

# The Bucolic Plague PDF

Josh Kilmer-Purcell



More Free Books on Bookey



Scan to Download

# About the book

## Overview of \*The Bucolic Plague\*

In his delightful memoir, \*The Bucolic Plague\*, bestselling author Josh Kilmer-Purcell takes readers on an entertaining adventure, moving from the energetic hustle of New York City to a rustic, rundown farm in Upstate New York.

## Urban Farmers

Joined by his partner Brent, Josh embarks on the unpredictable journey of goat farming, where the sophistication of city life meets the simplicity of rural existence. The story humorously explores the often comical culture clash they face as they step into farm life.

## Journey of Love and Resilience

This heartwarming tale highlights themes of resilience, partnership, and the quest for an authentic lifestyle, with a mix of triumphs, challenges, and unexpected lessons along the way.

## Engaging Narrative

Get ready to immerse yourself in this charming narrative where dreams collide with reality, and join two contemporary men as they navigate the quirky and lovable hurdles of life in the countryside.

More Free Books on Bookey



Scan to Download

# About the author

Profile: Josh Kilmer-Purcell

- Name: Josh Kilmer-Purcell
- Date of Birth: August 28, 1969
- Profession: Author, Advertising Executive, Former Drag Queen

## Overview:

Josh Kilmer-Purcell is a celebrated American author recognized for his powerful memoirs and captivating storytelling. He effectively merges humor with heartfelt narratives, drawing from a rich tapestry of experiences in both rural and urban environments.

## Notable Works:

1. "I Am Not Myself These Days": This debut memoir brought Kilmer-Purcell into the spotlight, detailing his experiences as a drag performer in New York City.
2. "The Bucolic Plague": In this insightful memoir, he recounts the transformative journey he undertook with his partner to renovate a run-down farm in upstate New York, which later evolved into the well-known Beekman 1802 farm.

More Free Books on Bookey



Scan to Download

## Career Highlights:

In addition to his literary achievements, Kilmer-Purcell has made a name for himself in the advertising industry. His works not only showcase his intelligence and resilience but also reflect an unconventional journey toward personal fulfillment, making him an inspiring figure for many.

**More Free Books on Bookey**



Scan to Download

# Why using the Bookey app is better than reading PDF?



Free Trial with Bookey



Ad



# Try Bookey App to read 1000+ summary of world best books

Unlock **1000+** Titles, **80+** Topics

New titles added every week

- Brand
- Leadership & Collaboration
- Time Management
- Relationship & Communication
- Business Strategy
- Creativity
- Public
- Money & Investing
- Know Yourself
- Positive Psychology
- Entrepreneurship
- World History
- Parent-Child Communication
- Self-care
- Mind & Spirituality

## Insights of world best books



Free Trial with Bookey



# World' best ideas unlock your potential

Free Trial with Bookey



Scan to Download



# The Bucolic Plague Summary

Written by Listenbrief

More Free Books on Bookey



Scan to Download



# The Bucolic Plague Summary Chapter List

1. Chapter 1: The Start of a Quirky Journey into the Country Life
2. Chapter 2: Embracing Chaos and New Responsibilities on the Farm
3. Chapter 3: The Trials and Tribulations of Raising Goats and Running a Farm
4. Chapter 4: Discoveries of Love, Friendship, and Personal Growth in Bucolic Settings
5. Chapter 5: Reflecting on Transformation: From City Slickers to Country Bumpkins

More Free Books on Bookey



Scan to Download



# Why Bookey is must have App for Book Lovers



## 30min Content

The deeper and clearer interpretation we provide, the better grasp of each title you have.



## Text and Audio format

Absorb knowledge even in fragmented time.



## Quiz

Check whether you have mastered what you just learned.



## And more

Multiple Voices & fonts, Mind Map, Quotes, IdeaClips...

Free Trial with Bookey



# 1. Chapter 1: The Start of a Quirky Journey into the Country Life

In the debut chapter of "The Bucolic Plague," Josh Kilmer-Purcell takes readers on an introspective and whimsical ride into the unexpected world of country living, following his and his partner's decision to leave behind the hustle and bustle of city life in New York for the promise of pastoral simplicity. With a mix of humor and heartfelt honesty, Kilmer-Purcell chronicles not only the decision-making process but also the impetus behind their big leap into rural life.

Josh begins by painting a vivid picture of their lives in the city, where they enjoyed the vibrant culture, restaurants, and the overarching buzz of urban excitement. However, despite the allure of the city, they were feeling a growing discontent, a restless itch that prompted them to seek deeper meaning in their lives. It was this yearning for a more authentic existence that led them to purchase a dilapidated farm in the upstate New York countryside—a place that would become the backdrop of their quirky adventures.

This initial leap into the country reveals a stark contrast to their previous life, as the couple quickly encounters a world rich with nature yet fraught with uncertainties. They envisioned quiet days filled with gardening and perhaps some light farming, yet soon realized that the realities of country



living were far more complicated than the romantic ideals they had imagined. The poor condition of the farm further compounded the challenges they faced, as it required significant work to make anything close to a livable space.

Kilmer-Purcell infuses his narrative with humor as he describes the chaos that ensues upon arriving at their new home. From miscalculations in the basic tasks of maintenance to humorous encounters with local wildlife, each misstep serves as a reminder of their naivety. He recounts a particularly funny yet sobering incident with wild animals that leads to a harrowing yet comedic realization about the nature of rural life—a stark testament to the learning curve they are thrust into.

In this journey, Josh also conveys a sense of awakening as he immerses himself in the tranquil yet unpredictable lifestyle. The slow pace of the countryside challenges their previously ingrained urban habits, forcing them to adapt and grow in new ways. He evokes the soothing sounds of nature and the comforting smell of rain-drenched earth, offering a sensory representation of the changes they are undergoing. This transformation is not just in their physical environment, but within themselves as they begin to understand the true essence of community, patience, and hard work—a far cry from the instant gratification of urban life.



Furthermore, Kilmer-Purcell touches upon the notion of identity and belonging during this transition, as they meet an array of colorful local characters who exemplify the unique charm of rural life. These interactions serve not only to further cascade the comedic elements throughout the narrative but also gradually ground their experience in the authenticity of community, highlighting a loving acceptance from their neighbors, as well as the quirks that come with small-town life.

Ultimately, Chapter 1 sets the stage for a story of personal evolution as Kilmer-Purcell and his partner embrace their new reality. Through their rich descriptions and vibrant anecdotes, readers are invited to reflect on the complexities of making monumental life choices, the inherent messiness of embarking on uncharted paths, and the joy of unexpectedly finding oneself in the hearth of a quirky, enchanting country existence.

**More Free Books on Bookey**



Scan to Download

## 2. Chapter 2: Embracing Chaos and New Responsibilities on the Farm

In Chapter 2 of "The Bucolic Plague," Josh Kilmer-Purcell delves into the whirlwind that is the reality of farm life after his move from New York City to a rural upstate New York farm. This chapter is characterized by a burgeoning sense of responsibility that comes with embracing the chaos inherent to farming. The author reflects on the significant adjustments he and his partner must make as they navigate the unexpected intricacies of their new venture, which often challenge their preconceptions and test their mettle.

Kilmer-Purcell paints a vivid picture of daily life on the farm, which is far removed from their urban lifestyle. The couple quickly learns that with the pastoral life comes a series of new obligations and unpredictable events. Each day presents a unique set of challenges, from caring for the animals to maintaining the property, all while juggling their other commitments. Early in the chapter, he discusses the frenetic pace of farm life, where moments of calm can quickly turn into chaos, such as when the animals escape from their pens or machinery breaks down unexpectedly.

To illustrate, he recounts an amusing mishap when a few of their goats manage to squeeze through a gap in the fence, leading to a chaotic chase through a neighbor's property. This seemingly comical episode underscores



a fundamental truth about farm life: unpredictability reigns supreme, and one must be ready to pivot at a moment's notice.

As the chapter unfolds, Kilmer-Purcell touches on the steep learning curve required to successfully run a farm. He and his partner, who are not experienced in agriculture, find themselves in a constant state of education. Learning the nuances of animal care, understanding the needs of different species, and mastering the agricultural seasonality become their new pursuits. Unexpected lessons emerge, such as the significance of daily routines that promote animal health or the necessity of crop rotation—a concept they had only vaguely known before.

The theme of responsibility is a recurring motif throughout this chapter. Kilmer-Purcell discusses how embracing their roles as caretakers of the land and animals comes with emotional weight. Each goat, pig, or chicken contributes to a delicate balance that must be maintained. He illustrates this shift in mindset with the example of their growing attachment to the animals, noting the profound sense of duty that accompanies their care. For instance, he shares a moment he witnessed their goats interacting playfully in the pasture, realizing that caring for them is not merely a chore, but an enriching experience that connects him deeper to the land.

Moreover, Kilmer-Purcell explores the emotional toll of such

**More Free Books on Bookey**



Scan to Download

responsibilities—there are joys in the simplest moments, yet the heart-wrenching realities of farm life also come to the forefront. He shares poignant experiences of illness among their animals, which evoke feelings of helplessness and despair. Through these moments, the author reveals that farm life is a cycle of life and death, joy and sorrow, which profoundly impacts his and his partner's emotional landscape.

The chaos and unpredictability of farm life push Kilmer-Purcell to reconcile his previous, more controlled urban existence with his current, much messier rural reality. In doing so, he becomes more attuned to the ebbs and flows of nature, recognizing that chaos can be a source of organic beauty. The chapter culminates in his acceptance of this chaos as part of a larger, living tapestry of farm life, which ultimately enriches his perspective on both nature and responsibility. He starts to see his role not just as that of a farm owner, but rather as a steward of an ecological system—where every creature, from the smallest bug to the largest animal, plays an integral part.

By the end of the chapter, Kilmer-Purcell's narrative shifts to an aura of empowerment as he and his partner begin to thrive amidst the organic disarray of their new life. They learn to embrace uncertainty and adapt to the rhythm of the farm, finding solace in their new responsibilities. This chapter poignantly captures the essence of transitioning into a lifestyle where chaos is not merely tolerated but embraced as a vital component of their journey





into country life.

**More Free Books on Bookey**



Scan to Download

### 3. Chapter 3: The Trials and Tribulations of Raising Goats and Running a Farm

In the rural backdrop of New York's country life, Josh Kilmer-Purcell's adventures take a turn into the complexities of farm management, particularly focusing on raising goats. The journey through Chapter 3 of "The Bucolic Plague" serves as a revealing lens into the joys and challenges that accompany farm life, with goats serving as both a source of delight and a parade of hurdles.

When Kilmer-Purcell and his partner, Brent, first decided to significantly immerse themselves in farm life, they felt a romantic pull towards the idea of running a farm. The allure of pastoral life seemed idyllic: lush green fields, the tranquil sounds of nature, and the thrill of nurturing livestock. However, as they soon discovered, this vision was tempered by the harsh realities of day-to-day farm activities.

Raising goats presented an array of unexpected trials. The goats themselves were both charming and exasperating. Known for their curious, mischievous nature, goats are frequently described as joyful creatures, and Kilmer-Purcell illustrates this with anecdotes of their antics: from escaping fences to sneaking into gardens. One particularly humorous incident involved a goat named "Gracie" who discovered how to navigate the fence, leading to a raucous chase around the property. This not only underscores the



unpredictable nature of livestock but also highlights the learning curve of farm management.

Kilmer-Purcell elaborates on the technical challenges of goat farming, including issues such as health care, breeding, and proper nutrition. Unlike pets, goats require specific dietary needs, including minerals and vitamins that can be a logistical challenge to keep track of. Moreover, diseases common among goats, such as Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE), put a significant strain on both the animals and the farm's resources. The author shares their struggle with goat health concerns, illustrating how the joy of bringing new life into their farm with goat kids can be overshadowed by the specter of illness and the responsibility that follows.

The emotional investment required in goat farming becomes another poignant point in this chapter. Every goat represents not just a physical animal to care for, but a living being for which they are responsible. Kilmer-Purcell paints a vivid picture of the bond formed with the goats, particularly during moments of crisis. The pain of losing a goat due to unforeseen circumstances or illness provides an emotional weight that transcends the physical aspects of farming. The author's reflections on this bond emphasize that despite the hardships, the love and connection to the animals can make the labor worthwhile.

**More Free Books on Bookey**



Scan to Download

Additionally, Kilmer-Purcell addresses the logistical nightmare of farm maintenance itself. From barn upkeep to managing the land they have acquired, the constant labor needed to maintain their farm is relentless. The romanticized vision of rural life quickly blurs when faced with endless tasks that require attention. Kilmer-Purcell discusses how he and Brent learned to prioritize and divide responsibilities; they discovered the necessity of collaboration to keep their farm running smoothly amid their overwhelming inexperience.

For example, the duo's efforts to establish a schedule for feeding and milking the goats highlight the importance of discipline in operating a successful farm. The routine becomes comforting and provides a structure to their previously chaotic life, yet it also reflects the time-consuming nature of their new responsibilities. The chapter sheds light on the broader struggles of farmers everywhere, emphasizing that while the rewards are enormous, they come hand-in-hand with challenges that can easily lead to burnout and frustration.

In conclusion, Chapter 3 of "The Bucolic Plague" immerses readers in the trials and tribulations of raising goats, encompassing the joys of their antics and the burdens of responsibility. Josh Kilmer-Purcell takes readers on a rollercoaster ride through the realities of rural living, illustrating that while the charm of farm life beckons alluringly, it is the hard work, unexpected



challenges, and deeply rooted connections to the animals that truly define the experience. This chapter serves as a testament to the resilience required to thrive in the chaotic but rewarding world of farming.

**More Free Books on Bookey**



Scan to Download

## 4. Chapter 4: Discoveries of Love, Friendship, and Personal Growth in Bucolic Settings

In "The Bucolic Plague," Chapter 4 delves into the profound discoveries of love, friendship, and personal growth that arise in the serene backdrop of rural life. As Josh Kilmer-Purcell and his partner, Brent Ridge, immerse themselves in the daily rhythms of farm life, a transformative journey unfolds, marked by the connections they forge and the insights they gain.

Set against the lush landscapes of upstate New York, the authors' experiences highlight a shift from the hectic pace of city life to the more contemplative and intimate environment of the countryside. Here, amidst the cows, goats, and the ever-changing seasons, the couple finds not only challenges but also rich opportunities for emotional and social growth. The farm, with all its quirks and chaos, becomes a canvas upon which their deeper relationships and individual identities are painted.

One of the key elements in this chapter is the evolution of love between Kilmer-Purcell and Ridge. As they manage the demands of running a farm, they learn to rely on each other in ways they hadn't anticipated. The experience of nurturing animals and handling the unpredictability of farm life tests their bond, yet it significantly enhances their appreciation for each other. For instance, during moments of crisis – like when a goat escapes or a storm threatens their crops – the couple discovers that working together



strengthens their relationship. They learn not to take each other for granted, finding joy in shared successes and solace in mutual support during failures.

Friendship plays a crucial role, as well, in shaping their farm experience.

Kilmer-Purcell and Ridge are not alone in their endeavors; the rural community fosters friendships that deepen their connection to the land and to each other. Through interactions with neighbors and fellow farmers, they grasp the essence of community spirit. An illustrative encounter involves their participation in a local farmers market, which opens them up to a world where connections are cultivated not only through business but also through companionship. They share laughs, tips on goat farming, and even recipes, illustrating how shared experiences can forge deep bonds.

Moreover, the couple's friendships evolve into networks of support that embody the very values of rural life – cooperation and generosity. This discovery emphasizes that friendship is not solely about socializing but also about mutual aid and understanding, embodying the essence of connectedness that defines rural living. Through these interactions, they come to realize that love and friendship in such settings can manifest in practical ways—whether it's helping a neighbor with a harvest or sharing a meal after a long day's work.

Personal growth is another vital theme addressed in this chapter. The

**More Free Books on Bookey**



Scan to Download

physicality of farm life, with its demands for hard work and perseverance, prompts both Josh and Brent to confront their own limitations and push beyond them. Kilmer-Purcell reflects on how he has evolved, shedding his past city persona in favor of a more grounded, authentic self. Tasks that once seemed daunting, such as mucking out stalls or herding goats, soon become metaphors for his journey of self-discovery. They epitomize the idea that through embracing discomfort and challenges, one can achieve a stronger sense of self and purpose.

As they reconnect with simpler pleasures, like tending to the garden or watching the sunset over the fields, they cultivate an appreciation for the moment. This newfound mindfulness contributes significantly to their personal growth, teaching them to value their connections, both with each other and with the natural world around them.

In summary, Chapter 4 of "The Bucolic Plague" masterfully weaves together the themes of love, friendship, and personal growth against the backdrop of rural life. Through their trials and triumphs, Kilmer-Purcell and Ridge not only discover the depth of their relationship but also learn the importance of community and self-awareness in shaping their newfound lives. The bucolic setting, far from just a quaint backdrop, becomes a powerful catalyst for transformation, encouraging them to lean into the love and connections that will define their journey.

**More Free Books on Bookey**



Scan to Download



## 5. Chapter 5: Reflecting on Transformation: From City Slickers to Country Bumpkins

In this reflective chapter, Josh Kilmer-Purcell delves into the profound transformation experienced by him and his partner after uprooting their lives from the urban jungle of New York City to embrace the rustic charm of country living. The initial allure of the farm was drenched in romanticism—picturesque landscapes, the soothing sounds of nature, and a slower pace of life that promised respite from their hectic city careers. However, the reality of their new lifestyle revealed itself as both challenging and enlightening, compelling them to confront their identities and preconceptions about rural life.

The journey from city slickers to country bumpkins was not just geographical but also deeply personal. Kilmer-Purcell reflects on the loss of their urban identities, a process that required shedding layers of sophistication and self-importance. In the city, they were accustomed to a specific type of social interaction and a clearly defined set of cultural norms. In contrast, farm life forced them to adapt to a community that prioritized practicality over pretense. Simple things like asking for help with a tractor or relying on neighbors for a farm tool highlighted the importance of humility and collaboration—qualities often overlooked in the fast-paced urban environment.



As the couple navigated the complexities of rural life, they found themselves immersed in tasks that were entirely foreign to them. The art of animal husbandry, with its rhythmic routines of feeding, milking, and caring for goats, became both a challenge and a passion. Kilmer-Purcell emphasizes moments when they felt completely out of their depth, yet these challenges fostered a transformative learning experience. For instance, the first time they successfully milked a goat was not just an accomplishment of a task; it was symbolic of their emerging comfort in their new role as farmers—embodying the very essence of the transformation from city dwellers who rarely considered where their food came from, to conscious participants in the agricultural cycle.

Moreover, the simplicity and directness of life on the farm led to unexpected opportunities for introspection. Kilmer-Purcell shares poignant reflections on the pace of life that slowed down so dramatically that it allowed them to reconnect with their thoughts and emotions on a deeper level. The stressors of city life, once pervasive, began to dissolve against the backdrop of nature. Quiet evenings spent watching sunsets and long walks on their property became meditative practices that redefined happiness and connection.

This newfound rhythm of life revealed to them a contrasting philosophy—a departure from the constant bustle and over-scheduled calendars that characterized their previous existence. For many city dwellers, the concept

**More Free Books on Bookey**



Scan to Download

of work-life balance is often seen as a goal, yet in the rural landscape, they discovered that the boundaries were surprisingly blurred. They began to understand that productivity was not merely about doing more but about finding joy and fulfillment in simpler tasks like harvesting their own vegetables or caring for their animals.

The chapter also examines how their perspectives on happiness and success evolved. Initially, their identities were tied to their careers in advertising and entertainment, with social status closely linked to their professional achievements. However, the satisfaction gained from successfully growing their own food or nurturing a newborn goat gradually reshaped their definitions of accomplishment. Kilmer-Purcell illustrates this evolution with anecdotes about how they began to cherish the small victories, from mastering a difficult recipe using fresh produce to engaging genuinely with the local community.

As Kilmer-Purcell reflects on their transformation, he acknowledges that part of this journey was also about embracing kindness and forging deeper relationships. In the rural setting, community bonds are often based on shared experiences and mutual support. The couple learned the value of being present and available for their neighbors, and in turn, experienced a warm welcome into the local culture that wasn't centered solely around urban career networking.

**More Free Books on Bookey**



Scan to Download

Ultimately, this chapter serves as a meditation on transformation—both in terms of personal growth and the shedding of preconceived notions. The journey from city slickers to country bumpkins was not just a relocation; it was a radical shift in perspective that birthed a new appreciation for the land, community, and the joy of a life well-lived. It emphasizes that transformation is not always about profound changes, but often about gradual shifts in thinking and feeling, highlighting the beauty of embracing the unexpected.

**More Free Books on Bookey**



Scan to Download



# Bookey APP

1000+ Book Summaries to empower your mind  
1M+ Quotes to motivate your soul

Scan to Download



## Quotes

1000+ Topics 50+ Themes

**You must use your mind to get things off your mind.**  
- *Getting Things Done*

## Choose Your Focus Area

What are your reading goals?  
Choose 1-3 goals

- Be a better parent
- Improve social skills
- Improve management skills
- Be an effective person
- Open mind with new knowledge
- Make more money
- Be healthy
- Be happy
- Get inspired with biography

## Mind Map

Get All Key Insights

**The Wisdom Of Life**

- Key Insight 1**
  - Know yourself.
    - Gain insight into human nature
    - Our lives are shaped by temperament
    - Personal development demands loneliness and solitude
- Key Insight 2**
  - Have a good grasp of the subject-object relationship.
    - Riches are like seawater; what suit us is the most important