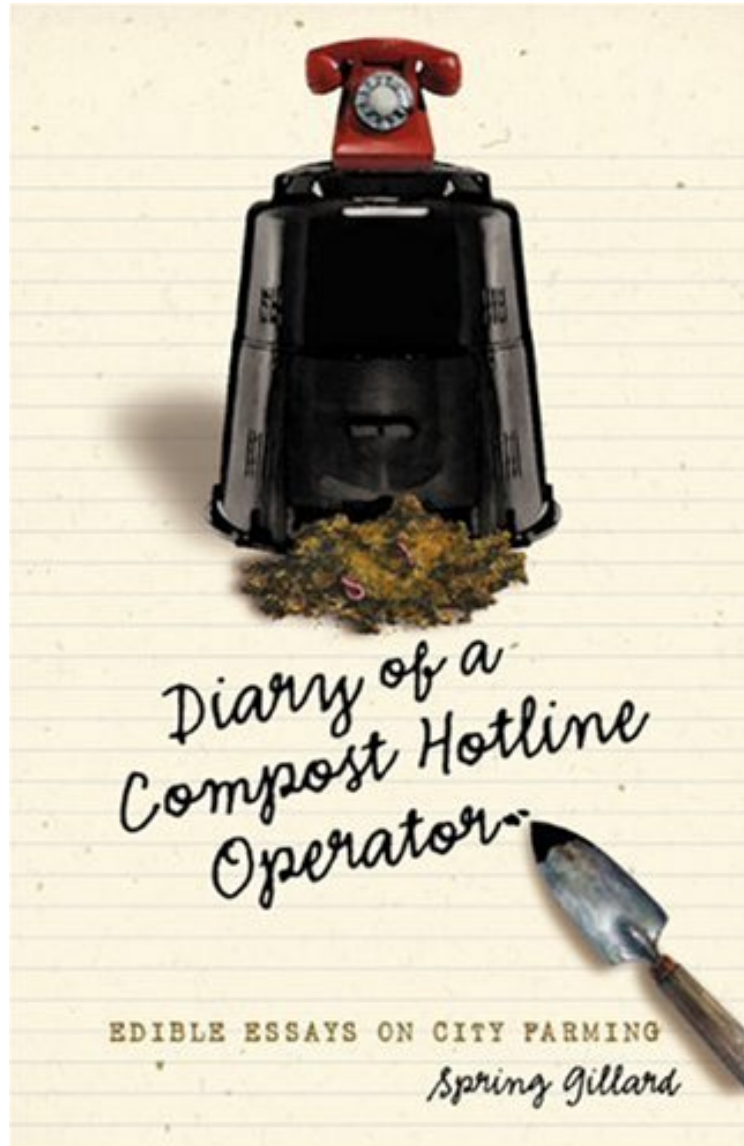


Diary of a Compost Hotline Operator: Edible Essays on City Farming

Spring Gillard

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Spring Gillard : Diary of a Compost Hotline Operator: Edible Essays on City Farming before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Diary of a Compost Hotline Operator: Edible Essays on City Farming:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. likes worms,tooBy JulieI enjoyed the style of writing here. Many

ideas could be used in any town that was brave enough to follow through for the betterment of Mother Earth and the those living with her. Mary Appelhof's business is still going. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. More than just compost

By Valerie Fletcher Adolph You could read this book just for the fun of it. Or you could read it to get a thorough grounding in all the current basic reduce, re-use, recycle wisdom. The writer works to City Farmer, an organization in Vancouver, Canada that specializes in urban agriculture and in enhancing the sustainability of our cities. The writer may spend some time as operator of a compost hotline but she knows an awful lot about all the ecological issues facing people who live in cities. Similarly, while she lives in Vancouver, her writing is relevant to almost all cities. In the eight chapters she deals lightly with compost, bugs, cob houses, yard waste, water conservation, dog (and cat) poop, and critter control. Nowhere does the reader felled preached to. There is no "You ought to....or else" There are just gentle, humorous stories and observations. If you discovered something new to you (Wow! Bags of dog poop can explode in the compactor of a garbage truck! Who knew?) then maybe you might act on that. There is also a chapter on urban agriculture initiatives in New York and in Havana, and the issues facing the people involved in those cities. Each chapter ends with a generous list of resources, mostly publications, web sites and organizations. There is so much delicious jam enfolding the pill of learning that you don't know you're swallowing it. This bok was a delight when it might have been a bore. I enjoyed it tremendously. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A lot more than compost

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What do you do with Doggy-Doo? Can I put corks in my compost bin? Do worms have lungs? Why is my compost full of thousands of tiny white flies? Vital questions such as these are the lot of a Compost Hotline Operator, as Spring Gillard knows only too well. That really is her job description, and she fields calls like this all day long. She also meets a cast of characters curiously crazed by the gardening bug, like Ellen, who wears worm earrings and belts out the "Compost Rap" to unsuspecting participants in her vermicomposting class. Or Laurel, worm bin mural artist, West Coast Wes the Scarecrow, Scissor-happy Sally, and Mike their fearless leader, prone to tai-chi fits . . . The Diary of a Compost Hotline Operator began in 1996 as a series of entries on the website of City Farmer, Vancouver's nonprofit urban agriculture group that has been thriving for twenty-five years. It is packed with barely credible real-life tales from the trenches of the urban horticulture avant-garde, dealing with all manner of gardening lore-such as: the essentials of composting alternatives to pesticides organic and edible landscapes garden tours and compost teas green buildings and drug-free lawns rainwater harvesting, and even urban ag in New York and Cuba. It is also a mine of useful resources-perfect reading for garden fanatics, gift-givers, ag-academics and environmentalists, and all who like to laugh while they learn. Spring Gillard abandoned a successful advertising career twelve years ago, and stumbled into City Farmer's garden in Vancouver. She never left. Her diary entries have been published widely, and-as editor of the Compost Hotline News-she does widespread research into urban agriculture worldwide. An avid storyteller, she believes in the power of humor to convey serious messages.

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