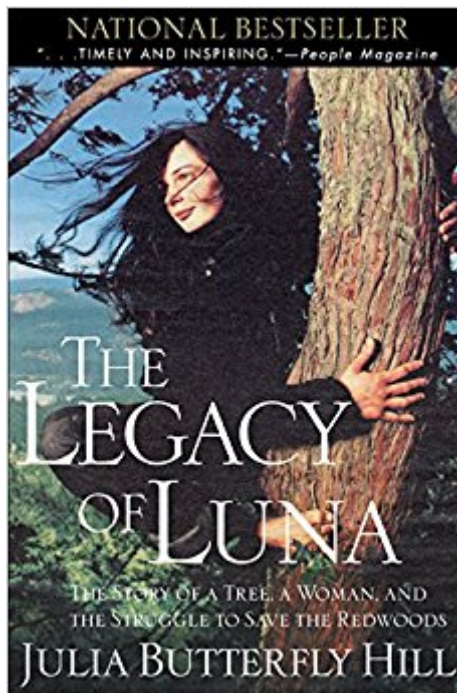




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# The Legacy Of Luna: The Story Of A Tree, A Woman And The Struggle To Save The Redwoods



## Synopsis

On December 18, 1999, Julia Butterfly Hill's feet touched the ground for the first time in over two years, as she descended from "Luna," a thousand-year-old redwood in Humboldt County, California. Hill had climbed 180 feet up into the tree high on a mountain on December 10, 1997, for what she thought would be a two- to three-week-long "tree-sit." The action was intended to stop Pacific Lumber, a division of the Maxxam Corporation, from the environmentally destructive process of clear-cutting the ancient redwood and the trees around it. The area immediately next to Luna had already been stripped and, because, as many believed, nothing was left to hold the soil to the mountain, a huge part of the hill had slid into the town of Stafford, wiping out many homes. Over the course of what turned into an historic civil action, Hill endured El Nino storms, helicopter harassment, a ten-day siege by company security guards, and the tremendous sorrow brought about by an old-growth forest's destruction. This story--written while she lived on a tiny platform eighteen stories off the ground--is one that only she can tell. Twenty-five-year-old Julia Butterfly Hill never planned to become what some have called her--the Rosa Parks of the environmental movement. She never expected to be honored as one of Good Housekeeping's "Most Admired Women of 1998" and *George* magazine's "20 Most Interesting Women in Politics," to be featured in *People* magazine's "25 Most Intriguing People of the Year" issue, or to receive hundreds of letters weekly from young people around the world. Indeed, when she first climbed into Luna, she had no way of knowing the harrowing weather conditions and the attacks on her and her cause. She had no idea of the loneliness she would face or that her feet wouldn't touch ground for more than two years. She couldn't predict the pain of being an eyewitness to the attempted destruction of one of the last ancient redwood forests in the world, nor could she anticipate the immeasurable strength she would gain or the life lessons she would learn from Luna. Although her brave vigil and indomitable spirit have made her a heroine in the eyes of many, Julia's story is a simple, heartening tale of love, conviction, and the profound courage she has summoned to fight for our earth's legacy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A young woman named Julia Butterfly Hill climbed a 200-foot redwood in December 1997. She didn't come down for 738 days. The tree, dubbed Luna, grows in the coastal hills of Northern California, on land owned by the Maxxam Corporation. In 1985 Maxxam acquired the previous landlord, Pacific Lumber, then proceeded to "liquidate its assets" to pay off the debt--in other words, clear-cut the old-growth redwood forest. Environmentalists charged the company with harvesting timber at a nonsustainable level. Earth First! in particular devised tree sit-ins to protest the logging. When Hill arrived on the scene after traveling cross-country on a whim, loggers were preparing to clear-cut the hillside where Luna had been growing for 1,000 years. The *Legacy of Luna*, part diary, part treatise, and part New Age spiritual journey, is the story of Julia Butterfly Hill's two-year arboreal odyssey. The daughter of an itinerant preacher, Hill writes of her chance meeting with California logging protesters, the blur of events leading to her ascent of the redwood, and the daily privations of living in the tallest treehouse on earth. She weathers everything from El Niño rainstorms to shock-jock media storms. More frightening are her interactions with the loggers below, who escalate the game of chicken by cutting dangerously close to Luna (eventually succeeding at killing another activist with such tactics). "You'd better get ready for a bad hair day!" one logger shouts up, grimly anticipating the illegal helicopter hazing she would soon get. Celebrity environmentalists like Joan Baez and Woody Harrelson stop by, too. The notoriety has, on balance, been good to Hill and her cause. *George* magazine named her one of the "Ten Most Fascinating People in Politics," *Good Housekeeping* readers nominated her one of the "Most Admired Women" in 1998, and she was featured in *People's* "Most Intriguing People of the Year" issue. As a result, more Americans know about controversial forestry practices; it remains to be seen, however, whether public outrage is enough to save California's unprotected and ever-shrinking groves of redwoods. While an agreement allowed Hill to descend from her aerie and Luna to escape the saw, most of the surrounding old-growth forest in the region has been felled or will fall shortly. Still, Hill is optimistic: "Luna is only one tree. We will save her, but we will lose others. The more we stand up and demand change, though, the more things will improve." --Langdon Cook --This text refers to an out of print or

unavailable edition of this title.

In December 1997, Hill (who calls herself Julia Butterfly), 23, climbed 180 feet up a redwood tree she dubbed Luna to protest the logging of northern California's ancient redwood forests. She came down two years and eight days later, after negotiating a largely symbolic deal with Pacific Lumber to preserve Luna and surrounding trees. During her "tree-sit," she lived on a makeshift platform, enduring torrential storms, harassment from loggers, doubt and loneliness. Treeborne, she communicated by cell phone, drew major media attention and received visitors like Joan Baez, Bonnie Raitt and Woody Harrelson. Now a hero of the environmental movement, Hill relives her ordeal in a dramatic first-person narrative revealing just how much she saw her protest as a spiritual quest. She prays to the Universal Spirit and preaches unconditional love of all creation. Talking and praying to Luna, she hears the tree's voice speak to her, teaching her to let go, to go with the flow. Her purple-prose epiphanies, mushy New Age ruminations and anthropomorphizing of the tree blunt her story's impact, and her gosh-oh-gee professed reluctance to become a public figure smacks of disingenuousness. Even so, her firsthand exposé of destructive forest practices (only 3% of America's majestic ancient redwood forests remain) is extremely powerful, and her book, a remarkable inspirational document, records a courageous act of civil disobedience that places her squarely in the tradition of Thoreau. Illus. 15-city TV satellite tour; author tour. (Apr.) FYI: Hill has been named one of *George* magazine's 10 Most Fascinating People in Politics. All of her proceeds from this book will go to the nonprofit Circle of Life Foundation. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Everyone should read this book....at least once in their lives. What a journey this one young woman took....sometimes being aware...sometimes just following what was laid out for her to do. I believe it could help young people build up internal resilience while preparing a foundation (albeit perhaps only a light one....who knows what lights one's fire) for deep heart-felt convictions and motivation. No matter young or old or in-between...readers will be aware of her struggles to survive and how miraculous the human spirit can be when buoyed by conviction and determination.

This was a fascinating true story of the trials, danger and problems in Julia Hill's efforts to save Luna, a thousand-year-old redwood from being part of a clear cut lumber exploitation in California. Ms. Hill spent just over 2 years living in Luna 180 ft. above the ground. Illustrated with drawings and poems by Julia Hill, this book is a good reminder of what it took to bring attention to the near

extermination of these ancient forests by clear-cutting as well as the damage to the land clear cutting brings. This is not a long book, but Ms. Hill does a good job of relating the reality of living in a tree faced with people who want nothing more than to cut the tree out from underneath her.

I was so inspired to read a book by the woman who spent 2 years and 8 days atop an ancient redwood tree - at a height equivalent to an 18 story building! WHO could accomplish such an incredible feat, in favor of our living treasures, the Redwood National Forrest? Julia Butterfly Hill, is who. Just think of it my friends. She was very young at the time, 23 years old and had just barely recovered from a bad accident and then she drives across country, arrives at the sacred and foggy cathedral of the Redwoods Forrest, in Humbolt County, California. Within days she ascends to live amongst the branches of her newfound friend, Luna - who is the 1,000 year old redwood tree that she prays she can save. Pacific Lumber wants to chop the tree to smithereens. For what reason? To make a redwood deck? How stupid and pointless! So UP Ms Hill goes to stop the lumberjacks, who act like jackasses to destroy the forrest. It is an unsustainable practice, but you can't argue with their mentality. They see the deforestation as a way of putting food on their table, but it is methodically destroying what took thousands of years to form. Our precious redwood forrest is under siege by these lumber companies. Ms Butterfly Hill climbs this tree in order to save it's life. Her story is told as completely as possible in this enthralling book. I hope that you read it and in true Ms Butterfly fashion, pass it along to another reader. Ms Butterfly would appreciate the recycling of the pages of her book, because she is truly vested to preserve our natural earth. I loved this book and I love Ms Butterfly Hill!!!! She is a champion for living in the massive tree - on a wooden platform no bigger than the surface of a queen sized bed! What an amazing accomplishment for a woman, especially a woman that young!!! The weather was especially uncooperative during the winter season. She was hardy to survive the relentless cold, winds and attacks on her by Pacific Lumber and their evil allies. Read her book and be amazed at what her heart & her mind (and her earth friendly friends) did for a beautiful redwood tree, and what heartless people did to force her off the tree. She is also a spiritual woman who credits the loving and almighty God for helping her during times of hugely stressful challenges. Like when Pacific Lumber sent a helicopter to blow 300 mph winds in her face. That damned pilot should be jailed for trying to kill Ms Hill!!!! That helicopter nearly blew her off the tree to her death, but God saved her from that horrible fate!!! God and only God could possibly have the power to keep Ms Hill perched on her platform and she won that battle. The meanies didn't win this time. Thank God for that! In the end, the tree named LUNA was spared and this amazing woman lives on to tell her tale to all who will listen. I hope people hear her story and their hearts grow big

with wonder at her amazing feat! God bless you.

One of the best books I've read... I couldn't put it down. I wish more people had the courage of their convictions as Julia does. It is also a great book for preteen/teenagers to get inspired about how one person can really make a difference

This is an amazing story. I think if you are of one extreme political view or the other in regards to the redwoods, or environmentalism, you will be softened somewhat after reading Julia's odyssey. It is largely written from a place of neutrality (the heart), and does not "preach", nor is it angry in tone. I am a Northern Californian myself, and after experiencing personally the enormous anger/hate that goes on between BOTH sides of the spectrum, i.e. the logging industry, and the environmentalists, her book was very refreshing. It was as if, by climbing the tree, and remaining in it for so long, Julia stood on the fulcrum of both extremes. I remember one part of the book where, after a confrontation with one of the loggers, she lowered down a photograph of herself dressed in a formal gown. Seeing her as someone he could identify with, and not just as a tree-hugging-hippy-out-to-ruin-his-life-by-taking his livelihood away, shifted him. It may be that I believe Julia is a saint, simply because I'm a tree fanatic. But I feel she has really helped shift a lot of the stagnant energy on both sides of the tree agenda. She has a wonderful heart, and I believe most of you will be able to identify with her, just as that logger did. The only reason I did not give this book 4 stars, is that there are parts of the writing which seem repeated or slow. But definitely, read this book... it is a very unique story! Julia is an inspiration to ANYONE who feels like he or she cannot make a difference being just one person.

Good read

This book was amazing! I had to read it for a class I'm taking and wasn't looking forward to it all because I judged it as being a boring environmentalist book. Once I started reading the book my whole perception of what environmentalism is and how much of an impact we have on this world. Julia's life was so inspiring and her tale is incredible. Her journey was so sad and full of hardships but she always kept true to the person she is. I feel in love with this story in a matter of a few chapters. Julia's story really made me want to do something to help our environment for the better. The book was really inspiring, beautifully written, and just an incredible and sad story. I would wholeheartedly recommend this book to anyone.

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