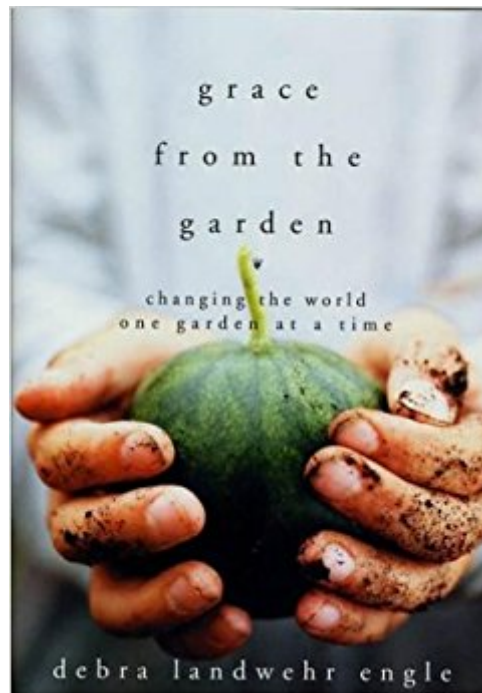




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Grace From The Garden: Changing The World One Garden At A Time



Synopsis

"Gardening is the most basic of languages, the labor from which we're all born and nourished. . . ."In these pages, we travel the country with Debra Landwehr Engle as she visits 20 gardens and gardeners from California to Maine and Minnesota to Arkansas, showing us that grassroots campaigns actually can and do involve roots--and seeds and garden trowels. That any person with a steadfast resolve and an open patch of dirt can help bridge the gap between multinational refugees. That lush vegetation and running water and cool stones can help spark the fading memories of our elderly. And that our children can learn about where food comes from, labyrinths, wetlands systems, and healing from grief and loss just by digging in the earth with a caring adult hand to guide them. As the stories in this remarkable collection demonstrate, the simplest act of gardening can produce significant changes in the lives of people we might never even meet. Consider the man who sends seedlings and greenhouses halfway around the world to feed hospital patients, or the immigrant woman who began selling her own flowers as a way to raise money for overseas charities, or the couple who offers their land as a midday retreat for the residents of nearby nursing homes. These acts and others are not heroic--or even unusual--as Ms. Engle tells us. We see ourselves in these uplifting tales from the garden, as they inspire us to transform our own little parts of the world into places of greater peace, repose, play, and healing. For gardeners, community activists, and those who understand the spiritual value of putting a spade in the soil, these stories capture the promise renewed each time we plant a seed and give us fresh ideas for changing the world, one garden at a time.

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Customer Reviews

Like a bud that knows just when to burst into bloom, Engle's book arrives at a time when the world might benefit from reminders about the nature of grace and forgiveness, change and growth. Her classroom is the garden, and through interviews with ordinary people doing extraordinary things, she demonstrates the power of gardens and gardeners to teach, nourish, unite, inspire, and heal. Whether it's a former pro basketball player managing inner-city community gardens or a couple sharing their backyard haven with the elderly and disabled, Engle's subjects luminously illustrate the potential one person has to change the world, even if that universe exists only within a square city block or a suburban subdivision. Through thoughtfully provided contact information on featured organizations and gardens, readers can translate their inspiration into action. Celebrating the infinite potential of individual creativity and caring, Engle speaks with a lyrical eloquence and impassioned exuberance to honor the serendipitous ways simple acts can enrich the soul and sustain the spirit.

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"What is gardening, after all, but stories? Here are some great ones; full of inspiration, delight, and--surprisingly--more than a few good ideas for those of us in the dirty-hands crowd."--Mike McGrath, host of the nationally syndicated Public Radio show "You Bet Your Garden" and former editor-in-chief of Organic Gardening magazine

"Instead of one more harangue, this book places before us hopeful models and inspires us to get involved--in our own backyards, in our neighborhoods, and in our towns. It demonstrates that positive change is possible: one bucket of compost, one handful of seeds, one garden at a time." --Michael Ableman, author of *On Good Land: The Autobiography of an Urban Farm* and *From the Good Earth: A Celebration of Growing Food Around the World*

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This is a wonderful book to keep by your bedside or to share with friends and family. It's more than

a book about gardening, although gardeners everywhere will love it. This book celebrates the human spirit. It shows us the power of a dream, the ability of one person partnering with others to transform her corner of the world. These stories remind us that we all have the power to bring peace and harmony into our world. Debra Engle writes in the best tradition of personal essayists. We travel with her as she crosses the country. She transports us to these gardens, evoking their sights, scents and sounds. We sit with her as she talks to an elderly gardener in Huntsville, Alabama, or stride with her through an amazing urban farm in downtown Milwaukee. We feel the individual energy and spirit of these remarkable gardeners who are truly changing the world one garden at a time. And we see those changes through the lens of Engle's understanding of the world as a place where miracles happen every day if we let them. I loved this book and highly recommend it. If you'd like to be reminded of all the good there is in the world, or if you just love a good essay, this book will satisfy.

This is a wonderful little hardback book in perfect condition. Best of all, I got it for under six dollars in about a week. I'm very, very happy with this purchase.

Great stories showing the value and benefit of gardens in all stages and ages of life. Arrived on time and in good shape.

This book restores hope in reconnecting people with all of creation. Each story inspires personal compassion, caring and commitment. Recommended for anyone who loves digging in the dirt!

An all time favorite collection of stories about sharing life by teaching others to garden. And it arrived in excellent condition!

I began borrowed book and needed my own copy to finish reading it. Good read.

Great book, loved it. I like the way it was organized and the stories were inspiring and sometimes very touching. Definitely a great gift for any gardener, from novice to expert.

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