

The Garden Of Reading

Michele Slung

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Michele Slung : The Garden Of Reading before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Garden Of Reading:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent storiesBy a readerA friend gave me this book as a birthday gift since she knows I'm a gardener. I am enjoying it more than I can say. The stories all have to do with a garden in one way or another but all are quite different in spite of their common themes and every one that I have read so far (I'm parceling them out at one per night like candy they are so good) has been a wonderful story that stands on its own.

Any lover of short stories would enjoy this book whether or not the person had an interest in gardens. The very first story by David Guterson moved me to tears. It's a shame that this book doesn't have more reviews - I recommend it highly! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. a garden of delightful stories
By Deborah Barchi
If you love gardens and gardening as I do, you know you are thinking about gardens all the time, even in, or especially during, the winter months. That's one of the reasons that I so much enjoyed a book I read recently entitled *Garden of Reading*, edited by Michele Slung. With a selection of outstanding writers that includes such notables as Eudora Welty, Robert Graves, Doris Lessing, Colette, Barbara Pym, and Edna O'Brien you know the quality of the writing will stand the test of time like a fine heirloom rose. The stories are not merely paeans to the glories of gardening, however. More often the gardens serve as the backdrop or setting of stories that are quite compelling and sometimes disconcerting examinations of the minutia of human emotions and interactions. In Eudora Welty's story, "A Curtain of Green", an eccentric Southern widow finds reality and memory meshing in a kind of vegetative haze. In Stephen King's slightly mad story "Lawnmower Man" an unlucky everyman finds his worse gardening phobia realized. James Thurber enjoys his usual comic romp in the delicious "See No Weevil"; while V. S. Prichard's sly take on adultery gives new meaning to the symbolism of a fig tree. Gardens as symbols of greed and power are evoked in Rose Tremain's story "The Garden of Villa Mollini". In "The Secret Garden" by Victoria Rothchild, a young woman's naive belief in organic gardening is lost; while in "Blue Poppies" by Jane Gardam, a middle-aged woman struggles to keep her patience while her senile, garden-savvy mother rambles over the grounds of a crumbling but still beautiful estate. In each story no matter what its theme or intent, the world of plants and people come together, sometimes colliding, sometimes colluding, always aware on some level of their importance to each other. As winter days shorten and our gardens temporarily disappear, it's a treat to pick up a book in which flowers, trees, shrubs, and grass are forever blooming, growing, and waving in the warm, scented air.

Michele Slung has collected an enchantingly rich bouquet of captivating, memorable, and frequently surprising stories about gardens and gardening. Eudora Welty, James Thurber, Doris Lessing, Lisa St. Aubin, Saki, V.S. Prichett, Colette, and Robert Graves are included, along with unexpected finds from Stephen King, J.G. Ballard, Sandra Cisneros, Jane Smiley, and Garrison Keillor, among others. The ga

From Booklist
Where else but in a garden could one find a tender rose flourishing next to a tough cactus, a rustic arbor framing a delicate vine? Slung acknowledges such satisfying serendipity in her equally enchanting anthology of garden-related short fiction, a lush compilation of stories that celebrates the garden's role in inspiring love, fueling desire, soothing pain, assuaging grief. Few collections could support both a Garrison Keillor and a Stephen King, but Slung arranges her entries as carefully as the most discerning landscape designer. "The Flower Garden," David Guterson's sensitive tribute to lost love, is artfully balanced by "See No Weevil," James Thurber's whimsical reflection on botanical nomenclature. Lisa St. Aubin de Teran conjures a unique form of pest control, while the inimitable Saki amuses with his inspired answer to every gardener's prayers. From the perfection of J. G. Ballard's "The Garden of Time" to the poignance of Anne Rosner's "Prize Tomatoes," Slung winsomely celebrates the creative muses of gardeners and writers alike. Carol Haggas
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved
"A surprising variety of authors offer fine writing about how plants and gardens shape our dreams and daily lives." *Seattle Times*
"A must-read for all gardeners" *Gardening*
About the Author
Michele Slung is the author of *Momilies(r)* and the editor of *I Shudder at Your Touch*, *Shudder Again*, *Slow Hand*, and *Fever*, along with many other anthologies.