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# Found, Free, And Flea: Creating Collections From Vintage Treasures



## Synopsis

Grandma's rusty teakettle, old fishing lures, a broken antique camera from the attic—these are your foundation pieces for building authentic collections on the cheap. When Tereasa Surratt's husband convinced her that they should buy a derelict summer camp in Wisconsin, they had no idea the treasure trove they'd inherit with the property. While renovating the decrepit cabins at Camp Wandawega, they kept stumbling upon curious objects, some dating back ninety years or more: a Boy Scout patch, an old sled, a pristine set of Fiesta Ware, dozens of midcentury aprons, an untouched box of board games in their original packaging. Tereasa knew the power that one mundane object has when grouped with its siblings. So rather than discard everything, she set out on a five-year expedition to turn the more than 150 found items into full-fledged collections. Relying on her own thriftiness, she only acquired pieces for free or at a bargain price: items that she found, negotiated for free, or unearthed at a flea market. *Found, Free & Flea* explores Tereasa's passion for collecting while encouraging you to tap into your own with ideas on where to look to see collectibles. Throughout the book, she shares her secrets and historical tidbits behind these prized antiques, now used to create innovative displays and for entertaining guests at her renovated lakeside retreat. From vintage wine taster cups turned into a wind chime to cheese boxes reinvented as drawer organizers, to a chicken feeder that houses old tea cups for impromptu coffee bar setups, everything at Camp Wandawega earns its keep. Learn how to navigate flea markets and how to best negotiate, why localvore • collecting should matter to the thrifty shopper (and what finds to expect on your travels), which vintage collections are easiest to start and the quickest to fill out, and what tips you should employ for turning even the most simple items into stunning displays. The beautiful photography and Tereasa's clever DIY projects and sharp eye for design will inspire anyone to add charm and personality to interiors with a few well-worn objects. A celebration of Americana and ingenuity, *Found, Free & Flea* is a must-have for knowing how to spot treasures, complete collections, and display them artfully.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Length: 2:28 Mins

Just received my copy of this book yesterday and absolutely love it. It is beautifully designed and written. The story of how Tereasa and her husband restored their old 1920's property using found items and flea market bargains is awe-inducing. What I love most are the unique collection ideas. I am no stranger to scouring flea markets and vintage shops, but there are things in here I would have never looked twice at in a shop or thought about before... Like grouping an assortment of odd little mismatched 1940's potholders together on a kitchen wall. Very cute and not something you'd see everyday. And what's nice is that you don't have to have a million bucks to build up little collections like these, just some persistence and creativity. Would highly recommend this book to anyone looking for a some inspiration and new ideas.

I love this book, Found, Free and Flea, is absolutely charming and fun! Tereasa Surratt is a master at decorating with humble vintage treasures. You can just feel the great pleasure she and her husband shared while renovating the tired, old cabins at Camp Wandawega transforming them into a cozy, warm family retreat. Her passion for collecting free and flea market finds inspired me to start my own vintage collections with simple, well-worn objects from local antique shops. It is fun and addicting. This is a great book for anyone who wants creative ideas for displaying family heirlooms and flea market finds. The photos of the cabins and kitchens at the Camp are beautiful; really charmingly, warm and personal. This book is a gem, definitely one to enjoy with a hot cup of tea from a china teacup (maybe one of the ones I found at the flea market.) Thanks for the inspiration!

I picked up "Found, Free & Flea" by Tereasa Surratt two weeks ago and have been delightedly thumbing through it ever since. This design book is chock full of wonderfully done photographs, great advice, and a charming tale...The author's husband spent his childhood summers at a small

family camp that became available for sale, so they purchased and renovated it. In the process, they uncovered decades of old things, full of character and interest. She began using those items to create collections from flea markets, yard sales, and other inexpensive venues. The collections became the gear and decor for the entire camp! I especially appreciated the way the author encourages finding useful things, not just decorative things. There are so many wonderful, useful, well-made treasures just waiting to be found and given a second life - the best kind of recycling! I have added a photo to the customer images above, for a sample of the excellent photography displayed in "Found, Free & Flea". This book is gorgeous, creative, and most importantly, loaded with fantastic finds! I have found tons of great ideas and inspiration within these pages. I greatly enjoy the hunt for inexpensive vintage treasures to decorate and appoint my home, and now I'm itching to head to the flea market again after spending some time with this book! "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful." -- quote by William Morris in "Found, Free & Flea"

Tereasa's ideas are absolutely fun, inventive and inspiring! Her decorating style is high end, low budget, and perfect for the cash strapped among us, as well as the collectors of vintage items and anyone trying to furnish a cabin on a small budget. She shows you how to incorporate those dish towels and aprons inherited from Grandma, those mismatched dishes, and anything else you could possibly pick up at a thrift store into statement making decor. While her photos beautifully showcase her own personal space, her text gives ideas on how to personalize to your own taste and pieces. Being an avid thrifter and Chicago resident myself, her shopping tips and store lists told me of things and places I didn't know existed. I have almost every third page bookmarked as an idea I want to try, something I want to buy, a store I need to visit, or just a beautiful picture I enjoy daydreaming over. Good for every decorating book lover, but a must for anyone who loves thrifting, vintage, or "cabins".

"Found, Free & Flea" by Tereasa Surratt is a treasure in itself. She truly is a design inspiration! I just moved into a new house and I struggled with decorating the whole place. It was perfect timing to buy this well-written, thought-out book. I love the photography - it really helps bring the story and collections to life. I know some people can find treasures from flea markets or yard sales but I used to dread going to them. I felt so overwhelmed and couldn't imagine what could be done with other people's junk. Now I go with a different point of view - I feel like I can visualize what these pieces could become in my place - all thanks to this great book. Over the last month, I have gone to at least

3 yard sales each weekend - feeling inspired to start my own collection and now I have the beginnings of a home. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who loves design, a great story, vintage, flea markets, DIY & photography. A bargain in itself! Thanks Tereasa.

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