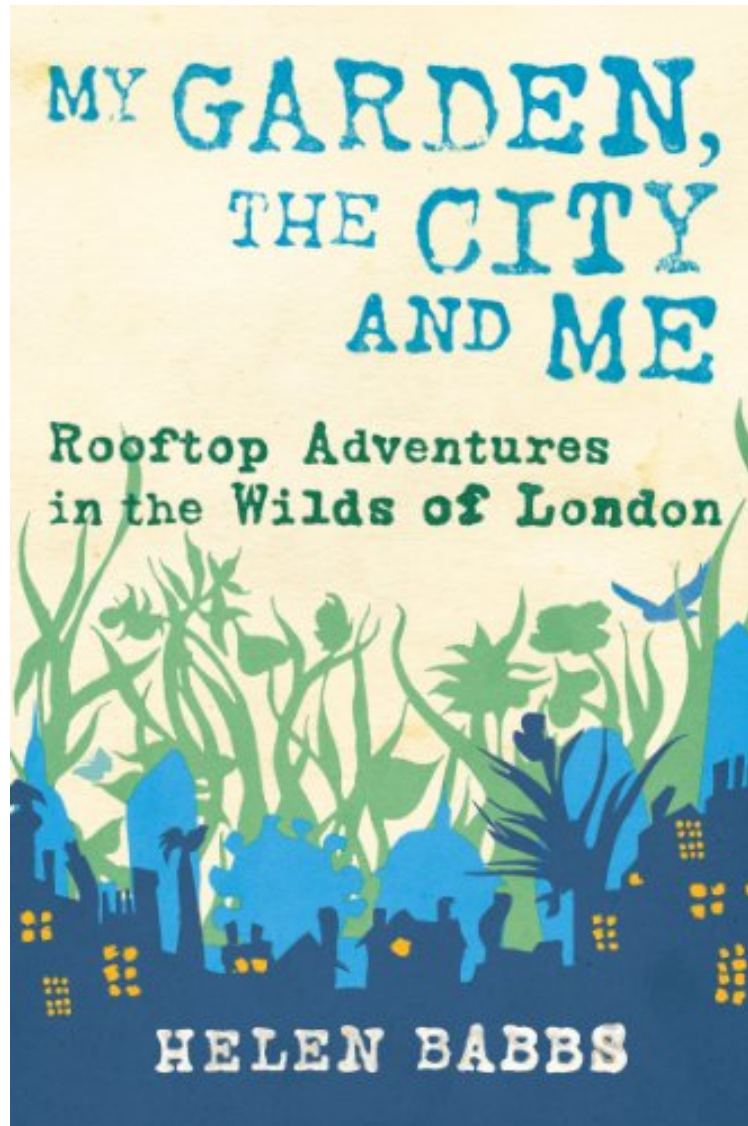


(Library ebook) My Garden, the City and Me: Rooftop Adventures in the Wilds of London

# My Garden, the City and Me: Rooftop Adventures in the Wilds of London

*Helen Babbs*

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**Helen Babbs : My Garden, the City and Me: Rooftop Adventures in the Wilds of London** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Garden, the City and Me: Rooftop Adventures in the Wilds of London:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not just for one city or gardenerBy Wiltshire BookwormThis is a charming tale of one city dweller's adventures in starting edible and wildlife gardening. Except she doesn't have a

garden, so undaunted she borrows her neighbour's kitchen roof to explore the possibilities. This really is gardening against the odds: a garden just 3 metres square with limited access to be gardened by a novice who has oodles of enthusiasm to get her over the hurdles. Just how much can be grown in such a tiny space? Well, it turns out to be quite a lot and Helen Babbs tells us about her triumphs and disasters. In between life on her rooftop garden, She tells us about the various community projects and initiatives she's discovered which take place in London. This is in complete contrast to the usual view of London as a faceless city, and shows there's thriving communities to be discovered if one only knows where to look. This is the tale of one year's growing, told by the season, which turns out to be a life changing experience, not only in Helen's new form of transport (a bicycle), but also a career change into freelance writing. At the end of the book there's Helen's selection of the best plants to grow, the best moments she's experienced, things to read and places to go which forms a useful reference section for readers (not just those based in London I'm sure) inspired to follow in Helen's footsteps. My only criticism is the length of the book: it's far too short and I was left wanting far more than a mere 140 pages. Luckily Helen has secured regular freelance work with several magazines and newspapers so more shouldn't be too hard to find. NB this review first appeared on .co.uk

Helen Babbs is a self-proclaimed city girl who lives on the second floor of a flat in a chaotic corner of London. An urge to find more green in the city and a stronger connection to the natural world leads her to create her first garden, an organic edible garden on her rooftop. This year-long adventure is the story behind *My Garden, the City and Me*. The journey begins in the dark of winter, where Babbs finds herself at a seed swap on a February morning, seduced more by packaging than by any true understanding of the plants. As the year progresses, Babbs revels in failures, like waking up bleary eyed and stomping on her seed starts, and triumphs like her summer-ending dinner party made with homegrown produce. Along the way she discovers that I like gardening in my pajamas and that growing something from seed, watching it develop and then eating its fruits is truly joyful. I've daydreamed out there and entertained out there. It's the force behind new friendships that I've forged. The garden has opened my eyes to a whole new side of London and urban living. *My Garden, the City and Me* is a lyrical narrative about a twenty-something in search for a bit of wild in her city. The journey is charming, honest, and steeped in the lore of London, a city equally known for its gardens and its grit. In the end Babbs has achieved a new perspective on what it means to live green in the city she loves.

Almost diary-like in style, this insightful book might inspire you to start a rooftop garden of your own. American Gardener