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From The University of North Carolina Press : A Garden of One's Own: Writings of Elizabeth Lawrence
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Garden of One's
Own: Writings of Elizabeth Lawrence:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great companion to No One Gardens Alone By Cheyenne B. Lovely writer. Great companion to No One Gardens Alone. Don't let the fact that Lawrence was a "Southern" writer put you off. I garden in the Mojave desert and enjoyed Miss Lawrence. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 12 years and they are still beautiful. Plus By SR Morris I think this was one of the first books I purchased at . We had just moved to Charlotte and I heard about Ms. Lawrence. I am a flower gardener and used her book as a guide to plant the perennials. 12 years and they are still beautiful. Plus, the book is good reading. It's a keeper. 20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Relatively complex, not for beginners.... By Dianne Foster If you've reached the stage in your garden education where you're a Master Gardener or the self-taught equivalent, you will be ready for "A Garden of One's Own" by Elizabeth Lawrence (1904-85). Ms Lawrence was a landscape architect, botanist, horticulturist, and garden writer who lived and worked in North Carolina. The editors, Scott and Ward have compiled and distilled her writings from many sources (magazines, letters, plant society bulletins) into a useful resource. Although "A Garden of One's Own" contains a section dedicated to gardeners in the Middle South as well as a nice essay on William Lanier Hunt, it is not just for those living in the Piedmont area of North Carolina. The book is filled with information Ms Lawrence exchanged with plant collectors and gardeners as far away as the northwest coast of the U.S. Many plants that grow well in the Piedmont area of North Carolina can also be viable further north, in the upper South, and in various higher altitude areas on the Pacific coast. As Ms Lawrence says, the growing zones extend across the country. I have always found Ms Lawrence's exchanges with folks in Ohio (colder), Mississippi (hotter), and other parts of the country quite informative. I do believe she must have been one of the first writers to educate the lay public about the effects of climate and growing conditions on garden plants. As every frustrated rosarian knows, one simply cannot grow everything everywhere. Ms Lawrence informed her readers by sharing the thoughts, concerns, and experiences of her correspondants about some plant, say ground phlox, and well as her own thoughts and experiences concerning the same plant. Because Ms Lawrence was a botanist, she preferred the Latin names of plants, and always used them in her writing. She included the local colloquial names too -- and on hearing them you understand why the Latin terminology is indispensable. I have found her approach extremely helpful because plants often have dozens of local names, but the Latin identification allows me to know exactly what she's discussing and find it in Hortus. Also, the editors have added footnotes where necessary to update the Latin terminology. Ms Lawrence loved 'Rock Gardening' and I found the sections addressing this topic most illuminating. She contrasts the mountainous origins of plants growing on rocks, with the efforts of gardeners in the flatlands to build "mountain-like" gardens. You can build a rock garden anywhere, you just have to think about what you're doing, use flora that will survive in your microcosm, and select plants that will not overtake a bed or dwarf other plants with outsized proportions. On a business trip a few years ago, I visited the Denver Botanical Garden--with the goal of viewing the Alpine Rock Gardens. It was April, the sky was blue and the weather unseasonably warm (70 degrees). Lilacs were in bloom along with hundreds of bulbs, but the thing I will remember the longest are the wonderful Alpine rock gardens. I spent the whole day wandering from plot to plot, and don't recall ever having felt any happier. There are little bits of heaven on earth and the Denver Botanical Garden is one of them.

Gardening enthusiasts and those who love to read about gardening will be delighted by this new collection of Elizabeth Lawrence's work. A gifted landscape architect and writer, Lawrence (1904-85) chronicled her experiences with plants in a voice treasured for its distinctive blend of horticultural expertise and stylistic elegance. Through her six books, all still in print, Lawrence continues to inspire an ever-widening circle of dedicated readers everywhere. Between 1932 and 1978, Lawrence wrote more than fifty articles for gardening magazines, newsletters, and plant society bulletins. These writings--uncovered in a seven-year search and collected here for the first time--offer further testament to her talent for conveying practical details in an engaging, literate manner. Treating such subjects as trees and shrubs, bulbs, perennials, native plants, even fellow gardeners, this collection will be welcomed by the novice and knowledgeable gardener alike. Elizabeth Lawrence, a graduate of Barnard College, was the first woman to receive a degree in landscape architecture from the North Carolina State College School of Design. Her writings were informed and inspired by her own legendary gardens in Raleigh and Charlotte.

From Library Journal If you garden in the Southeast, you will want this collection of articles by noted garden writer Lawrence (1904-84), taken from such popular magazines as House Garden, The Home Garden, Garden Gossip, and others from the 1930s and 1940s. Presenting her personal observations--the key to all good garden writing--Lawrence proselytizes for plants native to the Southeast and for unusual plants that were neglected in her area and time, especially for plants with winter interest. She is no zealot, however, for she also writes about rock garden plants for the mid-South, acknowledging that her climate is not at all ideal for alpine plants. The practical advice she gives about specific plants--e.g., "it takes about three seasons to evaluate a daylily"--and the liveliness of her writing make this volume of interest to all gardening collections but essential only to those in her mid-South area. Daniel Starr, Museum of Modern Art, New York Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. [H]er practical point of view, her literary perspective, and her elegant writing style make this book a delight. "Journal American Rhododendron Society" A

treasure to be enjoyed.--Richmond Times-DispatchThe practical advice [Lawrence] gives about specific plants . . . and the liveliness of her writing make this volume of interest to all gardening collections.--Library JournalThis newest Lawrence book is a good read, perfect to pick up and enjoy on a wintry evening by the fire. Her charming, personal and informative writings probably will lead you on to read more of Elizabeth Lawrence, if her books are not already treasures on your garden bookshelves. Savor them all.--Sandra Ladendorf, Rock Garden QuarterlyThe writings of Elizabeth Lawrence are pure pleasure. . . . Lawrence's eye for the right plant combination, her practical point of view, her literary perspective, and her elegant writing style make this book a delight.--Journal American Rhododendron SocietyFor garden writing at its best, don't miss the newest collection of Elizabeth Lawrence's work. . . . [Combines] lovely lyrical writing and dirt-under-the-fingernails advice. . . . [Lawrence] was truly a gardener's gardener. . . . Curling up with these writings is as magical as meandering through a summer garden in the early morning, when the dew hangs heavy on June roses and birdsong fills the air. Don't miss this posthumous tribute to one of the South's most gifted landscape architects and writers.--Southern LivingThe practical advice she gives about specific plants . . . and the liveliness of her writing make this volume of interest to all gardening collections.--Library JournalLawrence is a southern belletrist of the gardening world. . . . This book rocks one gently like a swing sofa on a stilled porch among bleached cushions, the chattering of a cardinal and the chink of tea cups.---New Plantsman, Royal Horticulture SocietyWonderful reading with useful information tucked in--a special treat for southeastern gardeners, though it is not necessary to live there to savor this graceful book.--HorticultureNot only does Lawrence impart her vast knowledge of Southern gardening with expertise, but she also wrote in an elegant style and sure voice. Even if you know nothing about plants, her manner of placing the word on the page holds the interest and deepens one's respect for this great writer and gardener who wove literature and history into her articles. Happy reading, and pray for gentle rain.--Charlotte Leader