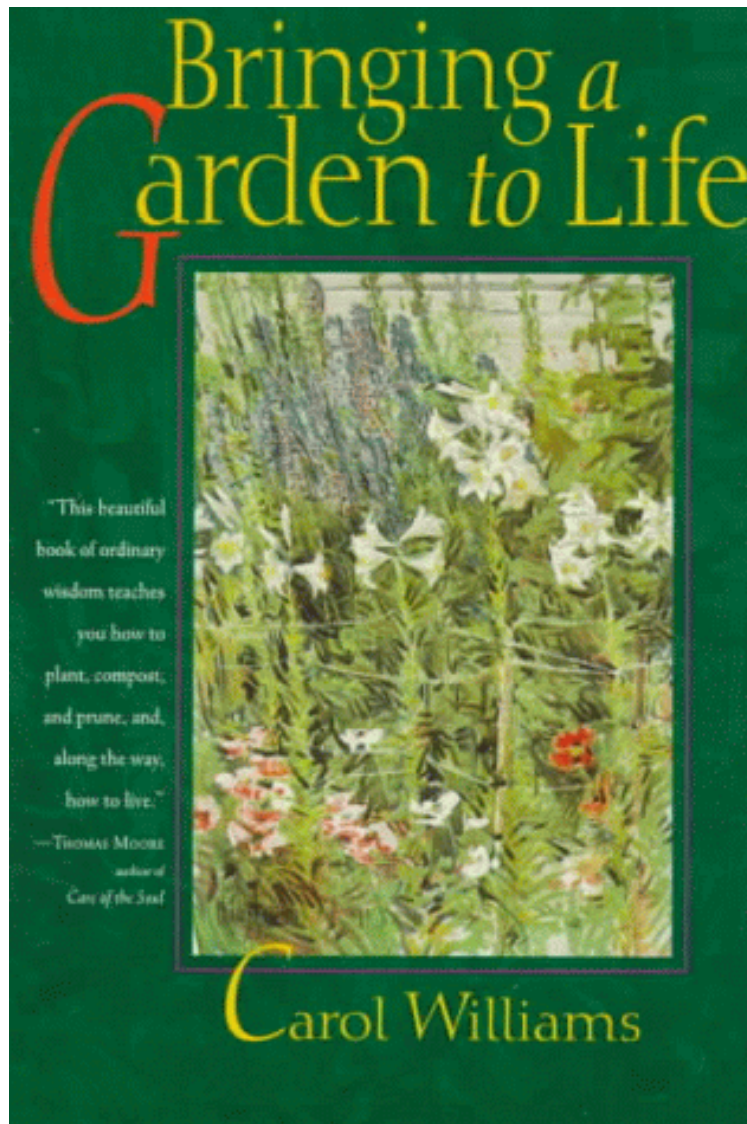


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Bringing a Garden to Life

Carol Williams

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Carol Williams : Bringing a Garden to Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bringing a Garden to Life:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Earth and Existentialism in the Garden By A Customer When Carol Williams sat down in her garden shed to write "Bringing a Garden to Life," she managed to mingle the philosophies of my two best friends -- one who thinks often about the reasons she gardens and the other, who simply gardens because "everyone needs a project to keep them busy, and the garden is mine." Both philosophies are fine with me, but even

finer when Williams interweaves their tenets so graciously. Like gardening, Williams' style is a mix of practicality and prose. In her introduction, Williams gives the reader a telling glimpse of what is to come. "I think it is not the garden so much as the gardening that performs...miracles," she writes. Just so. And while the book's roots are in its how-to's -- digging the earth, composting, starting seeds, weeding and pruning -- the joy of it comes in unexpected musings and occasional poems. In fact, Williams suggests that "writing brief garden poems is an aid to noticing what one notices." What follows is often haiku, but Shakespeare and Robert Frost get equal time as well. Garden readers who enjoy the mix might compare Williams' subject matter to Marilyn Barrett's "Creating Eden," and Jennifer Bennett's "Our Gardens, Ourselves," but the differences in style and content are distinct -- enough so that all three make valuable additions to a personal gardening library. Not only does Williams hand out down-to-earth advice, she also recommends plenty of useful texts and tells readers what she's learned from each author -- valuable information for avid garden readers. Just as "each gardener will have or will find their own reasons for growing what they do," each garden reader will come away with their own tidbits of wisdom in this easy-to-read book. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A gentle, funny, and inspiring book. By A Customer The real challenge of gardening is not whether you can grow giant cabbages or calendulas, but how deeply you can relax into the process of helping your garden grow. Ms. Williams is obviously a black-belt gardener, but the most surprising aspect of the book is that she can make you laugh and ponder miracles at the same time. The title has a double meaning, too. Apart from discovering how a green thumb can be cultivated, the reader also learns how to bring the lessons of gardening into daily life. With a deft and delicate sense of timing, Ms. Williams demonstrates that a garden's most important lesson is not just teaching us how to relax, but how to truly listen to the silent wisdom of plants. They neither toil nor do they spin; they just accept the free sunshine by opening themselves up. Read this book and do thou likewise. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. For all those who truly enjoy gardening. By Anonymous I've given this book as a gift to three people, each of whom raved about it. Carol Williams provides a comforting stroll through the pleasures of growing a garden that is a place of comfort and pleasurable change. She reminds us that the garden we build today will change as we change, and that the changes bring wonderful opportunities. She stresses that we should enjoy the process of planning, building and growing a garden, rather than rushing to a finished product. This book is more than a "how to" on growing and arranging veggies and flowers in your garden, although there are many great gardening tips and techniques included.

"Gardeners step into the world of imagination as soon as they begin to garden. They cannot plant a dry seed without awareness of the flame of life inside it, or prune a bare branch without sensing clustered blossoms and leaves." In the literature of gardening there are many how-to books and nearly an equal number of philosophical essays. Here is a book that is both. Carol Williams elucidates with elegant simplicity the basic processes of gardening and the handling of plants. She also eloquently demonstrates how in bringing a garden to life, the gardener, too, comes to life. Not just the finished garden, but gardening itself, is revealed as a source of delight and a profound awakening to nature. With its engaging mixture of step-by-step instruction, essay, story, and poetry, *Bringing a Garden to Life* addresses both the compelling mysteries and the down-to-earth practicalities of everyday gardening: discovering a place and envisioning your garden the alchemy of making fertile soil the wonders and challenges of starting with seeds weeding--or not the flowering year fresh greens for dinner gardening with and around trees tools--hoes, books, and philosophy and much more. From mapping a garden and planting a lettuce seed, to feeding old perennial borders and pruning fruit trees, this book tells not just how but why, and vividly evokes the interest and pleasure of doing the job. Gardening beginners will be encouraged to take their first steps, while expert gardeners will find new sources of joy in their gardens. The author shares the practical wisdom of her own rich gardening experience and invokes the golden tradition of poets and philosophers throughout history who have turned to their gardens to read the book of nature. With special sections on annuals, perennials, bulbs, vegetable and herb gardening, pruning, composting, transplanting, and much more, *Bringing a Garden to Life* is an illuminating vision, not just of growing things, but of being in the world; not just of planting, but of being renewed.

.com "Adam and Eve were born in the garden, and gardens are still where people go to renew themselves by meeting creation," explains Carol Williams. Although she is conscious of this spiritual link to gardening, Williams has managed to write a book that could prove to be the most exquisite and useful tool in the gardening shed. Williams is a captivating writer, whether she is explaining how to be an intuitive pruner or how to get the best return on spring bulbs. What is most impressive, though, is that she understands the realities and dilemmas of gardening; for instance, do you ultimately desire a yard or a garden? How do you integrate the artifacts of life--clotheslines, plastic children's toys, woodpiles, and old cars--with the glorious vines, shrubs, and flowers of fancy? Find the answer in *Bringing a Garden to Life*. From Library Journal Eastern Long Island in New York State is the setting for this thoughtful account of establishing a place for plants to flourish. Horticulture writer and consultant Williams covers the spectrum of the gardening experience, from preparing the soil and composting to planting seeds, transplanting and propagating plants, and weeding and pruning. She includes chapters on flowers, vegetables, herbs, and trees that offer useful insights into gardening activities. This work's appeal is that it invites and confirms gardening as an expression of life, giving readers

an opportunity to ponder its joys. Those considering gardening for more than simply growing flowers and vegetables will enjoy her writing. Recommended for most gardening collections. ?Dale Luchsinger, Milwaukee Area Technical Coll. Lib. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Carol Williams's unique book for gardeners and lovers of gardens unveils the spirituality and humanity of humble and exalted labor in your own earth....This beautiful book of ordinary wisdom teaches you how to plant, compost, and prune, and, along the way, how to live."--Thomas Moore, author of *Care of the Soul* and *The Reenchantment of Everyday Life*"Consisting in equal parts of instruction and delight, *Bringing a Garden to Life* is that rarest of modern gardening books: one that manages to combine the philosophical and practical sides of gardening with grace and wisdom."--Michael Pollan, author of *Second Nature*