

[FREE] Once upon a Windowsill: A History of Indoor Plants

Once upon a Windowsill: A History of Indoor Plants

Tovah Martin

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Tovah Martin : Once upon a Windowsill: A History of Indoor Plants before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Once upon a Windowsill: A History of Indoor Plants:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Michael Cunningham I learned a lot. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a decent book By Andrew Andrew Lots of non-houseplant history, which is annoying. Plenty of plant history too though. There aren't any competitors so it's worth it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. FANTASTIC book! I couldn't put it down By Monica Ballyurban FANTASTIC book! I couldn't put it down. Incredible stories of the unusual way people early on thought about houseplants, how they pampered and coddled them, the wonderful history of plant collectors, the purpose of 'Victorian parlors' where many of the exotic plants were displayed, alongside other treasures, to impress guests. This is a must read for all plant lovers and a wonderful introduction to the love of plants by those who don't have green thumbs. Yet!

We have grown so accustomed to sharing our houses with plants that it may be surprising to learn that it was only in the last century that plants began to move indoors. The story of how this came to pass is an engrossing and complex one, involving many separate strands: the horticultural explosion of the Victorian period, stimulated by the plant hunters of the golden age, changing styles of architecture, new techniques of heating and lighting, the cultural values implicit in home design and decoration, and the changing role of women. Tovah Martin weaves these strands together in a chronological account of the introduction of houseplants in America, starting with the first bulbs brought indoors

for forcing, through the successive introductions of ever more exotic plant materials, including the proliferation of ferns. It is a story equally rich in plant lore and insights into American culture. *Once Upon a Windowsill* is one of those books that manage, through a perceptive examination of a seemingly odd topic, to shed surprising light on a much larger subject. This is an important and fascinating work of social history.

About the AuthorTovah Martin is the author of "Garden Whimsy," "Tasha Tudor's Garden," "Indoor Gardens," among other garden books. She is a popular lecturer lives in Roxbury, Connecticut.