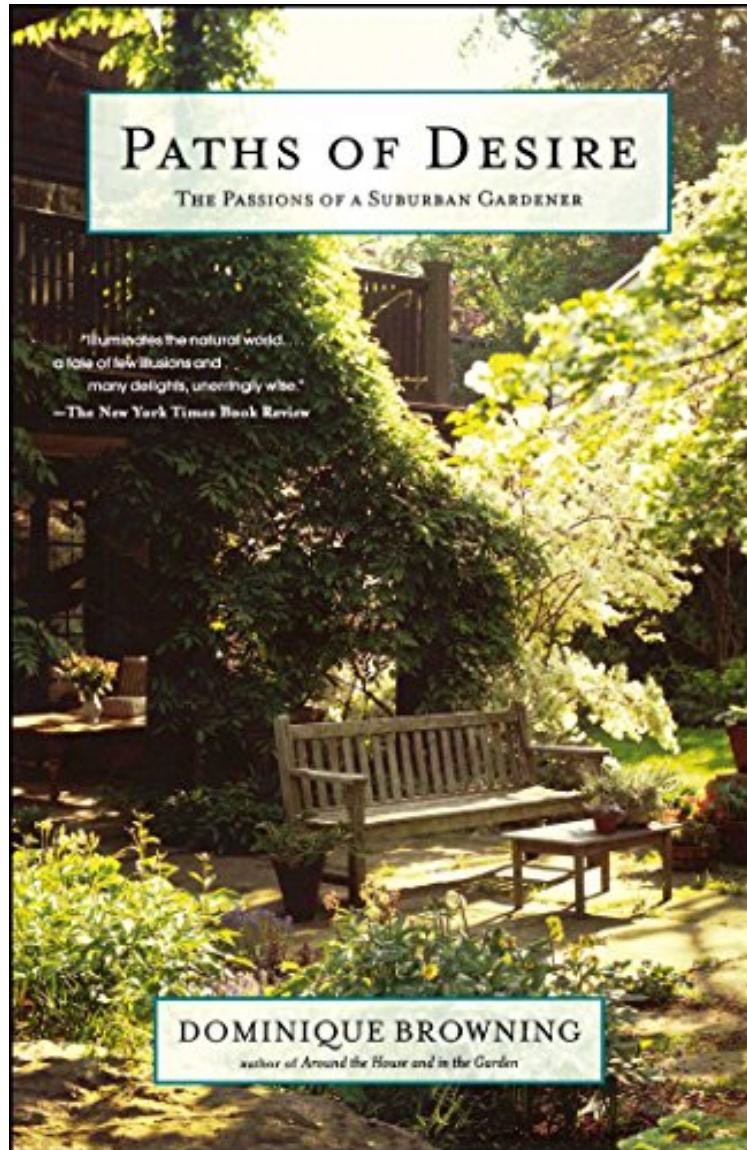


[Ebook free] Paths of Desire: The Passions of a Suburban Gardener

Paths of Desire: The Passions of a Suburban Gardener

Dominique Browning

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#912300 in Books Dominique Browning 2005-02-08 2005-02-08 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.44 x .70 x 5.50l, .72 #File Name: 0743251091237 pages Paths of Desire The Passions of a Suburban Gardener | File size: 58.Mb

Dominique Browning : Paths of Desire: The Passions of a Suburban Gardener before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Paths of Desire: The Passions of a Suburban Gardener:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Quirky, Enchanting By Loretta W. Murphree This is probably my favorite of Dominique Browning's books. It's a little reminiscent of Mr. Blandings Builds a Dream House, only it's true

and it all starts with a garden wall falling down. I found it, by turns, quirky, funny and deep. An added little bonus for the reader is a map of the garden at the start of the book, which looks like something out of a novel about an English village. I found myself continuing to refer to it as I read of the different chapters devoted to the trees, the neighbors, the driveway, the various beds, the fountain, etc. Like the garden that finally emerges at Browning's home, there is something utterly enchanting about this book.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Almost PerfectBy dancegrant@gorge.netIf you are feeling adrift and lost in your thoughts and your garden is pressing in on you, read this book. You will gain insight and come out on the other side feeling hopeful.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. wonderful book for gardeners or people who just love gardening booksBy camellia loversms. browning is a talented writer, you can actually identify with her frustrations. miss the magazine she edited. don't know if it is still being published or not. would love to tell her about the camellia she described in the book. think it may have been " professor charles. s. sargent". the description would fit. since there are about thirty to fifty thousand named varieties, can't be sure. did wonder if it survived the collapsed wall. anyway, a great read.

With the same warmth, wisdom, wit, and accessibility that readers have come to love and trust in her monthly column, House Garden editor in chief Dominique Browning offers this lively, charming, and instructive story of restoring a neglected suburban garden. When a retaining wall in Browning's New York suburban garden collapsed, she was forced into action. *Paths of Desire* is the enchanting, amusing, and moving account of making a garden -- and confronting the essence of suburban gardening, with its idiosyncratic ecosystem. This meant struggling with depraved skunks and raccoons, marauding teenagers, plastic jungle gyms, toppling garbage cans, uncontrollable eyesores, potholed drives, and all the grinding, honking, and buzzing of the neighborhood. Browning's delightfully frank prose conveys the very sense of being deep in a garden, with all its organic smells and textures, and the myriad joys of deciding what to plant and watching as the vision is realized. It contains a rich store of advice and illustrative anecdotes for enthusiasts and novices alike, as Browning amusingly documents the missteps she took in the planning of her garden and the satisfactions of finally getting it right. In *Paths of Desire* she teaches us how to embrace our plots of land -- no matter their size, beauty, or proximity to the city -- and make them our own. But she also reminds us that the life of a garden can never be separated from the people who wander in and out of it: characters like the charming but useless children; the philosophical tree doctor and the band of Helpful Men; the neighbors -- legalistic on one side, aesthetically challenged on the other -- and, best and worst of all, the True Love. By the end of the book, Browning has transformed her garden -- and her life -- and has created a place of enchantment, which is most of all what a garden should be.

From Publishers Weekly "Desire paths," writes Browning, are defined by how people actually move from place to place, whether in physical space or emotionally and psychically. Browning (*Around the House and in the Garden*) recounts the creation of two desire paths: a "long and winding" one through her restored half-acre suburban garden, and an equally meandering one from the desolation of a broken marriage to the joyful rebuilding of both her garden and her life. Browning's century-old home may not be typical of today's suburbs, but what she contends with is. Raccoons, opossums and "neurotically evolved" skunks invade at night, as do beer-drinking teenagers. Dogs yap, horns honk and leaf blowers "grind all day." Warring with neighbors over "trees and walls and fences and garbage bins" is constant. Although "the suburban garden starts its life as a construction site," it is also a place where "nothing is impossible, and the only limitations on what you can do are your own will and imagination." Still, one needs "Helpful Men," a fraternity of roofers, masons, landscapers and tree surgeons who communicate by cell phone-almost exclusively with one another-and do not clean up. As Browning comes to rely more and more on "the Helpful Men" to fix the disorder in her garden, she gradually learns not to depend on "the True Love" to free her from the grasp of a rampant, flowerless wisteria and awaken her with a kiss. Instead, she discovers that her sons are showing "promising signs of usefulness" and sets out on an "endless" path in a "garden that springs from the heart." Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist People frequently spring into action only when their backs are against the wall. In Browning's case, the wall would actually have to collapse before she would begin to make much-needed major changes in her garden, and in her life. When the downpour of a sudden storm undermines the foundation of a beloved garden wall, Browning is forced to deal with the daunting consequences of ruined plants, altered vistas, and expensive reconstruction. Contrary to her lofty position as editor in chief of the venerable House and Garden magazine, Browning lives a down-to-earth existence in suburbia, replete with the problematic noisy and noisome neighbors, confounding critters, and trespassing teenagers so familiar to her readers. Such obstacles present creative and practical challenges whose solutions only reveal themselves when Browning ultimately learns to follow the paths of her own heart's desire. Just as her garden must be, Browning's intimately personal chronicle is filled with lines of breathtaking beauty, simple in their understated elegance yet profound in their impact on the human psyche. Carol Haggas Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Michael Pollan author of *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World* With this delightful book, Dominique Browning takes her rightful place in the ongoing over-the-back-fence conversation among American gardeners, that

tribe of literate amateurs -- writers first, horticulturists second -- who limn whole worlds in the space of a suburban yard. Penelope Hobhouse garden historian and author of *Gardens of Persia* Dominique Browning celebrates her personal passion, making an engrossing and illuminating read. I loved the book.