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At Home In The Garden



Synopsis

In this exquisitely lush volume, lifestyle legend Carolyn Roehm celebrates her gardens as outdoor living rooms, revealing how she chooses the plants, flowers, and layouts; how she entertains guests with gorgeous table settings and breathtaking arrangements; and how she savors the hours among the blooms. As Carolyn Roehm says, "It's as simple as this: a garden is like love...a place you venture into with hope, energy, excitement, enchantment, and the greatest of expectations." For Roehm, the garden has always been more than a canvas for beauty. A place where her devoted efforts bear glorious results, the garden is not only a reflection of what has inspired Roehm, but also a font of inspiration from which she draws--for her astonishingly lovely arrangements, her gracious dinner parties, and her new passion for interpreting her flowers in vibrant watercolor paintings. Each of the gardens at her historic Connecticut home, Weatherstone, has been lovingly crafted to serve as an outdoor living room, where the hours may be passed at work, alone, or enjoyed with company. In the Parterre Gardens bordering the south side of the home, Roehm created a fantasy of snow in spring with white tulips and Sargentina crabapple trees. All of the varieties in her Rose Garden were selected for their pulchritude and divine scent, as well as for their ability to bloom twice to satisfy her insatiable thirst for roses. And when the stream through her property offered only an unsatisfying trickle, Roehm replaced it with a river of hostas, primula, bleeding hearts, and rodgersia that sweeps through her Shade Garden. As Roehm accompanies us on the first-ever tour of these marvels, she shares witty and candid stories of the unexpected triumphs and the sometimes-crushing defeats. And always, there is her desire to return to the garden "to tend, to mend, or to plant anew. A garden is like love, Roehm claims, and indeed, this lavishly illustrated volume is a testament to an enduring, complex, unquestionably personal, and deeply passionate amour. ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Potter Style (October 27, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1101903570

ISBN-13: 978-1101903575

Product Dimensions: 11.4 x 1.4 x 14.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars ~ ~ See all reviews ~ (40 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #43,177 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Outdoor & Recreational Areas #26 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Flowers #29 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Garden Design

Customer Reviews

I met Carolyne Roehm for media reasons at the height of Wall Street prosperity in the mid '80s, I wrote a piece about her and Henry Kravis, her then husband, for New York Magazine. She was on an amazing trajectory, only a few years removed from her childhood identity as Carolyne Jane Smith, of Kirksville, Missouri, where her father was a school principal and her mother a teacher. Now she was a fashion designer beloved by women whose days began with lunch. As for Kravis, his private equity firm had recently bought a little company called Nabisco for \$31.4 billion, the highest price ever paid for a commercial enterprise. On a magazine cover, they looked like Reagan-era royalty. The title of that article "The Working Rich: The Real Slaves of New York" only hinted at the glossy surface and flawed reality of those years on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Looking back, I see the title was prescient for everything she got, she lost something. Her husband's teenage son was killed in a car accident; her fashion business was shuttered and her marriage ended. She bought a house and devoted herself to its decorating and gardens; it was destroyed in a fire. But out of the ashes, Carolyn Roehm dug in. She wrote a dozen books, took 30,000 photographs, became the darling of women who identify with her pluck and vision. And now she's unleashed "At Home in the Garden," a 304-page, huge (11" by 14"), 7.4 pound object. I've got a brown thumb, but this looks very much like a book that gardeners will get and give in large numbers at the holidays. "At Home in the Garden" is an unapologetic Valentine to one of world's most spectacular gardens.

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