a great combination of environment and creativity. I love another one where the library is in the shape of a Spanish mission (we have a lot of them in California), with a little bell on the top, and doors made out of wood, with handles of wrought iron.

A marvelous idea. In my travels I seen over 25 of these little libraries, every one of them nicely designed and obviously used. I carry two boxes of books in my travels and stop whenever I see one, load it up with as many as it can carry -- after picking over any that I might want to read. Over the years I've taken about 10 and added about 100 -- many of them review copies from or others. This is a marvelous book describing several of the libraries and stories surrounding them, and many more. They have inspired us to add a free library to George Trakas's environmental sculpture in the Riparian Park at the headquarters of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in Mahwah, New Jersey. I can hardly wait to see what a great artist comes up with. [www.nynjtc.org/](http://www.nynjtc.org/) and [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Trakas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Trakas) Read this great description of an institution for book lovers. You may be inspired to build one yourself. Robert C. Ross May 2015 Addendum: Seattle Times book editor Mary Ann Gwinn has just published a marvelous story about one of these libraries: "My spouse gave me a Little Free Library for my birthday. He's very handy, and he built a good one -- roomy, sturdy, with a glass window in the door, the better for peering at books. This was a helpful gift designed to solve a problem, but first, a little background. According to the just-published *The Little Free Library Book* (Coffee House Press, \$25), there are 25,000 of these structures worldwide, spread across 50 states and 80 countries. The basic definition: a box of books, posted in an accessible spot, often in a residential yard near a sidewalk. The idea is take a book, leave a book. I need people to take them.

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