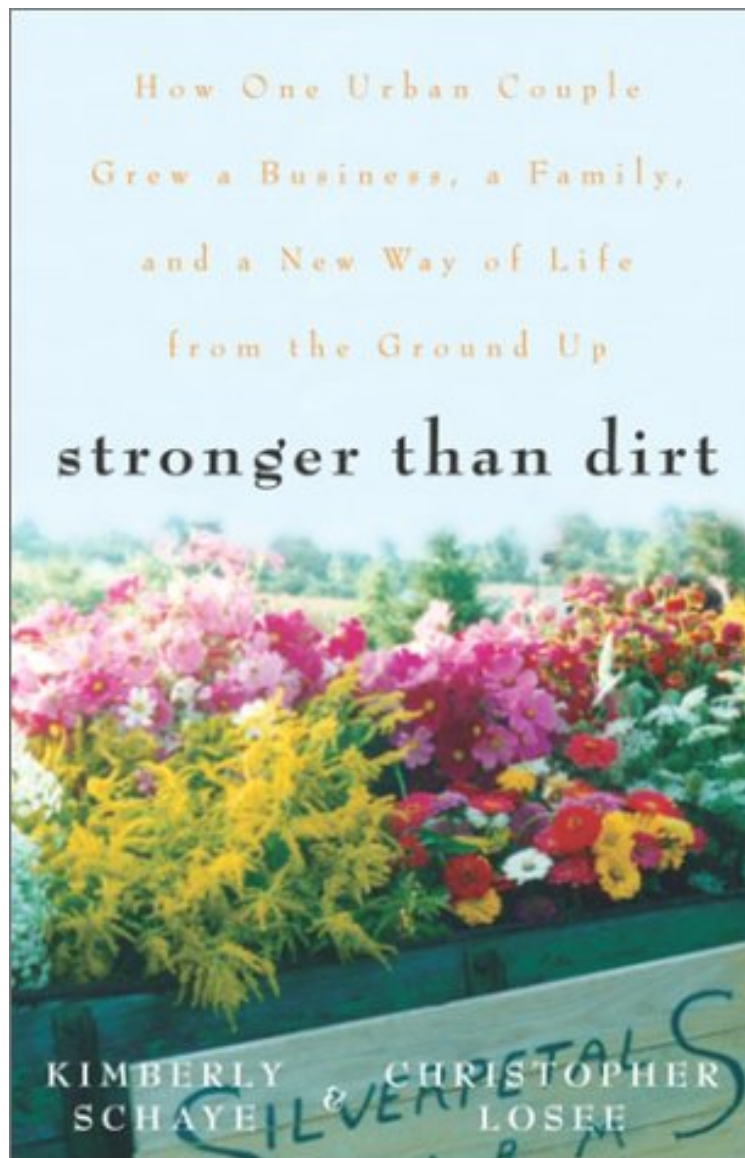


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Stronger Than Dirt: How One Urban Couple Grew a Business, a Family, and a New Way of Life from the Ground Up

Kim Schaye, Chris Losee

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Kim Schaye, Chris Losee : Stronger Than Dirt: How One Urban Couple Grew a Business, a Family, and a New Way of Life from the Ground Up before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stronger Than Dirt: How One Urban Couple Grew a Business, a Family, and a New Way of Life from the Ground Up:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Engaging Writing and an Inspiring Story
By Leslie Nicholson
I read this book in one sitting, I enjoyed it so much. I loved the alternating viewpoints and both Kimberly Schaye and Christopher Losee are engaging writers. The stories they tell are inspiring, humorous, and optimistic...I found myself laughing out loud at a couple points. Their journey from Brooklyn urbanites to upstate New York farmers is fascinating. As a former journalist, I found Kimberly's recounting of her experiences as a reporter for the Daily News particularly interesting, though it's really a side story.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Having fantasies of running away to live on a farm?
By Rebecca Giesel
If you are longing to leave the big city life and running away to live on a farm, this book is a good one to read. It isn't exactly a story of happily ever after. Instead, it's a true story of just how hard it is to grow flowers for a living. It's a story of how hard yet rewarding it is to follow your dreams, even if they aren't practical.
7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Beyond Gardening
By M. B. likes baking
What a fun book! Stronger than Dirt is a funny, fun, interesting look into the world of farming -- through formerly non-farmers' eyes. Told in a "he says, she says" format, you're able to see both sides of a funny -- and true -- story. Ms. Schaye's descriptions of the heat, sweat, labor, and truly beautiful countryside contrast with Mr. Losee's idealistic, optimistic, and realistic descriptions of the -- heat, sweat, and labor -- that went into starting their farm in Upstate New York. Their "truthful" and "no-holds-barred" writing style lets you feel their pains, triumphs, and successes almost first-hand. Even though my thumb is beyond black and I am not really into gardening, I enjoyed this book for the unusual and charming story that it is. I found myself laughing with their humor, and wincing with their setbacks, and I loved hearing about their families' reactions.

A Dream Takes Root
By turns enchanting and inspiring, Stronger Than Dirt is the true story of one couples successful attempt to build, from the ground up, an entirely new way of life. When Kim Schaye came home to Brooklyn from her writing job at a top New York City daily to find a breathtaking vase of wildflowers on her dining room table, she had no idea the bouquet would challenge her and change her life so completely. Her husband, Chris Losee, had gathered those glorious blossoms from one of the last working farms in the area that summer day, thus planting a seed in his mind to buy, start, and live on a farm. Stronger Than Dirt is Chris and Kims tale, told from the alternating viewpoints of a husband and wife who left behind the grind of their big city life to build what became a thriving flower farm. Battling mud, bugs, snow, deer, and the ever-encroaching weeds, while facing the dropped jaws of their friends and family, Kim and Chris created a successful business with perseverance and a good dose of humor. Whether you have a passion for gardening, a taste for the perfect tomato, or simply a willingness to take a chance, Stronger Than Dirt is sure to entertain as it reveals the beauty and bounty that embracing the unknown can bring.

From Publishers Weekly
In 1995, lured by a friend's enthusiasm for the pleasures of market gardening and his tales of the money to be made selling produce at greenmarkets, the authors, who lived in Brooklyn, decided to buy 30 acres of land in upstate New York. Schaye, who was an editorial writer for the New York Daily News, got herself reassigned as a reporter in the paper's Albany bureau so she could be close to the farm, and Losee gave up his failing construction business. In lively alternating essays, husband and wife tell the story of their venture. He recounts the details of building a house, tilling the land, constructing a deer fence; she, bemused at her husband's grandiose plans and his unflinching confidence, goes along with everything, including spending the first winter with thousands of tomato and pepper seedlings growing in the bedroom of their temporary apartment in Albany. Increasingly dissatisfied with her job covering the static New York State government, Schaye finally gave it up and entered wholeheartedly into farm work. After the first summer, they sold their house in Brooklyn, took part-time jobs, and through backbreaking labor, made their farm work. Now they have a successful business selling flowers and fresh produce at greenmarkets. Without playing down the hardships of the endeavor--though they're vague about financial details--the authors have written an engaging and unflinchingly optimistic book. 16 bw photos. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Booklist
Schaye was an editorial writer for the New York Daily News, and her husband, Losee, was facing the failure of a construction business begun by his father when they decided to make a leap of faith. They bought land in the Hudson Valley and started a farm, with little previous experience other than some rooftop gardening. In this engaging account of their transition from urbanites to farmers, Schaye and Losee alternate, providing his-and-her perspectives on the joys and travails of starting Silverpetals Farm and marketing flowers and produce to city dwellers. They endured the skepticism of their friends and family, as well as the locals in their new surroundings, and the challenges of weather, bugs, and their own steep learning curve. Looking back over seven years, the birth of two children, the creation of a successful business, and the personal journey to more fulfilling lives, Schaye and Losee offer insights into both farming and the pursuit of dreams. Vanessa Bush
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About the Author
KIMBERLY SCHAYE and CHRISTOPHER LOSEE live and farm in Columbia County, New York. In the summer and autumn, you'll find them selling their beautiful wildflower bouquets and fresh produce in greenmarkets in New York City and the Hudson Valley region of New York State.