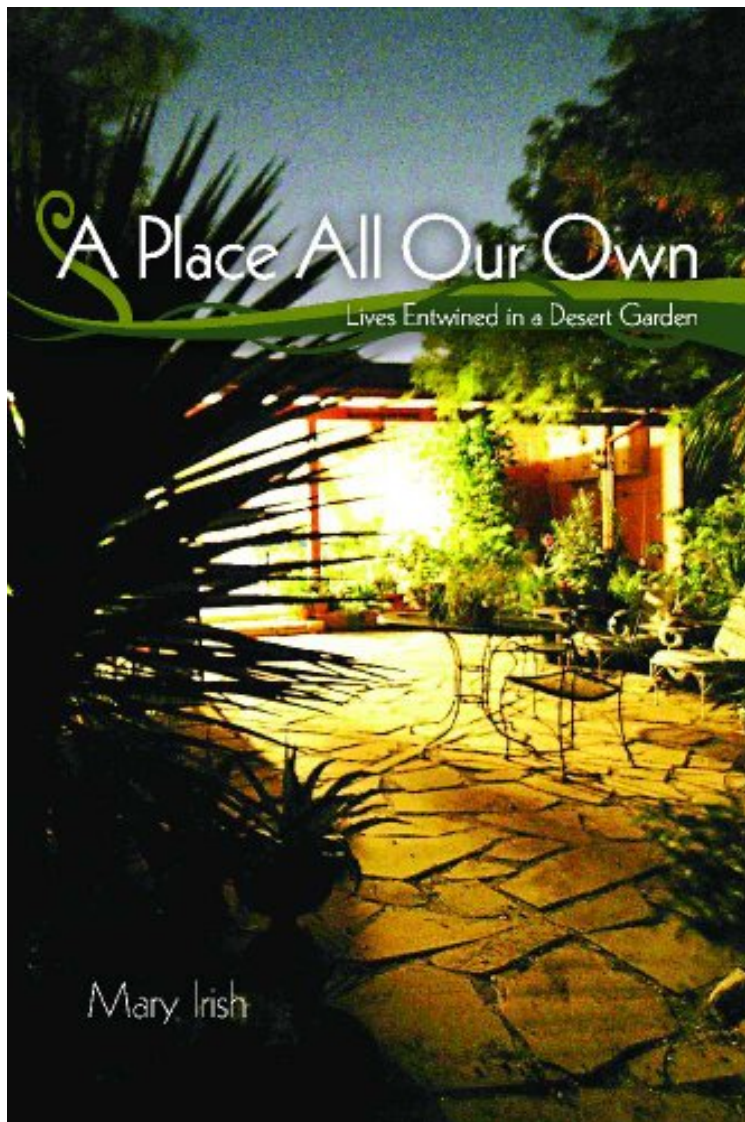


(Ebook pdf) A Place All Our Own: Lives Entwined in a Desert Garden

A Place All Our Own: Lives Entwined in a Desert Garden

Mary Irish

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Mary Irish : A Place All Our Own: Lives Entwined in a Desert Garden before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Place All Our Own: Lives Entwined in a Desert Garden:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Read for GardenersBy CustomerThis is a great book by a most knowledgeable gardener familiar with the difficulties of gardening in the low desert of Arizona. The fact that it focuses on her own experiences over the years gives insight and thoughtfulness on the philosophy of gardening. Not a "how to" book but a charming read by a gardener of extensive experience and deep interest in the joys of gardening.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must for Phoenix Area GardenersBy Nancy MumptonThis book is

the best I've read with wonderful personal information on making a garden in the Phoenix area. Gardening here is like nowhere else in the country and Mary Irish's personal experiences on all aspects of gardening are terrific. Although she is an professional in this area, she writes for the average home gardener and the book is a joy to read. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Life-Wisdom from a Desert GardenBy Story Circle Book Reviews"A truly comfortable garden is one where all the lives with whom we share it become intertwined, a place where most lives are tolerated, indeed welcome, and where a moderate live-and-let-live approach is enough to settle our differences."When I read those words in the Introduction to *A Place All Our Own*, Mary Irish's story of the desert yard she and her husband Gary tended for two decades in Arizona's Sonoran Desert, my first thought was, I want to live in that garden! A place where most lives are "tolerated, indeed welcome," sounds like my kind of community, whether it be garden, town or whole nation.This tale of the evolution of a xeric but bountiful Scottsdale yard shows how Irish and her husband come to terms with the harsh reality of gardening in the desert, not by overcoming climate, soil, landscape and wildlife but by coming to understand and thrive in an environment where the relentlessly hot and bone-dry months of late spring and early summer drive many people inside to turn up their air-conditioning, and rain--when it comes--pours down with such intensity that dry washes become muddy torrents capable of washing away trees and cars.The chapters chronicle the growth and change of the garden itself ("The Back," "The Front," "The Outback," and "The Patios") as well as the lives which inhabit it ("Birds," "Animals," "Bugs," and lastly, "People"). Irish's keen eye, passion for plants, and generous sense of humor enliven this tale of growing a garden in which gardeners, plants, residents wild and not, and landscape are intertwined in a lively and fascinating community.*A Place All Our Own* is a story of plants and plant obsession, of weather and insects, of bird song and flower displays. It's peppered with plant names, both in English and the odd language of science, a mix of Green and Latin that may seem undigestible at first. Don't be deterred; keep reading. Like the best of garden memoir--Joan Dye Gussow's books come to mind, for example--it's full of garden-grown wisdom about life and how to live it:I think if all our gardens inspired us to live more carefully with each other, instead of insisting on our dominance over all the rest, it would be a more peaceful and richer world. In the end all our interests are the same: find a good mate, get a good meal, live in a safe, secure place, raise smart, good looking kids. It's hard enough in the best of times; the least we can do is create gardens that help that along as best we can.Hear, hear! And, I would add, communities and nations too.by Susan J. Tweitfor Story Circle Book Reviewsreviewing books by, for, and about women

For twenty years Mary Irish, along with her husband Gary, tended a garden in Scottsdale, Arizona. Over the years they transformed it into a lively and lovely spot that reflected both its place in the worldhot, dry, and often hostile to gardeners who dont understand its waysand the particular passions of its two creators. Of course, not everything went as planned, and the garden talked back as much as it obeyed. But for these two gardeners, the unexpected outcome is one of gardenings great pleasures. Mary Irish is a delightful writer. With grace, wit, and obvious affection, she tells the story of how she and Gary transformed a barren half-acre plot around their house in the center of Greater Phoenix into a haven: for its creators and their friends, for the birds and insects and other critters that have discovered it, and for the plants that have made it their home. Although it describes the experience of gardening in one of the most extreme climates in the inhabited world, *A Place All Our Own* will interest anyone who gardensand everyone who enjoys a well-told, true-life nature tale.

The writing is exquisite, and I found the descriptions of the weather and plants spot-on, insightful, and occasionally surprising and graceful.Scott Calhoun, author of *The Gardeners Guide to Cactus: The 100 Best Paddles, Barrels, Columns, and Globes*