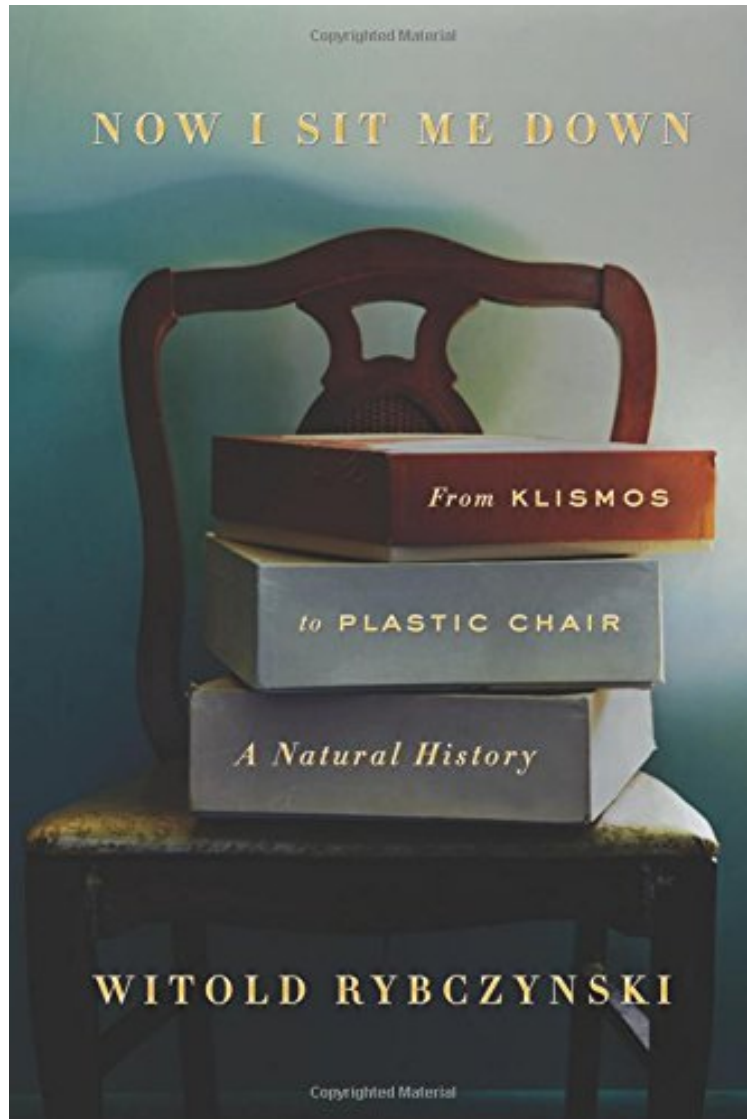


(Library ebook) Now I Sit Me Down: From Klismos to Plastic Chair: A Natural History

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Witold Rybczynski

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Witold Rybczynski : Now I Sit Me Down: From Klismos to Plastic Chair: A Natural History before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Now I Sit Me Down: From Klismos to Plastic Chair: A Natural History:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Who thinks about chairs? You will in a new way if you read this

book. By Galileo A short but delightfully detailed history of chairs, imperial and lowly, gilded and plastic--with simple line drawings which enhance the information. It made me walk around the house critiquing my conglomeration of seating products. Author even cites The Onion's satirical claim that the US doesn't need to produce any more chairs, there are plenty available in houses and stores and garage sales. From French courts to IKEA, chair designers want to solve the simple problem of where to sit and how to make an inviting and attractive chair. Rybczynski distills their quest into this tight account. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. History takes... a seat. By Corrine Martin An architect knows that little things mean a lot. This is a gem of a book. It's about chairs: their importance and their history. There is fascinating history behind the designs and designers... why chairs look (and sit) the way they do. I especially like the thumbnail biographies of the designers: the crafting and marketing of this household work of art and science that we take for granted. All is covered in a great story telling fashion. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The chair's history By beeverd This the 5th book I have read by this author and as with the previous 4 it was a pleasure. The author manages to distill an entire history of a particular subject into an enjoyable read for the most pedestrian historian. I plan to work my way through many more of his sizable works.

Have you ever wondered where rocking chairs came from, or why cheap plastic chairs are suddenly everywhere? In *Now I Sit Me Down*, the distinguished architect and writer Witold Rybczynski chronicles the history of the chair from the folding stools of pharaonic Egypt to the ubiquitous stackable monobloc chairs of today. He tells the stories of the inventor of the bentwood chair, Michael Thonet, and of the creators of the first molded-plywood chair, Charles and Ray Eames. He reveals the history of chairs to be a social history--of different ways of sitting, of changing manners and attitudes, and of varying tastes. The history of chairs is the history of who we are. We learn how the ancient Chinese switched from sitting on the floor to sitting in a chair, and how the iconic chair of Middle America--the Barcalounger--traces its roots back to the Bauhaus. Rybczynski weaves a rich tapestry that draws on art and design history, personal experience, and historical accounts. And he pairs these stories with his own delightful hand-drawn illustrations: colonial rockers and English cabrioles, languorous chaise longues, and no-nonsense ergonomic task chairs--they're all here. The famous Danish furniture designer Hans Wegner once remarked, "A chair is only finished when someone sits in it." As Rybczynski tells it, the way we choose to sit and what we choose to sit on speak volumes about our values, our tastes, and the things we hold dear.