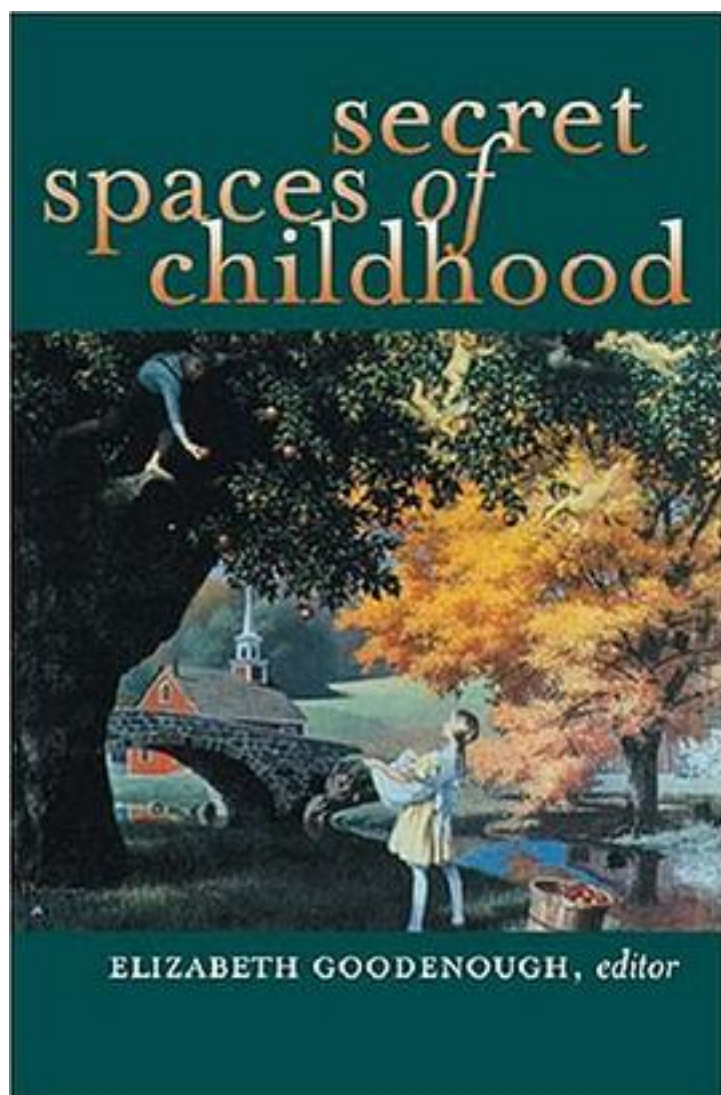


Secret Spaces of Childhood



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著者:Goodenough, Elizabeth

出版者:Univ of Michigan Pr

出版时间:2003-9

装帧:Pap

isbn:9780472068456

Whether it's real or imaginary, every child has a secret space, and this remarkable book explores them all. For some it's a treehouse or a hidden spot beneath a bush; for others it's a private psychic refuge--a favorite book, or a dollhouse that becomes a stage for a young imagination. As the more than four dozen pieces collected here reveal, such spaces play a key role in a child's development and retain a symbolic power that resonates throughout our adult lives. No reader will put this book down without experiencing a rush of familiar memories and new insights into that bygone world.

Poet Diane Ackerman evokes that "parallel universe behind the eyes / which no one shared, or dare discover"; Paul Brodeur recalls the "fort" where he and his brother defended Cape Cod against invaders in World War II; Nobelist Wole Soyinka offers a poignant verse portrait of Africa's lost children; and Paul West remembers youthful encounters with his eccentric neighbors Edith and Osbert Sitwell. Elsewhere, Robert Coles summons up memories of his first years as a doctor and a wise young patient who taught him a lesson he has never forgotten, and Mary Galbraith shows how childhood loss is transformed into art in Ludwig Bemelmans's classic *Madeline*. And these are just a few of the gems in a treasury that includes Anne Frank, the controversial photographs of Sally Mann and the crudely eloquent drawings of young South African refugees, clinical case studies and profoundly personal imagery.

A perceptive, thought-provoking work for general readers, *Secret Spaces of Childhood* opens a wonderful window on the world of the young.

Elizabeth Goodenough is Lecturer in Comparative Literature, the Residential College, University of Michigan.

作者介绍:

目录:

[Secret Spaces of Childhood_下载链接1](#)

标签

评论

[Secret Spaces of Childhood_下载链接1](#)

书评

[Secret Spaces of Childhood_下载链接1_](#)