

## Atchafalaya Houseboat: My Years in the Louisiana Swamp (Hardback)



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***(Dr. Alexa Rogahn)***

## ATCHAFALAYA HOUSEBOAT: MY YEARS IN THE LOUISIANA SWAMP (HARDBACK)

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Louisiana State University Press, United States, 2006. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 180 x 124 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In the early 1970s, two idealistic young people -- Gwen Carpenter Roland and Calvin Voisin -- decided to leave civilization and re-create the vanished simple life of their great-grandparents in the heart of Louisiana's million-acre Atchafalaya River Basin Swamp. Armed with a box of crayons and a book called *How to Build Your Home in the Woods*, they drew up plans to recycle a slave-built structure into a houseboat. Without power tools or building experience they constructed a floating dwelling complete with a brick fireplace. Towed deep into the sleepy waters of Bloody Bayou, it was their home for eight years. This is the tale of the not-so-simple life they made together -- days spent fishing, trading, making wine, growing food, and growing up -- told by Gwen with grace, economy, and eloquence. Not long after they took up swamp living, Gwen and Calvin met a young photographer named C. C. Lockwood, who shared their back to the earth values. His photographs of the couple going about their daily routine were published in *National Geographic* magazine, bringing them unexpected fame. More than a quarter of a century later, after Gwen and Calvin had long since parted, one of Lockwood's photos of them appeared in a *National Geographic* collector's edition entitled *100 Best Pictures Unpublished* -- and kindled the interest of a new generation. With quiet wisdom, Gwen recounts her eight-year voyage of discovery -- about swamp life, wildlife, and herself. A keen observer of both the natural world and the ways of human beings, she transports readers to an unfamiliar and exotic place.



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