Tasha Tudors Garden by Tovah Martin

A Beautiful Book

Tasha Tudors poignant art has fascinated adults and children for decades. Her nineteenth-century New England lifestyle is legendary. Gardeners are especially intrigued by the profusion of antique flowers -- spectacular poppies, six-foot foxgloves, and intoxicating peonies -- in the cottage gardens surrounding her hand-hewn house. Until now we've only caught glimpses of Tasha Tudor's landscape. In this gorgeous book, two of her friends, the garden writer Tovah Martin and the photographer Richard Brown, take us into the magical garden and then behind the scenes. As we revel in the bedlam of Johnny-jump-ups and cinnamon pinks, the intricacy of the formal peony garden, and the voluptuousness of her heirloom roses, we also learn Tasha's gardening secrets. How does she coax forth her finicky camellia blossoms in the dead of a Vermont winter? How does she train that fantastic topiary to model for her artwork? How can she keep her crown imperials from tumbling in the winds? Tasha's garden reflects a wealth of family lore, perfected through the years and years of working the soil. We may be dazzled by the beauty of the garden, but we come away from this book with practical ideas about improving our own plots of land. Paradise on earth is how Tasha describes her garden, and along with the flowers and the vegetables that provide her food, her paradise is filled with an enchanting menagerie -- corgies, Nubian goats, cats, chickens, fantail doves, and forty or more exotic finches, cockatiels, canaries, nightingales, and parrots, which inhabit her collection of antique cages. Tasha's beautiful watercolors and her enchanting anecdotes color this sublimely beautiful book.

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I absolutely LOVED this book. If you are into cottage gardens, then this book is a must. I am a relatively slow reader, but this book was so wonderfully written and attention-sustaining that I actually read it in about a day.

Tasha Tudors Garden is a true story that describes a year in the life of a fascinating lady, providing an elaborate narrative on how she maintains her
animals and lavish, romantic gardens on her several-acre hilltop property in Vermont. She lives as though she is in the nineteenth century--(in her attire as well as in how she does most of her work using traditional methods, such as cooking in a wood-burning stove). It also talks about another love of Tashas, that being her art.

Within the text, you can pick up ideas and small tips here and there for how to design, create, and establish a cottagy garden, as well as other small things (ie: starting primroses). However, these things are not formally laid-out, but rather briefly and lightly discussed in small bits throughout the text.

Basically, this book gives the account for an average years worth of successes, struggles, and mundane moments for a truly admirable woman--(although for most of us, almost none of her moments are really mundane).

I couldnt possibly recommend this book anymore than I already do. Even if you dont have a garden, the book will touch your heart and leave a lasting infatuation with old-fashioned gardening. I certainly enjoyed day-dreaming about the profusion of daffodils, messes of self-sown forget-me-nots and johnny-jump-ups, gigantic bleeding hearts, masses of bomb-petaled peonies, 6-foot tall foxgloves, and countless other floral delights. READ IT! YOU WONT REGRET GETTING THE BOOK!!!