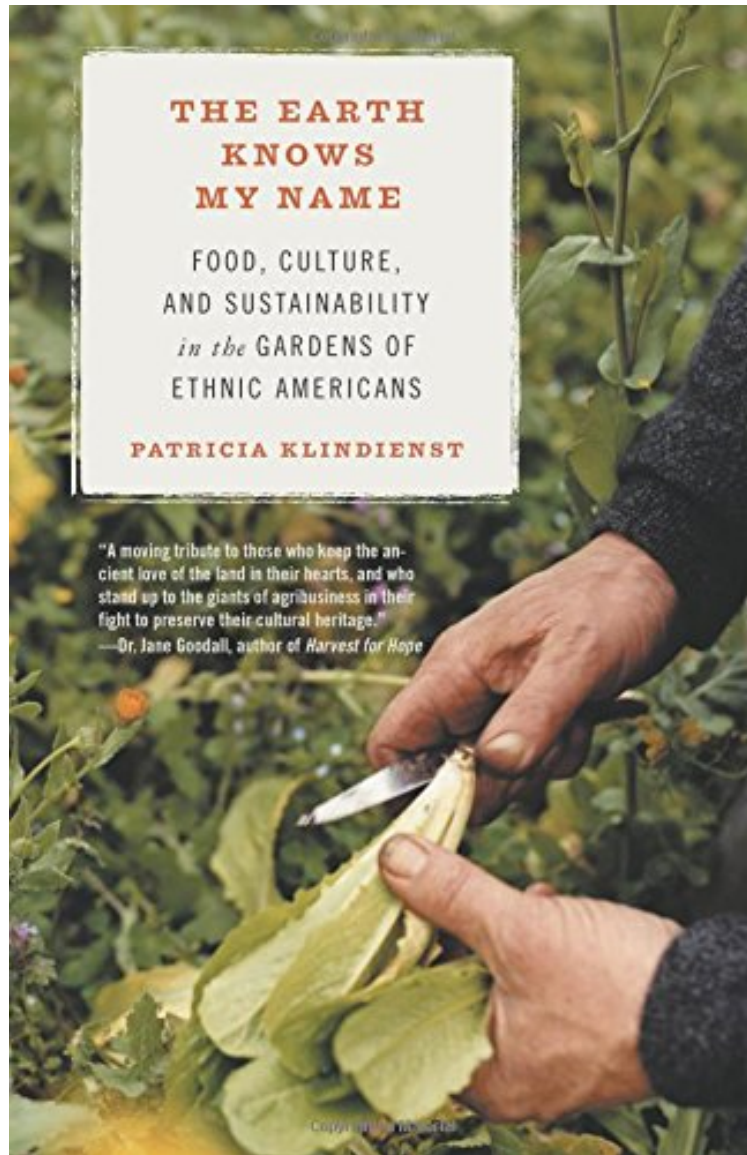


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The Earth Knows My Name: Food, Culture, and Sustainability in the Gardens of Ethnic Americans

Patricia Klindienst

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Patricia Klindienst : The Earth Knows My Name: Food, Culture, and Sustainability in the Gardens of Ethnic Americans before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Earth Knows My Name: Food, Culture, and Sustainability in the Gardens of Ethnic Americans:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Tracy J ColbyFantastic read if you like gardening and culture and food!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful food, culture viewBy Jill JoinerA look at how culture and food intersect. This book is a great for explaining how the connection between food history culture come together as a whole. I would highly suggest reading this if you love food culture.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love it.By Osei K. AgyemanI love this book. It is a great resource with exceptional understanding of the topics as discussed . Used as a compliment to other reading materials.

Patricia Klindienst crossed the country to write this book, inspired by a torn and faded photograph that shed new light on the story of her Italian immigrant family's struggle to adapt to America. She gathered the stories of urban, suburban, and rural gardens created by people rarely presented in books about American gardens: Native Americans, immigrants from across Asia and Europe, and ethnic peoples who were here long before our national boundaries were drawnincluding Hispanics of the Southwest, whose ancestors followed the Conquistadors into the Rio Grande Valley, and Gullah gardeners of the Sea Islands off the coast of South Carolina, descendants of African slaves.As we lose our connection to the soil, we no longer understand the relationship between food and a sense of belonging to a place and a people. In *The Earth Knows My Name*, Klindienst offers a lyrical exploration of how the making of gardens and the growing of food help ethnic and immigrant Americans maintain and transmit their cultural heritage while they put roots down in American soil. Through their work on the land, these gardeners revive cultures in danger of being lost. Through the vegetables, fruits, and flowers they produce, they share their culture with their larger communities. And in their reverent use of natural resources they keep alive a relationship to the land all but lost to mainstream American culture. With eloquence and passion, blending oral history and vivid description, Klindienst has created a book that offers a fresh and original way to understand food, gardening, and ethnic culture in America. In this book, each garden becomes an island of hope and offers us a model, on a sustainable scale, of a truly restorative ecology.

From Publishers WeeklyThough Klindienst imposes a strong philosophical structure on the narratives in this poetic collection, her political interpretations come second to the beauty and humor in what is essentially a set of portraits of both American gardens and gardeners. Woven into these stories are wide-ranging details of agricultural history: how to make blue corn piki bread, how the injustice of post-emancipation land sales affected one farmer, the fragrance of the sweet-sticky-pumpkin flower brought by refugees from Cambodia. Klindienst's writing shines when recounting her conversations with farmers, but her analysis of "hunger for community" and how a "garden can be a powerful expression of resistance" feels awkward. Luckily, between the prologue and the epilogue, Klindienst provides an unpretentious and touching tour of the increasingly rare corners of the country where land is worked by friendly locals who know the differences between five types of basil and can jaw for hours about plants, soil and the weather: "Oh golly let me see. It would be the bush beans," says one woman when asked about the type of seed she's been saving the longest (70 years, in this case). This book's broad scope touches on the best of nature writing, singing the rhythm of growth in both plants and people.Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistKlindienst celebrates gardens created by immigrants who resisted the intense pressure to assimilate into mainstream American society, in a lyrical account of her three-year journey to collect the stories of ethnic Americans for whom gardening is tantamount to cultural endurance. Survivors of the Pol Pot regime fled the killing fields of Cambodia for the healing fields of New England, while the Yankee inheritor of land wrested generations ago from Native Americans during the infamous Pequot Massacre of 1637 atones for that atrocity through the simple act of sharing seeds of corn with the tribe's descendants. Klindienst profiles 15 valiant and thoughtful gardeners intent on preserving their native birthright and on restoring and protecting their adopted land, individuals and families evincing a stewardship that not only resists cultural absorption but also sustains an ecological imperative. Carol HaggasCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved An original and exemplary kind of cultural study, *The Earth Knows My Name* is essential reading for anyone seriously interested in the growing reality that an ancient ecological relationship, imaginative and religious in its intensity, is slipping away.Geoffrey Hartman, author of *Scars of the Spirit: The Struggle Against Inauthenticity*"We who are far removed from our own immigrant roots will do well to study these eloquent stories and learn from them. Patricia Klindienst has given us nothing less than a great gift."Deborah Madison, author of *Local Flavors: Cooking and Eating from America's Farmers' Markets*"*The Earth Knows My Name* is a beautifully written testament to the transformative power of working the landits capacity to create stability in the uprooted and exiled, to instill faith in the local, to shape history, and to lend promise to the future."Jane Brox, author of *Clearing Land: Legacies of the American Farm*"Klindienst's stories demonstrate the cultural and spiritual imperative that keeps us growing familiar plants and foods, and reveals the power of the garden in maintaining our connection to our homelands and to the natural world."Michael Ableman, farmer and author of *Fields of Plenty: A Farmer's Journey in Search of Real Food and the People Who Grow It*"A moving tribute to those who keep the ancient love of the land in their hearts, and who stand up to the giants of agrobusiness in their fight to preserve their cultural heritage." Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute, UN Messenger of Peace, and author of *Harvest for Hope: A Guide to Mindful Eating*"A poignant book that shows, without undue

sentimentality, the underlying element we all share and can bring to life with our hands." Edie Clark, Orion "This book's broad scope touches on the best of nature writing, singing the rhythm of growth in both plants and people." Publishers Weekly "A wonderful set of real life stories with broad appeal to gardeners, foodies, environmentalists, and those with an interest in their own experience as descendants of immigrants. The issue of cultural assimilation is handled sensitively and the prose is evocative of the people and places visited." Donna O. Dziedzic (PLA) AAUP Best of the Best Program "It lifts my heart to find the kind of intelligence, grace, and regard that are in this book's pages." Barry Lopez, author of Arctic Dreams