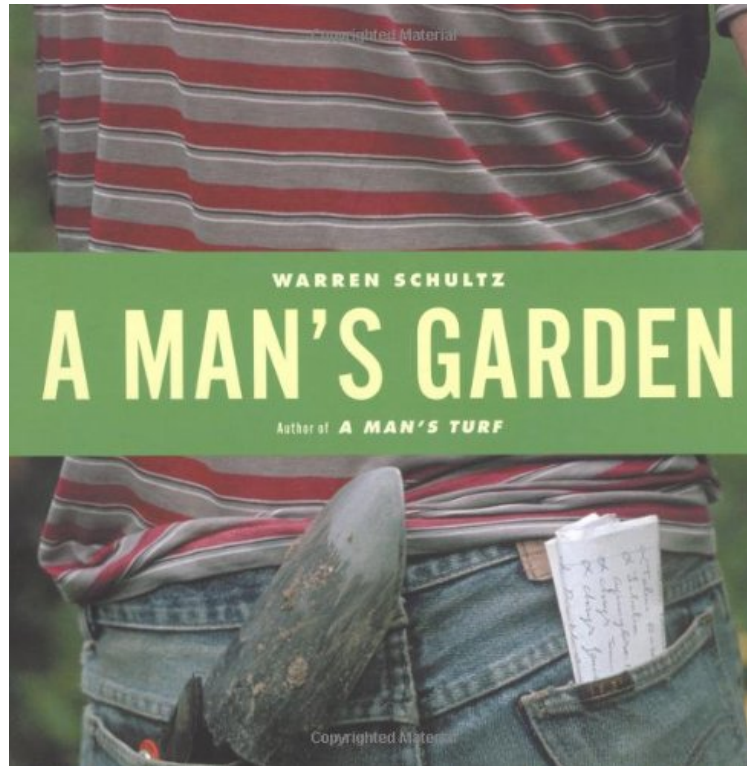


(Ebook pdf) A Man's Garden

A Man's Garden

Warren Schultz

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Warren Schultz : A Man's Garden before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Man's Garden:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Customer Older book but still enjoyed 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A beautiful coffee-table book By Dingfelder A Man's Garden attempts to show how different men embody aspects of who they are in their gardens. Each gets roughly a half dozen pages, most with multiple color photos showing a garden's highlights and how it looks from various viewpoints. Some gardens are quite large and would take a great many photos to detail, so the coverage isn't comprehensive. What the author has gone for is something to convey the essence of the gardener's vision. Some of those visions seem of a piece with a particular man's personality, and some a way to stake a claim to something else, perhaps something missing or better or more complete than his ordinary working life, or his childhood and background, have given him. Garden as expansion of soul, or palliative and correction. And some of that struck me as particularly right for me, because I could relate to the man or his obsession somehow. Yet some of the most entertaining chapters were about gardens and gardeners I could hardly relate to at all except by recognizing how happily the men embraced their own peculiar visions. One fellow sculpts his topiary in odd and creative ways to fashion a beauty that could never be found in nature. Not for me, thanks. But it's interesting to read about, and see, his pursuit of what it is that comprises his own personal happiness. Most of the gardeners come across that way to some degree -- their gardens are refuges, where they can be free and have things just as they like, and be happy. Some are wonderfully articulate about it. Some of it sounds like nonsense

or at best questionable taste. So be it. It's not for me to begrudge a man his harmless satisfactions. A Man's Garden was an entertaining way to see how a diverse selection of men found a way to happiness and self-expression at their leisure in their own backyards, 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Man's Garden By Diane Bielecki My male friends (plutonic or not) have always been a bit amused of my tireless quest for the "perfect" garden. They have always lent their support when my creations needed a bit of brawn in the form of starting a tiller or moving a stone. I am always tickled when they tried to hide their delight in watching the garden "become" something, or watching the kaleidoscope of color. My unscientific research reveals that finding peace beauty in a garden conjurs up fears of being emasculated. This book confirms that men flourish in a garden. Gardens like art reflect the male personality, they can be strong or soothing. If it's true that best chefs are men... then I'm ready to meet my gardening match - OUTSIDE, after he sees this book.

"I'm tired of being told that gardening is women's work," writes author Warren Schultz. "I don't like the way my buddies roll their eyes when I tell them I'd rather weed a border than watch a hockey game between Saskatoon and Moose Jaw, but there's no shame in being a gardening man. Farmers? Men. Landscape architects? Men. Golf-course greenskeepers? Men. Plant breeders? Men." Do men have a different style of gardening from women? You bet your last six-pack they do. In fact, there are several archetypal styles. Some men's gardens are playful, others competitive; some are places to fool with tools, others to play with toys. Men like large plants and bright colors. The big straight-row vegetable garden is classically a man's territory, where he can fulfill the need to provide for his family. As Schultz says, "A guy likes to make a splash with his garden." His pumpkins will be the biggest (Howard Dill); his perennial border the longest (John Craighead) And who but a man (Ralph Velez) would plant 483 palm trees on a 60-by-150-foot corner lot? For the man who wonders whether he too might enjoy gardening, this book offers portraits of fifteen men who garden in different ways and for different reasons. By no means all macho men, they approach their gardens from various points of view, including those of the scientist, the colorist, the folk artist, and the New Age meditator. For all of them, gardening has filled an important niche in their lives. Schultz points out that even today, the interior of a house is likely to be a woman's domain, but outdoors a man can decide what to plant around the deck and how short to prune the flowering shrubs. He can plant trees and carve beds; in short, he can make the garden his own outdoor room.

.com Right from its jacket image, which cribs shamelessly from the famous album-sleeve cover shot for Bruce Springsteen's virile classic Born in the U.S.A., A Man's Garden wants to let you know without question that it's aimed at REAL GUYS. It's evident in nearly every line of copy profiling 14 men around the country who keep king-size, unconventional, or otherwise extraordinary gardens, from this opener: "When you come upon the four massive Corinthian columns ... you know this is a man's garden" (why?) to ridiculous flourishes of rhetoric such as, "Ask a man why he gardens, why he feels compelled to push the earth around and wrestle crops from it." This overcompensation is all the funnier in light of double-entendres like the one directed (winkingly or not) at Manhattan-art-gallery-manager-turned-Connecticut-gardener Tim Mayhew, who, according to author Warren Schultz, "has given plenty of thought to men in the garden." Maybe this hypermasculinization of gardening was just a new angle to market a very pleasurable coffee-table book filled with lovely color photographs of 14 completely enchanting gardens--because that's exactly what this book is, and frankly, it doesn't matter whether they were cultivated by men, women, or hermaphrodites. There's nothing inherently manly or womanly about Pearl Fryar's fabulously surreal and almost erotically suggestive topiary in Bishopville, South Carolina, or the way the above-mentioned Mayhew drags no end of crumbling old statuary and curiosities into his lush verdure to create a kind of uniquely American ruins. Nor is there anything gender-specific about lawyer-cum-weekend-farmer Robert Kaufman's robust vegetable garden, which runneth over with 200 colorful and semirare varieties, or the Willie Wonka junkyard garden Felder Rushing has built up around his Jackson, Mississippi, home, complete with walkways embedded with Mardi Gras beads, whole "trees" of cobalt-blue pop bottles, and giant jack-o'-lanterns cut out of old tires painted bright orange. There's nothing particularly "American Joe" about the exquisite meditation garden Jeffrey Bale has nurtured on a tiny lot in a rundown part of Portland, Oregon, with its lush rhododendrons, potted bamboos, and Far East statuary, nor about David Alford's Blue Lake Ranch in Durango, Colorado, surrounded by a homegrown prairie exploding with the infinite color of irises, peonies, petunias, echinacea, rudbeckia, and calendula. A Man's Garden isn't even a hardcore how-to so much as a handsome invitation to botanical reverie and inspiration (though utilitarians can suss out plenty of practical gardening wisdom along the way). So much for the "real-guy" angle. But then again, we all know books like this are meant to be bought by women as presents for their fathers, sons, or husbands--and that any man actually buying this book is probably buying it for his husband, too. --Timothy Murphy From Booklist What makes a garden a "man's garden"? The answer is as individual as the men Schultz profiles. Each has his own distinctive vision, a unique way of marking his territory, as men are wont to do. Indeed, there is often as much anthropology as horticulture here because Schultz frequently theorizes about why these guys do what they do. Yet these aren't your "average Joes" or your weekend "lawn rangers," with their ride-'em John Deeres. They take their gardening seriously, even when it's at its most

irreverent, like Felder Rushing with his bottle trees and tower of tires. These are men doing the expected but in unexpected ways, like Robert Kaufman, who grows vegetables, but oh! what vegetables: pink tomatoes, white carrots, purple green beans! Their gardens are meant to inspire, not intimidate; some even amaze or amuse. With a style as easygoing as an over-the-fence chat with the guy next door, Schultz introduces gardens that bring "fun, joy, even glee." His book certainly does, in spades. Carol Haggas Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Inspirational . . . this book could encourage anyone who enjoys gardening to abandon the maintenance and begin creating art." Fort Worth Star-Telegram "Politically incorrect and proud of it. Sets out to prove . . . men and women think differently, and their gardens prove it." Seattle Post-Intelligencer "The best study yet of garden work by American men." St. Louis Post-Dispatch "A delightful, irreverent romp of a book that's sure to make you smile." Christian Science Monitor