

THE CARPENTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY MARK CLEMENT

The secret to living a good life can be found on a jobsite.

Two years after his father's death, Brendan Herlihy leaves his daughters and collapsing marriage to fulfill a promise: remodel his father's dilapidated shop into an art studio for his mother. There Brendan finds his father's dented and scratched aluminum contractor's clipboard, Gideon Herlihy's Carpenter's Notebook. On the curled, yellowed papers Gideon recorded 'True Things' that helped outline the mission of his life and make sense of his existence as a young father, husband, and man. Gideon used his tools for more than just building and improving the homes in his small town, he used them to build and improve his life. He used them to find meaning.

Too soft and out of shape, Brendan recalls sunny, sweaty summers long ago working with his father and rediscovers that building is both a physical and mental test. With every swing of his hammer and every turned page of his father's notebook, he makes progress rebuilding the shop. And, with every wall Brendan tips into place, every pound he sweats off, and every fear he defeats, Brendan rebuilds himself and his family's life.

"Inspiring work and great reading—don't miss it!"

Scott Phillips, host of Public Television's *American Woodshop* and *American Homeshop*

"A wonderful book about building both houses and relationships that is wise, touching, and as satisfying as a hard day's work well done. Mark Clement's message is to do everything well and do everything right, from plumbing a line to talking with your son. In writing this terrific book, he has followed his own advice. Like Chicken Soup for the Soul, it shows us that the greatest wisdom is built from the material of every day life."

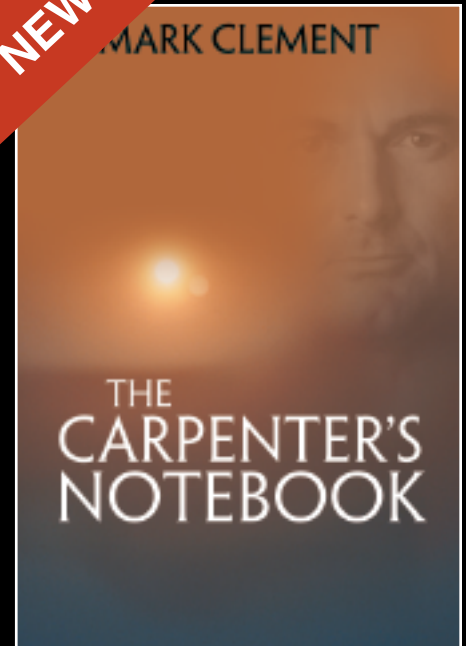
Bret Witter, Editorial Director, HCI and Publisher of *Chicken Soup for the Soul*

"Home Improvement is a thread that runs through many of our lives. Mark has woven it into very rich and unique story."

Dean Johnson, co-host of *Hometime*

NEW

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Mark Clement is a carpenter, writer, and father. As the Executive Editor of *Tools of the Trade* magazine, he is a recognized leader in tool and how-to information for building pros. In his spare time, he enjoys competing in adventure races and triathlons. Mark lives and writes in Ambler, Penn.



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