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Stalking the Wild Amaranth: Gardening in an Age of Extinction

Janet Marinelli
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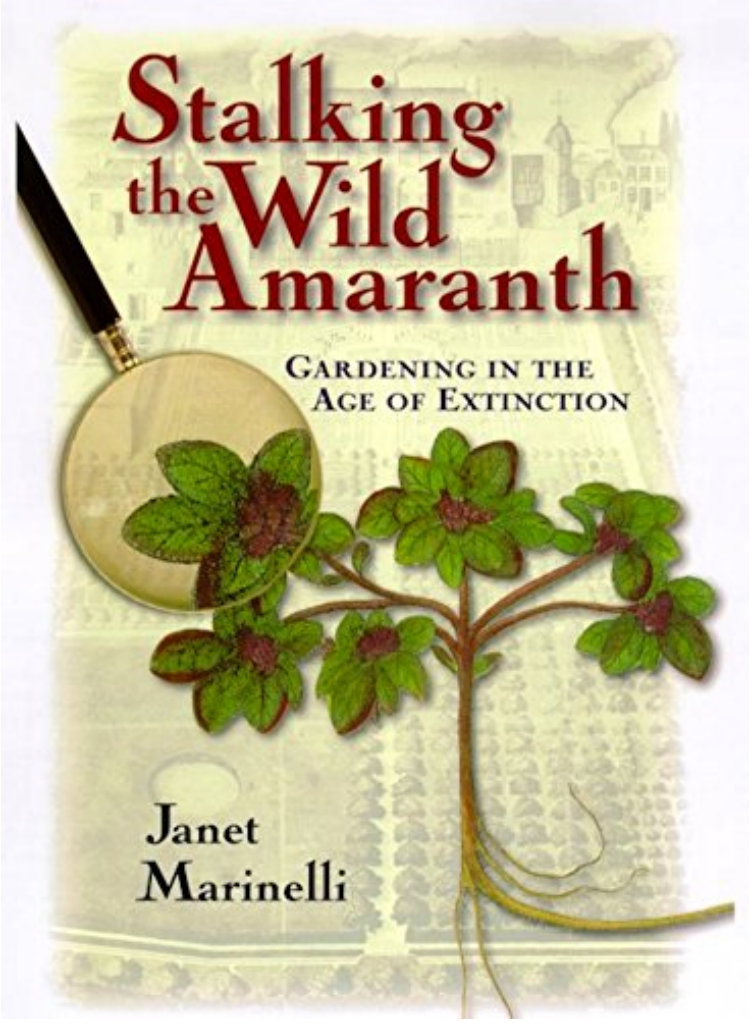

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Janet Marinelli : Stalking the Wild Amaranth: Gardening in an Age of Extinction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stalking the Wild Amaranth: Gardening in an Age of Extinction:

An important horticultural memoir articulating a new landscape art that's both environmentally sensitive and rich in creativity.Janet Marinelli left her comfortable city garden to join a botanist colleague in search of the rare Seabeach Amaranth--one of our many native species that is in danger of extinction. The result of the ensuing seven-year odyssey, Stalking the Wild Amaranth is a work of science and a work of art. Marinelli tells the story of her discovery that contemporary gardening is out of sync with theories evolving on the frontiers of science and philosophy. She also tells of her quest for a new garden art that nurtures a greater richness and variety of earthly life. Inspired by the legacy

of Henry David Thoreau, Marinelli blends history, horticulture, erudition, and personal insight into a narrative that ponders the relationship between humankind and nature. She fleshes out a vision for a new, ecologically wise landscape art, disagreeing ultimately with those who insist that growing native plants is the only way to recover our environmental equilibrium. Gardeners, she writes, should be free to experiment, to let our imaginations run wild, to learn how to be the creators of biodiversity as well as the preservers and restorers.