



**EXTREME MAKEOVER:**  
**Lighthouse  
Edition**

What do you get when you move into a 120-year-old tin can 12 miles off the coast of Maine? No heat. No shower. No floors. No neighbors. And all the fresh lobster you can eat. **JERYL BRUNNER** reports.

Photographs By Frederic Lagrange



**W**HEN CASEY JORDAN RUNS OUT OF MILK, SHE descends two ladders, 36 stairs, then two more outdoor ladders, unmoors her inflatable boat, rows it a mile across Fox Islands Thorofare to tiny North Haven Island, Maine, gets on a bike, and pedals two miles to the island's one small grocery store. If she needs a sofa delivered from the mainland 12 miles beyond? Don't even ask.

From May to October each year, Jordan and her husband, Ted Northrop, live at Goose Rocks Light, an 1890 structure they bought for \$27,000 in 2006 at auction. "It was a lark. It went from 'Let's go to Maine for the weekend' to 'Let's bid on this lighthouse.' Afterward I thought, *What have I done?*" Jordan says. "It was frightening—like the inside of a boiler. No floors, no heat, no bathroom." To make it habitable, they hand-planed planks for floors, then added a bathroom (with solar shower and composting toilet), propane heat, and now a kitchen.

The payoff: 24/7 solitude and 360-degree views. "It's like a movable painting," says Jordan. "We go to bed gazing at ocean in every direction, and wake up to a rose and purple sunrise, with islands and sandbars that weren't there the night before, covered in seals and birds."

Jordan, 47, a criminologist, attorney, and professor, says she and Northrop, 39, a physician currently setting up a hospital on Grand Turk Island, "live simply. I spent ten years in New York, so it's nice to see no one in shirts and ties. Too much stress can kill you. Now I paddle my kayak to one of the uninhabited islands nearby. I hike. I skip stones. Out here you give yourself permission to do things like that again. We'll pick up mussels and throw them in the Staub pot—or flag down a boat and buy fresh lobster. At sunset we head to the top deck, 60 feet up, for dinner. That's where I'm happiest."

## Life in the Round

**A DREAM FULFILLED** "When I got older, I didn't want to say, 'I could have lived in a lighthouse in Maine,'" says Jordan. "I'm only content if I'm seeking new things. For me, boredom is death."



**SOLAR FLAIR** This summer, Jordan, executive director of Green Light Academy, will have 20 girls, some from at-risk backgrounds, living at Goose Rocks to build a solar/wind system.



**MAINE SQUEEZE** "Space is at a premium" in the six-floor structure, Jordan says. All the furniture (even the queen-size bed and a French armoire) was hauled up by rope or chain.