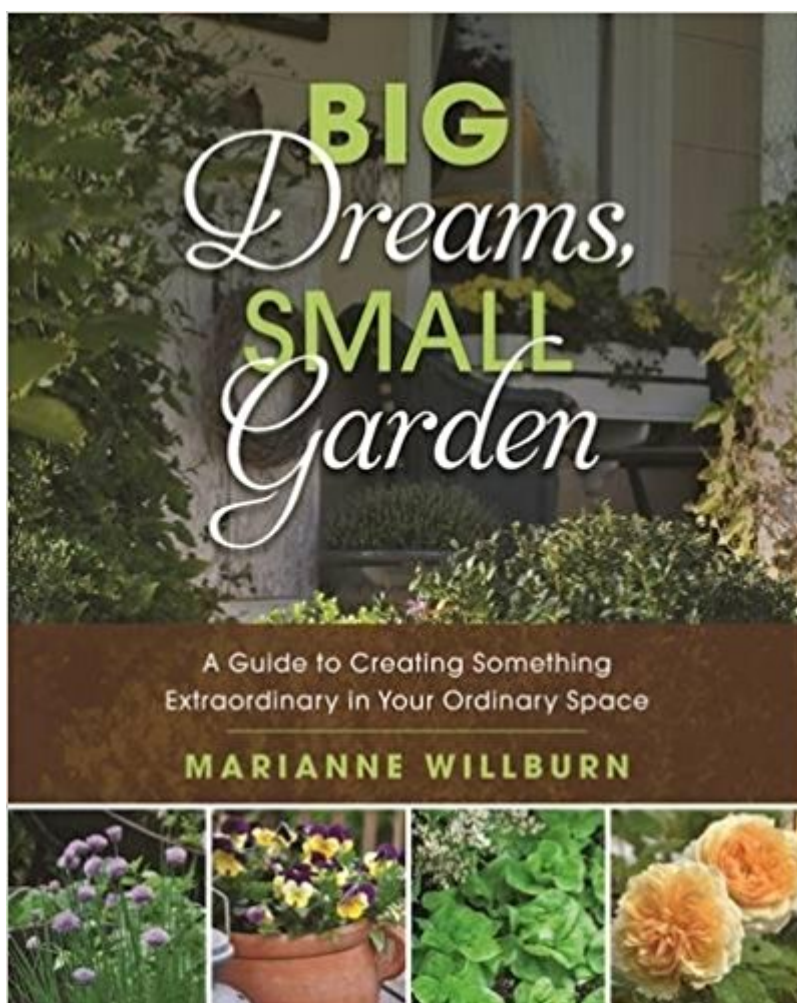


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Big Dreams, Small Garden: A Guide To Creating Something Extraordinary In Your Ordinary Space



Synopsis

Creating a spectacular garden is challenging when you thought you'd be living somewhere else by now. How do passionate gardeners struggling with limited resources manage to put aside feelings of inadequacy and envy and begin to create an oasis in the midst of numerous obstacles? Why should they even try? In her debut book, *Big Dreams, Small Garden*, columnist and blogger Marianne Willburn presents a comprehensive step-by-step plan for creating an ideal garden in less-than-ideal circumstances; encouraging the discouraged to pick up their trowels, put on their gloves, and get on with it. With humor and irreverence, she painlessly guides readers to make a deeper connection with the places they call home, letting go of limiting emotions and embracing a new perspective, and in doing so, makes a case for one of the longest relationships in human history; that of man's relationship with the soil. *Big Dreams, Small Garden* is an informative, often lighthearted look at coming to terms with your space, embracing your space, and miraculously falling in love. It cannot fail to appeal to a generation that is once again returning to the land only to find that it is further and further out of reach.

Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Skyhorse Publishing (March 14, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1510709126

ISBN-13: 978-1510709126

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.8 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #290,889 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #191 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Vegetables #220 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Garden Design #240 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Flowers

Customer Reviews

"There is something in this book for everyone, from my daughters needing some hand-holding to people like myself, who can always learn from [Marianne's] expertise, as well as the advice of 'the pros.'" — Allan M. Armitage, professor emeritus of horticulture, University of Georgia

Marianne Willburn is a garden columnist and master gardener with more than twenty years of experience in the garden. She holds a BSc from University College London and has won several national awards for her popular column and blog, *The Small Town Gardener*. A California native, she now lives with her husband and two children in the scenic and highly convenient wine region of Northern Virginia.

The prologue alone has motivated me! (See photo). This book reminds us that we can create a beautiful yard (landscape) with whatever resources we have. Marianne Willburn challenges our excuses of a lack of experience, knowledge and finances by showing how to achieve the space you always imagined. I especially love the section on hiding the eye sores in your landscaping, like an ugly fence (that we must live with). Bonus - you are sure to chuckle because this author writes with humor.

I really liked the practical advice about embracing the garden space one has, visualizing its potential, and working toward beautifying it, rather than living one's life on hold while pining for a lavish estate and a staff of gardeners or some other fanciful dream that may never come to fruition. I liked that she acknowledged having worked through some envy of large expensive gardens before getting to a healthier place of gratitude and acceptance for her own little plot. Well-written and entertaining. I wish it had more pics of before and after gardens, and more pics of gardens from more areas of the country.

I've read it all cover to cover. I like the fact that it is not just a gardening book, but also a story and the connection between life's struggles and the fact that gardening is so calming and re-connects us. I also like the inserts about other people! It's a small world...I've known Jeannie Goforth for probably 20 + years and after my last day working at Mt. Weather, I sat with Paul and Jeannie on their back porch overlooking their little vineyard and drank wine to celebrate! Who would've known about the beauty that was tucked in down just below the high school!! Cool!! Marianne, thanks so much for sharing your life with us!

Well, I will confess to being a good friend of the author but despite having spent years (more than one can count on fingers and toes) in the garden, I found lots to inspire in this book. Marianne manages to weave autobiographical threads into this text along with many personal encounters that make the story compelling. It's hard not to believe that many people will benefit from reading this

book. Her prose is wonderful (that I expected) but the insights are invaluable. Get it, and read it.

A Great Addition for both the novice and seasoned Gardner! This is a really well written and engaging book, that in addition to being very thought provoking, informative (and at times hilarious) contains much information on creating a lovely outdoor space. I appreciated the writer's sharing of her own struggles and her helping the reader to work through some of the internal obstacles, such as perfectionism, that can keep many of us back from creating something new and taking some risks. Loved it, highly recommend.

Full of practical advice for gardening in the real world. Contains many case studies and anecdotes to reinforce her point that you can garden in any space.

Excellent!! I'm a long-time gardening teacher and I'd recommend this book to anyone starting out or ready to up their garden's beauty, but lacking a big budget. So, most people. Love the author's attitude, too - very "whatever makes you happy."

Looking forward to reading this in depth over the winter in preparation for next spring.

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