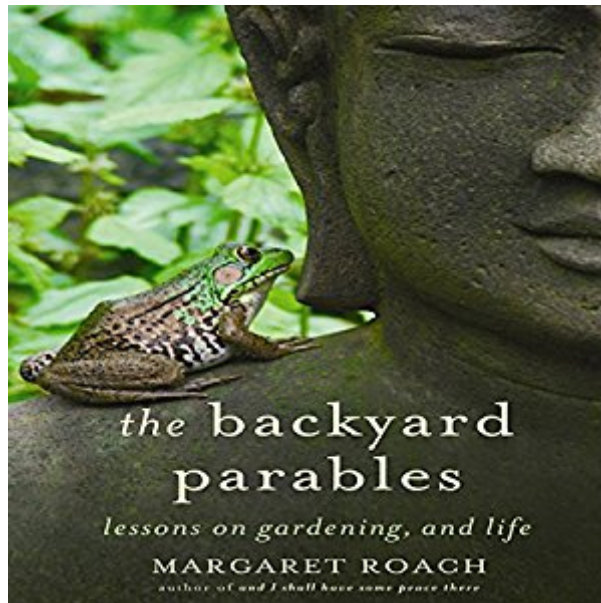


The book was found

The Backyard Parables: Lessons On Gardening, And Life



Synopsis

Margaret Roach has been harvesting 30 years of backyard parables - deceptively simple, instructive stories from a life spent digging ever deeper - and has distilled them in this memoir along with her best tips for garden making, discouraging all manner of animal and insect opponents, at-home pickling, and more. After ruminating on the bigger picture in her memoir *And I Shall Have Some Peace There*, Margaret Roach has returned to the garden, insisting as ever that we must garden with both our head and heart, or as she expresses it, with "horticultural how-to and woo-woo." In *The Backyard Parables*, Roach uses her fundamental understanding of the natural world, philosophy, and life to explore the ways that gardening saved and instructed her, and meditates on the science and spirituality of nature, reminding her listeners and herself to keep on digging.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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#1219 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Technique

Customer Reviews

How could I not love, at least a little and maybe much, a book whose cover shows a frog (leopard?) contemplating the right earlobe of a Buddha or whose first chapter includes the story of the deep snow rescue of a pond of frogs. The de-icer, it seems, failed. Froggies might suffocate if the pond froze well & truly. Into the winter snows went Margaret Roach, equipped primarily with a cellphone flashlight and ready to flop on her belly, unsure of the pond circumferences, sticking her bare hand into electrical stuff to disarm the current, and then whacking away at the ice. A fine story, well-told, but a parable? In "The Backyard Parables," Margaret Roach describes her works and days in her country home through the four seasons. This usually is a tried-and-true framework for books about gardening as well as for books about Gardening as a Metaphor for Life. Usually, such a book is

linear and makes for an easy-to-follow story line, reminding us, perhaps of Thoreau's "Walden." Not so here. Think matrix where the story is episodic, horizontal, revealed from season to season. Consider, for example, the woodchuck. The woodchuck does its thing in spring, eating the sprouts of the peas down to the ground. Our heroine, alerted by its whistling and the vanished seedlings, tracks it to an opening likely to be its den, plans to set a trap. Next paragraph is off on an utterly unrelated topic. Many pages onward, in a later season, the rodent reappears in several pages of failed trapping efforts, followed again by another set of thoughts entirely. And in a third season we have even more on the by now very fat fellow in a riff on neighbors who have trapped successfully and on the impossibility of ridding the woods of woodchucks.

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