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Gardening By Heart: The Extraordinary Gift Of An Ordinary Garden (Sierra Club Books Publication)



Synopsis

A collection of evocative personal essays surveys the range of emotional, spiritual, and practical issues raised by gardening and provides readers with a bounty of tips, ideas and even recipes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gardens are places where we can witness in hushed amazement the beauty of a hummingbird in flight. McGreevy writes for all who are grateful for such encounters, and for others who may wish to be reminded that those magical moments occur. In essays that reflect on her own life experiences, McGreevy affirms that sacred elements can and do exist in unlikely places, too. Her inspirational reminiscences urge readers to behold the wonders of the natural world, both grand and small. Projects to heighten awareness, and recipes that celebrate the harvesting of vegetables and herbs, commingle with her musings. Whether encouraging readers to gaze on weeds from a new perspective or reflecting on the link between the rain forest and eating a hamburger, McGreevy contemplates the connectedness of all living things. Alice JoyceCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Joyce McGreevy is a writer of creative nonfiction and a longtime gardener. A journalist and poet, she has also written a children's book and was publicist for The Western Stage, a nationally recognized theatre company in Salinas, California. She lives in Monterey County, California.

I just finished reading this lovely book over a two day period while sitting in my garden. Joyce McGreevy's advice about living in the moment and appreciating even the smallest living thing should become words to live by for all of us hurtling through the beginning of this new century. She encourages her readers to establish and maintain contact with nature, even if it is just being aware of the new sprouts on our pepperomia. She offers receipes, practical advice and unique ideas about how to engage even a recalcitrant child or a grumpy crumudgeon in the wonders of the natural world. This is a MUST read for all gardeners no matter what your experience!

Perfect reading at bedtime or early morning with a cup of your favorite hot beverage. Actually, it's perfect reading anytime--thought-provoking, warm, and funny. My partner and I both enjoyed it immensely, but the biggest impact it made was on my mother. I sent her a copy for Mother's Day and she read a little bit every day during her radiation treatments for breast cancer. She loved it so much she bought copies for the waiting room--she said it had the power to inspire in the face of physical suffering. A great gift for yourself, a loved one, or--as my mother did--for strangers in need of a boost. Enjoy!

This wonderful book, written by an award-winning author and poet, weaves together a deep love of the natural world and a deep understanding of an inner spiritual and emotional life that can often be understood best in oneself by living in harmony with nature. Joyce McGreevy writes beautifully, whether it be about her mother's love of rosemary and the effect it has on the author to this day, or about "gardening at the office" so as to bring meaning to an often-dehumanizing setting. If you love beauty in all its forms, if you are seeking a way to reconnect with a sense of peace and joy, or if you seek a simple reminder of the little things that matter in life, this is going to be a valuable book for you.

I bought a copy of this book for myself and for my daughter. My daughter feels as if this book were written just for her. The perfect book at the perfect time. Whichever page that she opens too, she finds something relevant.

This was a gift to daughter gardener. She loved that it has recipes along with good garden ideas and stories.

Joyce found her voice when writing this -- it was heartwarming, touching, funny, informative and I

just downright enjoyed it.

Puerile, clichéd, strained attempts to find the meaning of life in her puttering around the garden.

I might have missed this marvelous book had not a friend given it to me. "I know, I know," she said, "You're too busy. But this is to nurture your spirit." Joyce McGreevy captures what is truly magical about the garden--and you don't have to be a gardener to fall under her spell. Until I read this book, my idea of gardening was filling the watering can, pulling the weeds--and hoping for the best. Now gardening has become my passion--from taking up her suggestion to walk barefoot in the grass even on a busy workday, to an occasional night of sleeping out under the stars (or at least dining out) while the scent of wild jasmine fills the air. I too have blossomed. My children are now so excited to take a packet of seeds, any seeds, water them and wait--delighting at the new beginning of life. I recommend this book to anyone--even those who have never gardened--whose spirit longs for fresh growth.

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