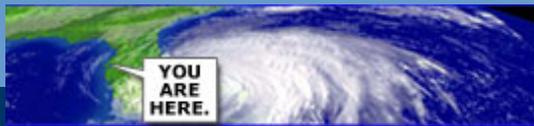


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Tome for the holidays

By MARGO HAMMOND, Times Staff Writer

Published December 18, 2005

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me . . . a book? Why not? A book would give your true love far more pleasure than six geese a-laying, and the joy will last long after the holidays are over. So for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or even Festivus, think books. Here are more than a dozen suggestions:

DAY ONE: ALL YOUR DREAMS UP A TREE

TREEHOUSE CHRONICLES:

One Man's Dream of Life Aloft

By S. Peter Lewis and T.B.R. Walsh

TMC Books, \$29.95, 131 pp

Who needs a partridge in a pear tree when you can have a whole house up there? According to author S. Peter Lewis, *Treehouse Chronicles* is not so much a how-to as a why-to book on building a treehouse. Lewis tells the saga of his four-year journey erecting a mammoth treehouse in the woods of Maine. "*Treehouse Chronicles* is the story of what happens when big people decide to be kids again and they have tools and lumber," jokes Lewis. Taking copious notes and dozens of photographs during the process, and convincing his business partner, watercolor artist T.B.R. Walsh, to provide lovely detailed illustrations of his project, Lewis gives a pretty good account of how he built his treehouse. But more importantly, his book inspires us to follow our own dreams. "Dreams need feet, Peter," Lewis' mother told him. "They're not worth much stuck between your ears." *Treehouse Chronicles* is one man's story of how he put feet on his dreams.

DAY TWO: RHINOS (AND OTHER MAGNIFICENT CREATURES)

ON THIS EARTH:

Photographs from East Africa

Photographs by Nick Brandt, foreword by Alice Sebold, introduction by Jane Goodall

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