

(Download free pdf) The Unexpected Houseplant: 220 Extraordinary Choices for Every Spot in Your Home

# The Unexpected Houseplant: 220 Extraordinary Choices for Every Spot in Your Home

Tovah Martin

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**Tovah Martin : The Unexpected Houseplant: 220 Extraordinary Choices for Every Spot in Your Home** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Unexpected Houseplant: 220 Extraordinary Choices for Every Spot in Your Home:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fun Ruminations On Unexpected GeneraBy PA good book, if I don't feel like the target audience. I'm not an outdoor gardener looking to liven chilly months with overwintered outdoor plants. As a cramped apartment dweller, none of my plants can get a summer break outdoors, and Tovah's admonishment that no one needs grow lights just isn't the case with only northern windows. Nevertheless, some of her suggestions will do well with a northwestern window and some aggressive pruning to combat etiolation, from prior experience. More so than a guide to particular plants, however, this book is a guide to how to get houseplants to work for you. From my own experience, you really do need to -love- your plants to make them live. My finicky maidenheads are resplendent with fronds, and the temperamental tropicals are taking over, but the humdrum, basic begonia has only

two leaves, and the "can you take care of this for me until I can take it back -- (five years later it's still here)" Aloe is going brown. Tovah also explains her particular situation, and repeats it often - cold, dim winters, and summers outdoors. And this is important - as she highlights - because you really need to know your home's environment to know what plants to keep (and where). My own thoughts have never jived with the "disposable houseplant" ideology, as best evidenced by some hyacinth I forced in February that is still in my kitchen (why cut down the leaves if it's still growing?). But she makes a good case for growing some plants I've always wanted indoors, even though I have no outdoors they can head to after that. There's a decent focus on flowers, which I can't do because of allergic-to-everything housemates, in case that is also your situation, be forewarned. Of course, flowers are the big attention-grabbers in any garden, so it makes sense. Of the "plants that are sold as houseplants" expect to see few of the "easy care" options, but of course, that's kind of the point-- dracaenas are never unexpected. Many are the notoriously difficult: gardenias, jasmines, calatheas and croton get mentions, but the easy-for-any-conditions-plants are mostly peperomias, bromeliads and sansevieria. Admittedly, quite a few of the plants are still easy, but they are usually sold for outdoor purposes, or mail-order-only exotics. There's a bit about basic care near the end, and it's decent. She is the sort who keeps everything organic - pesticides, dirt, etc. So don't expect tables about which chemical for what pest or what have you. As for my critiques: well, as mentioned earlier, this book seems to -expect- a house to work with. Since she keeps few plants indoors for the summer, many of her choices would be exceedingly impermanent in dim indoor lighting. She wants you to have an eastern- or western- exposure (or maybe south). Since she doesn't run much heat, she seems to underestimate how much some plants need humidity that they just won't get in the average home. All the photos, though beautiful, look staged. I want to see where the plant grows day-in and day-out, so that I can judge the light it's getting versus what I can give it. Other than those modest complaints, the book is fun funny, and maybe it can light a passion in your heart to try houseplants again!

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Another Lovely Tovah Houseplant Book By Juana Moore-overmyer All Tovah Martin books are pretty great, I'd recommend this one for people who want help thinking outside traditional planters and pots. It has seasonal and exposure approaches to bringing the outdoors inside all year round. If, like me, you don't have tons of room, or many 'good' unobstructed southern exposures, she can help you sort out looking at plants in a new way. If you've repeatedly failed with a certain plant, the section on the ones she just can't make work will comfort you - or cause you to gloat!

10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very very interesting. I'm glad I read it. By Tor Seems like it is written for a more experienced gardener but it still gave me an interesting introduction to the world of houseplants and it put a huge desire in me to have a house full of houseplants. It's full of pictures of her fascinating home filled to the brim with plants. She says winter will never feel like winter if you have a house full of plants. That's a brilliant point, and could change my life because I despise winter.

It's time for plant lovers to dust off their houseplants, update their image, and discover just how exciting, trendy, and crucial plants can be in the home. The Unexpected Houseplant, by renowned plant authority Tovah Martin, isn't your typical, old-fashioned, dowdy houseplant book. Martin's approach is revolutionary picture brilliant spring bulbs by the bed, lush perennials brought in from the garden, quirky succulents in the kitchen, even flowering vines and small trees growing beside an easy chair. Martin brings an evangelist's zeal to the task of convincing homeowners that indoor plants aren't just a luxury they're a necessity. In addition to design flair, houseplants clean indoor air, which can be up to ten times more polluted. Along with loads of visual inspiration, readers will learn how to make unusual selections, where to best position plants in the home, and valuable tips on watering, feeding, grooming, pruning, and troubleshooting, season by season.

Will boost the confidence of even the most black-thumbed houseplant owner. Martin's can-do enthusiasm is infectious, her creativity inspiring. Booklist An imaginative guide to bringing the delights of the garden indoors. Publishers Weekly All indoor plant hobbyists in every geographic area will enjoy and learn from this book. Its fresh approach deserves a thumbs-up. Library Journal [Martin] has a witty, creative voice that warms her new book. Traditional Home Tovah Martin's newest book is no dry encyclopedic volume: Her personal, engaging writing style is as entertaining as it is informative. Country Gardens As the air gets crisper outside, it's time to rethink what plants can do to enliven our interior spaces. Tips on how to care for ordinary and not-so-ordinary species are revealed, so non-green-thumbers need not fear. Design New England This book engenders so much enthusiasm for indoor flora that you can find yourself outdoors with a shovel in your hand robbing your own garden of plants to bring inside. Gardenista This isn't just another book on houseplants; it's an invitation to adventure. Horticulture Martin writes in a captivatingly personal way. Its Martin's exuberance and deep knowledge that'll keep you reading. Seattle Times Martin's book makes one look very differently at the whole houseplant phenomenon. It isn't so much a practical guide as a challenge to think outside the box when trying to bring the outside inside. Daily Hampshire Gazette As the air gets crisper outside, it's time to rethink what plants can do to enliven our interior spaces. Tips on how to care for ordinary and not-so-ordinary species are revealed, so non-green-thumbers need not fear. Refreshing in the world of garden books. Philadelphia Inquirer A good book for plant geeks and anyone tired of the same old peace lilies. Harrisburg Patriot-News A smart, stylish book

