

The Morville Hours: The Story of a Garden

Katherine Swift

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Katherine Swift : The Morville Hours: The Story of a Garden before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Morville Hours: The Story of a Garden:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Heavy SleddingBy Constant ReaderThere are how-to garden books and lavishly photographed garden books, and then there's a third category: the offbeat, personal account of a person's

garden that rises to the level of "garden literature", a delight that owes its strength to wonderful writing. Katherine Swift was clearly aiming at "garden literature" in "The Morville Hours". I think she tried too hard. She chose to tell her tale about becoming the chief gardener at Morville, a British National Trust property in Shropshire, by wrapping it within her account of the medieval Book of Hours, which made it heavy sledding for me. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Take the TimeBy CustomerThe Morville Hours is a meditation on gardening, history, one's place and time. It is beautifully written. It's not a gardening book but a gardening book of the soul and place. I love some of her descriptions of breathing the air, and tilling the soil that generations have breathed and tilled. Perhaps we are too solution conscious to stop, stand still, and look at the snow by moonlight. If you like these things, I highly recommend this book to you. I am buying 5 as gifts. I would recommend the following: Clear Mind, Wild HeartThe Elegance of the HedgehogThe Wild Braid: A Poet Reflects on a Century in the Garden][[ASIN:0312427808 The Housekeeper and the Professor: A Novel11 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful story of a garden and how the author brought ...By CustomerWonderful story of a garden and how the author brought it back to life. In my opinion, however, she spent way too much time complaining about what a tough childhood she had. We all have our problems and I didn't buy the book to read about hers.

An intriguing story of a place, a person and the garden she created. In 1988 Katherine Swift arrived at the Dower House at Morville to create a garden of her own. This beautifully written, utterly absorbing book is the history of the many people who have lived in the same Shropshire house, tending the same soil, passing down stories over the generations. Spanning thousands of years, The Morville Hours takes the form of a medieval Book of Hours. It is a meditative journey through the seasons, but also a journey of self-exploration. It is a book about finding one's place in the world and putting down roots.

From Publishers WeeklySwift, a former London Times gardening columnist, invites readers to slow down, taste the fresh fruit and sniff the blooming flowers. Entwining gardening with natural and local history, family memories, garden visitors like insects, animals and people, and religious traditions, Swift explores the cycles of the seasons and life while providing a fresh breath of country air. Was quince responsible for the Trojan War as well as Adam and Eve's fall from Paradise? Garden tidbits, such as pear trees living for 250 years and damson plums having provided the dye for British military uniforms, are abundant. But more so, Swift offers an exploration of the world as seen through the eyes of a longtime gardener. The months in the garden are explored alongside the medieval Catholic book of hours; days and seasons cycle with Swift's narratives of garden design, Roman history, astronomy and brain chemistry. Swift's meditative prose should appeal to gardeners (armchair or soil-based) and nature lovers alike with its invitation to pause for reflection. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistTaking possession of Morville, a centuries-old Shropshire estate, Swift had to prove to England's National Trust that she was equal to the task of restoring the massive gardens to a state that would both honor their venerable history and reflect their natural beauty. In truth, there was no one more capable of acknowledging a heritage that included gentry and clergy, royalty and paupers. A born naturalist with a keen eye, Swift delved into the property's past with the emotional sensitivity of a poet and the solemn tenacity of a historical scholar. Season by season, Swift chronicles the changes she envisioned and accomplished, using the monastic Book of Hours as both her guide and touchstone. Though her reflections might begin with the memory of a moonlight stroll down a snow-covered path, Swift is quick to position these personal revelations within the timeless context of Morville's ancestry. Withrhapsodic eloquence and passionate devotion, Swift imparts the rewards and discoveries inherent in such a multifaceted commitment to time and place. --Carol Haggas 'A magical book. I have read it twice now. I love the richness of Katherine Swift's prose; the flashes of her family's story that are scattered through the deliciously written text; the gorgeous detail. The Morville Hours is the most beautiful book I have read in years' Nigel Slater 'An intriguing, magical story of a place, a person and her plants' Anna Pavord, author of The Naming of Names 'A truly remarkable book that is both intimate and universal. We are left with a renewed sense of what it is to be human, and of how we make our place in a world that is intricate, unpredictable and filled with quotidian mysteries' Daily Telegraph 'This is gardening writing at its best. Swift's prose brings the garden alive in all its details, scents and meaning ... Evocative, heartfelt and magical' Guardian