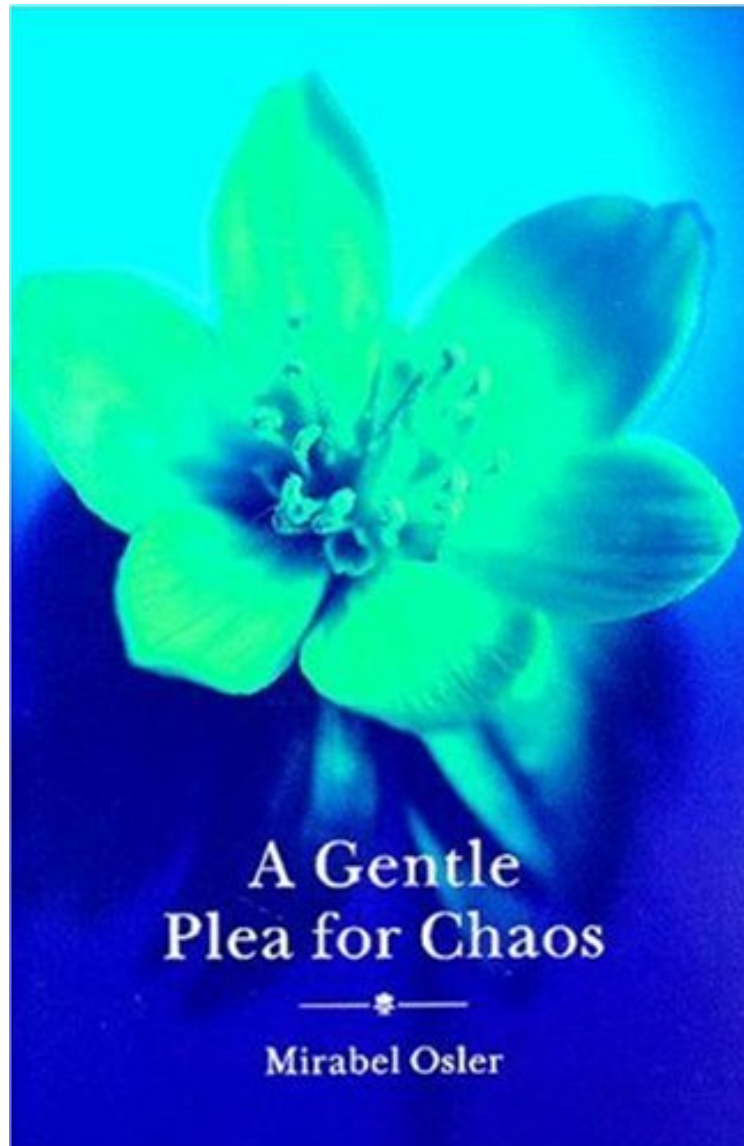


[Free read ebook] A Gentle Plea for Chaos

## A Gentle Plea for Chaos

*Mirabel Osler*

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**Mirabel Osler : A Gentle Plea for Chaos** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Gentle Plea for Chaos:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Chaos in the garden? Just my style.By C. RingThis account of one couple's experience in creating their garden in the English countryside is entertaining and afforded me many opportunities to think, " Isn't that just the way it is!" But imagining all the physical work they supposedly did on their own really exhausted me. I do really appreciate their approval of letting plants be "natural" to their surroundings and

like its justification of the lovely mess I keep. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love it! By valjay This delightful book has been my favourite garden book for many years. I made the mistake of loaning my original copy and never got it back. It's been out of print so I was thrilled to find it online. Beautiful photos of a lush British garden. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... allow my garden to "drift" and not be so perfect. By Lynn P Mirabel has given me the mental freedom to allow my garden to "drift" and not be so perfect.... WOW!

In controlled disorder lie planted the essence and beauty of the English garden, the ideal for gardens the world over. In her ability to inspire and evoke the passions and obsessions of gardeners, Mirabel Osler offers a stirring appeal for gardens that have lives of their own, that reflect not so much a compulsion for dominance and regimentation as an intimate understanding of nature's own designs.

From Kirkus s Osler's plea is not so gentle; rather, its opinionated (though never dismissive), bell-clear, wickedly humorous, brilliant--a call for cultivated anarchy in the garden that turns an oxymoron into a sensuous, sensible act. "Why garden? God knows . . . Damn those fine mornings. It's then that guilt seeps in like bad gas," groans Osler, one of England's best-known gardeners. Don't buy it for a minute. Her love of gardening is obvious, even if "a great number of gardening jobs are pure slog." And her garden, eclectically wanton as it is, enemy of everything regimented and overly neat, shot through with the native vitality of plants for atmosphere and mystery, brings her to her knees much of the time; untidiness requires work. She wouldn't have it any other way. She likes a rude edge, to blur and enchant, the unruly "quality that adds an extra sensory dimension." She loves hedges, walls, and paths--"the bones of a garden"--as long as they don't rob the garden of its sensuality. Here she offers not so much advice as the experience of her Shropshire garden: trees for their summer crowns and bare winter branches, stone for its texture and floral affinities, water for its attractiveness to humans and kingfishers and newts, bulbs for their individuality and scope. She's not tethered to flowers, but she loves them too ("who can go outside and kick a lily?"). Like her garden, Osler will not be confined, and she delights in moving off in many directions, to weather wars and the transporting quality of scent, botanical illustrations and the patron saints of gardening (Osler suggests a small figure of one in the garden "might be just as efficacious as a blast of Phostrogen"). Osler's thinking is original, intuitive, and sharp as a tack; as a gardening writer she rightly sits up there with Henry Mitchell and Eleanor Perenyi. -- Copyright 1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. ...a smart, spirited, gorgeously written and above all funny book ... open-minded (her outlook is refreshingly international), personal and passionate... -- The New York Times Book , Michael Pollan About the Author Mirabel Osler won the 1988 Sinclair Consumer Press Garden Writer of the Year Award. She lives in England.