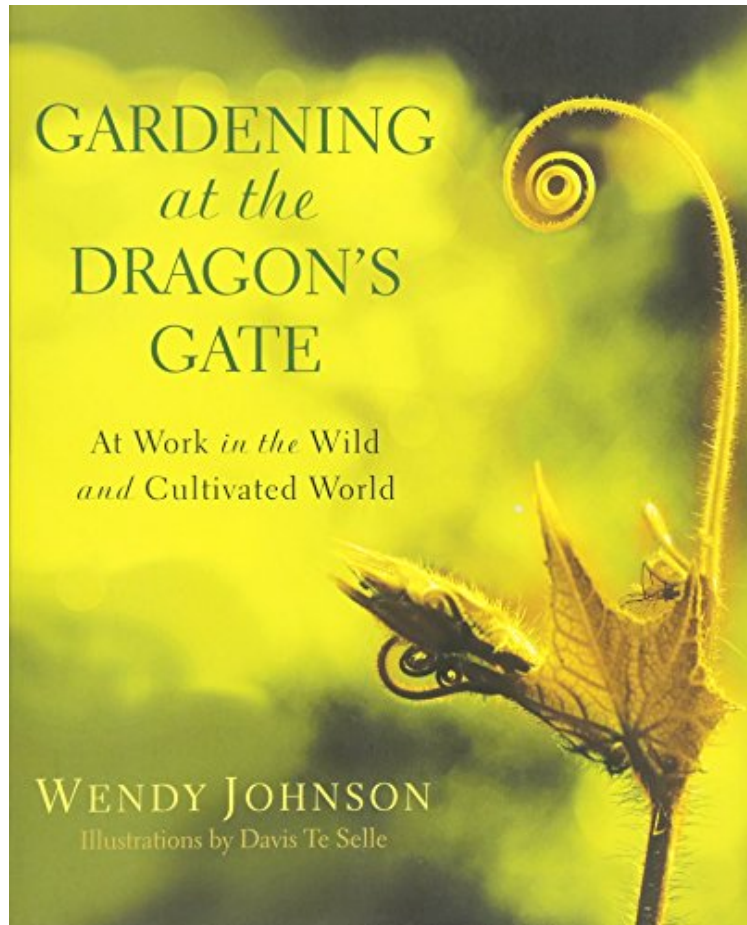


[Library ebook] Gardening at the Dragon's Gate: At Work in the Wild and Cultivated World

Gardening at the Dragon's Gate: At Work in the Wild and Cultivated World

Wendy Johnson

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Wendy Johnson : Gardening at the Dragon's Gate: At Work in the Wild and Cultivated World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gardening at the Dragon's Gate: At Work in the Wild and Cultivated World:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gorgeous work. By Dr. Susan Petro The most beautiful book I've read and I read a lot. If you enjoy any form of nature or gardening, Buddhist thinking, and informed discussion on the two you will love this book. Highly recommended. One of my top ten. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A beautiful, heart-warming By Lindsay KI read this book years ago while working at Southern Dharma, a silent, contemplative retreat center in WNC. I actually used to go to week-long work-studies at Green Gulch Farm (Zen Center) in the North Bay where Wendy wrote this book...so when she speaks of the land and the natural phenomena...I can draw from experience... A beautiful, heart-warming, and soulful account of a woman connecting so deeply with

the land around her...20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Earth StarvedBy Victoria TierneyGardening At The Dragon's Gate is for the Earth Starved - I love gardening and do not take the time to do it enough; however, Wendy Johnson's well written, heartfelt, intelligent, humorous, historical and motivating novel has brought me back to my own love of the earth - Each day I read it, I vow to go back to dirty fingernails and the rich taste of earth dust as I crawl around digging and planting - This book rivets you back to your own lovely moments communing with your own garden, however great or small it might be - This book is informative too. I lived in San Francisco and visited Muir Beach and the area many times - I wish I had known of Green Gulch - I plan on visiting now - Any one who has any affinity to the earth, to gardening, to eco-consciousness and to living a life near the soil of their home will be completely pleased, and engrossed in this timely and lovely rich writing and teaching of how to love, and to care for our earth, simply by loving it where ever you are -

Gardening at the Dragons Gate is fundamental work that permeates your entire life. It demands your energy and heart, and it gives you back great treasures as well, like a fortified sense of humor, an appreciation for paradox, and a huge harvest of Dinosaur kale and tiny red potatoes. For more than thirty years, Wendy Johnson has been meditating and gardening at the Green Gulch Farm Zen Center in northern California, where the fields curve like an enormous green dragon between the hills and the ocean. Renowned for its pioneering role in California's food revolution, Green Gulch provides choice produce to farmers markets and to San Francisco's Greens restaurant. Now Johnson has distilled her lifetime of experience into this extraordinary celebration of inner and outer growth, showing how the garden cultivates the gardener even as she digs beds, heaps up compost, plants flowers and fruit trees, and harvests bushels of organic vegetables. Johnson is a hands-on, on-her-knees gardener, and she shares with the reader a wealth of practical knowledge and fascinating garden lore. But she is also a lover of the untamed and weedy, and she evokes through her exquisite prose an abiding appreciation for the earth both cultivated and forever wild in a book sure to earn a place in the great tradition of American nature writing.

From Booklist Perhaps a more appropriate subtitle would have been Zen and the Art of Horticulture Maintenance, since Johnson infuses every aspect of gardening with the philosophy that has been her guiding light for more than 30 years. A Zen Buddhist master, Johnson has served as head gardener for San Francisco's Green Gulch Farm Center, a place of exceptional tranquility and vibrancy where her daily devotional meditation practices became as essential to the health and productivity of her gardens as they were to her body and soul. Espousing seven essential principles that demonstrate respect for the land through organic gardening and ecological farming, Johnson relates practical information about botanical basics, such as planting, growth, and propagation, as well as the craft of gardening, such as designing, tending, and harvesting. Viewed through the prism of an elemental understanding of the unbridled life that exists in every garden, Johnson's wisdom is conveyed with a lyrical, poetic, yet pragmatic sensibility that both calms the mind and excites the imagination. --Carol Haggas Wendy Johnson shows how the garden and the shared table reconnect us in a profound and visceral way to the earth. A beautiful book and an invaluable resource. Alice Waters, founder, Chez Panisse Wendy Johnson follows in the footsteps of Thoreau . . . Her book is succulent, full of surprises, wise, tender, tough, and delicious to read. It is for everyone who wants to live a rich, deep, life. Jack Kornfield, author of A Path With Heart and After the Ecstasy, the Laundry A glorious book . . . deep philosophy with dirt beneath its fingernails. Bill McKibben, author of The Bill McKibben Reader: Pieces from an Active Life and The End of Nature Truly magnificent, a treasure--one of those rare books that you hope, without knowing, will appear in your life. It will keep you in good company for years and years. Deborah Madison, author of The Greens Cookbook and Vegetarian Cooking for Everyone A bountiful harvest of wisdom, humor and passion by a master gardener who has spent a lifetime cultivating the soil and the spirit. Will Rogers, President, The Trust for Public Land This book is a long memory of a relationship with earth. I am in utter awe of the gusto with which Johnson tells her story. Read one paragraph and you'll long to hold dirt in your hand. Natalie Goldberg, author of Writing Down the Bones and Wild Mind Part Zen Koan, part love poem to the land, part master's manual in the art and craft of gardening, Gardening at the Dragons Gate satisfies body, mind, and soul like a really good meal. Michael Ableman, farmer; author of Fields of Plenty Flower and fruit of a lifetime's horticultural experience, this master work goes far beyond the practical gardening advice it offers in abundance. Gardening at the Dragons Gate is full of profound meditations on the chemistry and poetry of botany, geology, and natural history, all rendered in Wendy's unmistakably rich voice. An instant classic. Norman Fischer, teacher and founder, Everyday Zen Foundation; author of Taking Our Places: The Buddhist Path to Truly Growing Up "If Earth took a human voice, it would be Wendy's: wry, fierce, passionately attentive to detail, and so startling in its wild freedom it's almost scary. . . . This book is a tonic to the soul. I dare anyone to read it and not be shaken into a fuller, gladder life. Joanna Macy, author World as Lover, World as Self About the Author Wendy Johnson is one of the founders of the organic Farm and Garden Program at Green Gulch Farm Zen Center in Marin County and now lives with her family in nearby Muir Beach. A Buddhist meditation teacher who is deeply engaged in environmental work nationally, she is an advisor to the Edible Schoolyard program of the Chez Panisse Foundation and has helped to establish many garden programs in public schools and local

communities throughout the Bay Area. Her column, On Gardening, has appeared in Tricycle: The Buddhist for more than ten years. This is her first book.