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Carol J. Michel
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

#76,325

Reviewer ranking

95% helpful

votes received on reviews
(144 of 151)

activities

[Reviews \(23\)](#)

[Public Wish List \(1\)](#)

[Tagged Items \(4\)](#)

other

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Carol J. Michel's Activity:



Reviewed *Chasing the Rose: An Adventure in the Venetian Countryside ...* by Di Robilant, Andrea

2 of 2 people found this review helpful

A story well-told

July 21, 2014

di Robilant takes us on a journey through history going back to Napolean and through modern times with visits to several gardens. Along the way, we learn some history of roses and meet several rosarians.

From the beginning, I'm pulled into this world of roses and the author's mystery. It's a mystery I want to see him solve, and so I stayed with the book through the course of one afternoon and evening.

Several days later, I'm still thinking about old roses, my roses and the question of what becomes of a garden when the gardener moves on or passes away. What plants do I have growing in my garden that one day become another gardener's mystery?

I'm also thinking about di Robilant's book and how a story well-told leaves you with something to hold on to, even after you've finished reading it. You don't have to be obsessed with roses to enjoy this book. It has a universal appeal for anyone who values the past and enjoys the hunt for clues to solve a mystery.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed *The Bouquet ...*

0 of 2 people found this review helpful

A good movie

May 16, 2014

This is a feel-good movie. Families drift apart, a crisis brings them back together. There are other messages in the movie, as well. A must-see for anyone who loves flowers, too.

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Reviewed *House of Doolittle Earthscapes Waterfalls Gardens Write-On/Wipe-Off Wall Planner, January 2014 to December 2014, 24 x 37 Inches, Recycled (HOD394)* ...

As advertised

May 16, 2014

What can you say about a wall calendar? This is well-made, the picture across the top is a nice touch. I'll buy one every year.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed 19" Computer/laptop Bag Tote Duffel Rolling Wheel Case Purse Tablet Leaf Green ...

A dud

May 16, 2014

I found this to be poorly made and too small to carry anything other than my laptop, which barely fit. I actually returned it, and that in itself was a poor experience... lots of emails back and forth because they had marked it as containing hazardous material so there was no return option on Amazon.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed Signare Fashion Canvas /Tapestry Acrossbody bag/ Messenger bag/ Pocket bag in Floral design – calming Morning Garden, brings out the peace in you, vintage design ...

Small, but...

May 16, 2014

Like other reviewers, I found this bag to be smaller than I expected. Still, I was able to use it to hold a wallet, sunglasses, my smartphone while traveling. Because the bag is smaller, I was able to easily tuck it into my laptop bag for flights, etc., so I had one less bag, a very important bag, to keep track of. I got a lot of compliments on the look of it, too.

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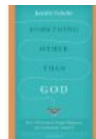
Reviewed ImpressArt- 6mm, Four Leaf Clover Metal Stamp ...

Difficulty getting a good image

May 16, 2014

I'll admit I am new to metal stamping... I found it difficult to get a good impression with this stamp. Could be the metal I am using, the hammer, or the stamp.

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Reviewed Something Other Than God ...

0 of 1 people found this review helpful

A Faith-Affirming Read

May 16, 2014

I recommend this as a good read for anyone, whether Catholic, Protestant, Atheist. It will either affirm your own faith, once again, or make you think about your beliefs and journey toward God. Then, go read her blog, [...], for more of the story and some pretty funny stuff.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed The 20-30 Something Garden Guide: A No-Fuss, Down and Dirty, Gardening 101 for Anyone Who Wants to Grow Stuff ... by Dee Nash

6 of 6 people found this review helpful

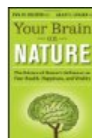
For all new gardeners, and those with experience, too

February 15, 2014

I recommend this book for anyone who is just starting out with a new garden or who has a desire to start gardening, even if it is just growing a tomato plant in a container. It's also a good book for experienced gardeners who will enjoy the pleasant, conversational style of Nash's writing. Nash reminds us throughout the book that a garden isn't planted and finished in one season. Her book teaches you how to build on what you've done each year to grow a bigger, better garden the next year.

This book is going to be my "go to" housewarming gift anytime someone I know buys their first house or moves to their first apartment with a balcony where they can grow a few containers of plants.

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Reviewed Your Brain On Nature: The Science of Nature's Influence on Your Health, Happiness and Vitality ... by Selhub MD, Eva M.

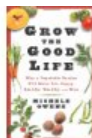
4 of 4 people found this review helpful

Excellent, Well-thought Out

March 15, 2013

This is an excellent, well-thought out book that presents the science behind our need for nature without preaching or getting too technical. Though I am a life-long gardener, I still felt after reading this book that there are changes I should make in my own life – change in my own diet and and make the time I spend in nature more purposeful. Everyone who lives in a city, works in an office, or spends significant time staring at a screen should read this book. It could be a life-changer for you.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed Grow the Good Life: Why a Vegetable Garden Will Make You Happy, Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise ... by Michele Owens

14 of 14 people found this review helpful

Have your shovel ready...

February 21, 2011

Half-way through this book, you'll be looking outside at whatever plot of land you have, be it containers on a deck, a small urban yard, an expansive suburban sprawl, or acreage in the country and if you don't already have a vegetable garden, you'll be planning where you'll put yours. Or if you already consider yourself a vegetable gardener, you'll be more excited than usual to go out and plant again.

This is not your typical "how to" book on vegetable gardening. You'll find no lists of what to grow, when to plant, when to harvest. Instead, Owens mixes in her own personal experience of growing vegetables with information from various studies to provide a compelling case for the vegetable garden. She helps us all understand not only why we want to grow vegetables, but also how easy it can be to do so and how doing so nourishes us in many ways. Read it to gain the confidence to grab a shovel and start your own garden. Or read it to be re-inspired if you already grow vegetables.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed What's Wrong With My Plant? (And How Do I Fix It?): A Visual Guide to Easy Diagnosis and Organic Remedies ... by David Deardorff

17 of 18 people found this review helpful

Every Gardener Should Have This Book

November 21, 2009

One of the first lessons of gardening that most gardeners learn all too soon is that "bad" things can happen to plants. They can be attacked by insects, or come down with some serious malady which could be a blight or a wilt or a you-name-it that you've never seen before. This book is a great reference to help quickly figure out the problem and determine what the cure is. And all the cures are organic. I'm recommending it for any gardener, regardless of experience.

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Reviewed Catskill Craftsmen Rol-Rack with Tilted Shelves, Walnut Stained Birch ...

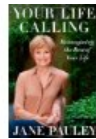
1 of 2 people found this review helpful

Well-made and sturdy

May 16, 2014

I am very happy with this library cart. It is well-made and I was able to put it together on my own, with a little patience. It is made of sturdy solid wood and I have no doubt it will last for a long time.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed Your Life Calling: Reimagining the Rest of Your Life ... by Jane Pauley

Inspirational stories

May 16, 2014

Pauley tells the stories of individuals who changed the direction of their lives when they arrived at the crossroads of "late middle age". The stories are inspirational and remind us that we are never too old, never too set in our ways to consider looking for another door or window to go through.

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Reviewed Miniature Gardens: Design and create miniature fairy gardens, dish gardens, terrariums and more-indoors and out ... by Katie Elzer-Peters

0 of 1 people found this review helpful

Lots of great ideas

May 16, 2014

This book is full of great ideas to create all kinds of different fairy gardens and miniature gardens, for both indoors and outdoors. You can either copy the ideas in the book or use them as inspiration to create your own style of fairy garden. Both experienced and novice gardeners will enjoy this book. (Note, the garden fairies in my garden actually wrote the foreword to this book. They loved it, too.)

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed Victorinox Swiss Army Classic SD Pocket Knife (Translucent Emerald) ...

I own several

May 16, 2014

Through the years, I have owned several of these smaller pocket knives, keeping one on my key chain at all times. I love the color options.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed Outdoor Research Women's Oasis Sombrero, Large, Olivine ...

1 of 1 people found this review helpful

Perfect!

May 16, 2014

I found this to be the perfect hat for traveling. It takes up almost no room in a suitcase and is so lightweight that I almost forgot I had it on. It keeps its shape, too. I will take it with me whenever I travel and plan to be outside for any extended amount of time.

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Reviewed A History of the Garden in Fifty Tools ... by Bill Laws

3 of 3 people found this review helpful

A fun and informative book

May 16, 2014

A fun and informative book for anyone who loves gardening and gardening tools, especially. Well-researched. I need a few more tools after reading this book.

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Reviewed Signare Women's Laptop Shoulder Bag Morning Garden 11.6" 13.3" 14" Up To 15.6" Green ...

A good bag for a smaller laptop

May 16, 2014

I love this bag and carry it to and from work each day with an HP Folio laptop in it, which is pretty thin, leaving room for a few folders of papers. The side pocket is just big enough for the power cord. My only wish is that the trim was made of leather rather than vinyl. I don't think this bag will last forever, but it sure is fun to carry and has way more style than a plain black laptop bag, which is what 99% of my co-workers use. Good value for the price.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed Seeing Flowers: Discover the Hidden Life of Flowers ... by Teri Dunn Chace

25 of 25 people found this review helpful

Beautiful and well-written

September 28, 2013

I purchased this book when I saw the sub-title, "Discover the Hidden Life of Flowers". For anyone who wants to know more about flowering plant families and see some stunning photographs of flowers, get this book. The author writes about 28 different flowering plant families. Reading about each one is like talking to a family member who knows all about the rest of the family ~ who belongs in the family, who belonged once before but has been cast out, their quirks, their foibles, all kinds of interesting tidbits. The pictures are amazing, showing lots of details that we often miss, even when we are holding the flower in our hand. Even the captions for the photos contain great info and should not be skipped over. I think that gardeners of all levels of experience will find this book to be readable, enjoyable, and useful. Plant addicts should be warned that this book will definitely feed your addiction and you'll read about more plants that you want to have in your garden.

[...Read more](#)



Reviewed Slow Flowers: Four Seasons of Locally Grown Bouquets from the Garden, Meadow and Farm ... by Debra Prinzing

4 of 4 people found this review helpful

A Treasure of a Book

June 06, 2013

Slow Flowers is a treasure for flower lovers and anyone who wants to enjoy flowers inside. If you want to be inspired to arrange your own bouquets from locally sourced, seasonal flowers, get this book. Debra shows how you can have flowers 52 weeks of

the year and tells the story of how each bouquet came to be. She also includes design and flower care tips throughout the book.

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Reviewed Writing the Garden: A Literary Conversation across Two Centuries ... by Elizabeth Barlow Rogers

6 of 6 people found this review helpful

A Garden Party

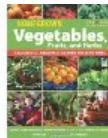
February 11, 2012

Reading this book is like going to a garden party where you can meet up with garden writers and essayists across two centuries of garden writing. The author's conversational style draws you in and provides the context of when the garden writer was writing and who else was writing about gardening at the same time.

I can only imagine what a daunting task it was to choose who to include in this book. There are many favorite writers "at the party" including Gertrude Jekyll, Celia Thaxter, Thomas Jefferson, William Robinson, Elizabeth Lawrence, Penelope Hobhouse and some new writers, too.

You'll leave this literary garden party wanting to read more by these garden writers and many others. It's a "must attend" party for any avid gardener.

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Reviewed Homegrown Vegetables, Fruits & Herbs: A Bountiful, Healthful Garden for Lean Times (Gardening) ... by Jim W. Wilson

3 of 3 people found this review helpful

It's Like Jim is walking through your garden with you...

February 14, 2010

This book is like having Jim walk through your garden with you, teaching you every step of the way.

Does everyone remember Jim Wilson from the Victory Garden South at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia? Sure we do! I loved watching the PBS series, The Victory Garden, every Saturday back in the 1980's (and before) and especially liked when they segued from Boston down to Georgia to see what Jim was growing.

He was always growing something exciting, or at least it seemed exciting the way he talked about it. I loved how he walked around the gardens sampling all kinds of vegetables and raving about how good they were. I still remember him picking an ear of sweet corn, maybe in his garden or maybe in one of the many gardens he visited, cutting off a few kernels with his pocket knife and eating them right there. He probably said something like, "My goodness that is sweet. No butter needed for this corn. That is one sweet ear of corn". It looked and sounded so good that I wanted to grow corn like that!

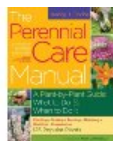
Now with this book, it's like Jim, and Walter, are walking us through the garden telling us once again how to grow our own produce. In an easy to read style, through words and pictures, they provide all the information you need to be successful growing your own vegetables, fruits, and herbs. As Jim noted at the beginning, he wants people to have success their first year growing vegetables, to avoid "the disappointment and downright failure that often comes with the first attempts at cultivating produce". Jim knows, we all know, that if that first garden is a flop, many people will give up and never try again. So he and Walter came out of what he refers to as "blissful retirement" to write this book at a time when he felt we needed good, practical information about growing our own vegetables and fruits.

Through this book, Jim Wilson, is teaching us in his own style how to be successful growing a vegetable garden. And Walter Chandoha is tempting us through his photographs to grow vegetables we swear we don't even like, but decide we'll grow them anyway, just because they look so good in those pictures.

This is the book I'm going to recommend to anyone who tells me they want to finally grow their own vegetables and asks me how to get started. This is the book I'm going to pull off the shelf when I have a question about something I want to grow in my own vegetable garden. This is the book I'm going to read and enjoy whenever I feel a need for some gardening advice for myself.

Thank you, Jim Wilson and Walter Chandoha, for coming out of retirement to collaborate on this wonderful book, Homegrown Vegetables, Fruits, and Herbs.

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Reviewed The Perennial Care Manual: A Plant-by-Plant Guide: What to Do & When to Do It ... by Nancy J. Ondra

58 of 59 people found this review helpful

A Great Addition To Any Gardeners Library

August 23, 2009

This new book on perennials has all the information you need to plant a great perennial garden and care for it. It's like two books in one.

The first part is about caring for a perennial garden and includes information on planting a perennial garden, caring for it, keeping up its appearance and troubleshooting problems. Reading through this, I think even an experienced gardener is likely to pick up some new tricks or be reminded of tips they've forgotten

The second part is a "plant-by-plant" perennial guide listing 125 perennials for the garden. For each perennial there are growing tips and seasonal care information, along with troubleshooting info, when necessary.

Whenever I get a new book on perennials, I always look up information on perennials I know and grow to see what the author says about them. It sort of sets my "trust level" with the information. And that's just what I did when I got a copy of this book.

First I looked up Amsonia, Bluestar. I wanted to see if Ondra included information about its tendency to self-sow itself about the garden and if she would mention the white sap that nearly squirts out of the stems when you cut them, depending on when you cut them back. Check and check, both pieces of info were included.

Then I moved on to Heliopsis, False Sunflower. I hoped she would again warn of aggressive self-sowing and also highlight the variegated variety, Lorraine Sunshine. Yes and yes.

Finally, I checked Tradescantia, Spiderwort. I've decided after years of growing it that it just isn't all that nice of a perennial. I was happy to see that she included information that would give one pause before planting it, highlighting some of this plant's faults.

Three for three, that sets my trust level at "high" for the other 122 perennials included in the book.

Ondra is truly a passionate gardener with a deep knowledge of gardening and perennials and that comes across in this newest book of hers. It would be a great addition to any gardener's library, whether you are a new gardener or an experienced gardener.

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