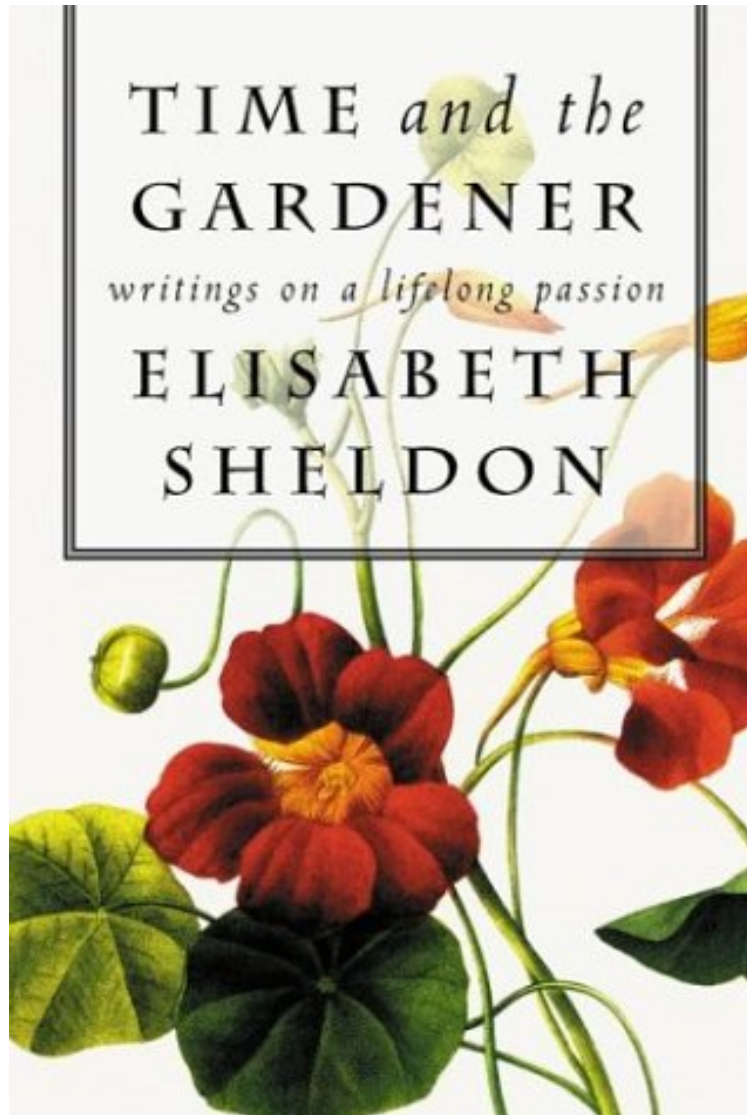


[Ebook free] Time and the Gardener: Writings on a Lifelong Passion (Concord Library)

## Time and the Gardener: Writings on a Lifelong Passion (Concord Library)

*Elisabeth Sheldon*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#4255341 in Books Beacon Press 2003-02-18Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .0 x .0 x .0l, #File Name: 0807085561276 pages | File size: 28.Mb

**Elisabeth Sheldon : Time and the Gardener: Writings on a Lifelong Passion (Concord Library)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Time and the Gardener: Writings on a Lifelong Passion (Concord Library):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Elisabeth and her colorful gardenBy A CustomerTIME AND THE GARDENER brings together Elisabeth Sheldon's unpublished writings, from the last 13-14 years, on flower

gardening. The author begins by calling gardening "delightful, absorbing, intensely gratifying, maddening, and exhausting" digging, planting, weeding, working, and reading, reading, reading. It's also mind-changing, because of "lost plants and new ideas." Sheldon once gardened properly, in white, silver and pale yellow or grey and pink, lavender and lime. Then she gardened flamboyantly, in hot-colors. Next, she border gardened, with purple flowers and leaves. That took her garden full circle. In fall, purple looked so good, with *Lespedeza thunbergii* 'Pink Fountain', 'Ballerina' rose and *Dianthus*; dwarf sage, grey 'Hidcote' lavender, and *helianthemum*; and white-leaved prickly poppy. Just as with color combinations, plant dislikes and likes change. Hot-color gardening got Sheldon to plant dahlias, marigolds, petunias, and zinnias. Border gardening in sulphur and wine let in yellow-leaved plants. So gardening might well leave the gardener with "nothing to hate." But it won't always grow better people or weed out curmudgeons. For example, on a cold winter night, nineteenth-century gardening know-it-all William Robinson opened windows and put out stoves in a hated former employer's greenhouses. In large part, though, Sheldon finds gardeners "exceptionally" gentle, as students of humbling lessons. In the second part of her book, she therefore shares gardening trials and errors, in central New York. There, on a Cayuga Lake area farm, her garden shows its age. How can it do other than sicken and die along with, or shortly after, her? It's the only way, what with the three "b's" of bad weather, beasts and blunders. It's blundering over trees Sheldon regrets. To her, they were thirsty rivals to plants for nutrients and water. Now in her 80s, she wishes that she had long ago set aside one of her fields as an arboretum. It's not just because of what trees do, for air and dirt. It's also for color and looks. What can beat the year-round "silky" grey bark of European beeches, the ruby red of sour gum in fall, and the flaming torch patterns of apricot-, crimson- and flame-colored Korean maple leaves against the sky? Sheldon's practical lesson-learnings are helpful and well-written, with excellent examples. They cover all bases, from seed collecting and growing; through plant breeding; to shady and woody gardening and mixed shrub and tapestry bordering. But it's the ending sections, on favorite plants and history-making gardeners, that stay with me. Plants that pass Sheldon's test of time are astilbe, border clematis, chrysanthemum, columbine, gaura, *lysimachia*, and *nepeta*. If she lived more southerly, she might favor the pale lemon or white marguerite. Up north, though, *Dianthus caesius* (*gratianopolitanus*) is where she hopes to end her days. Finally, her five history-making gardeners are Gertrude Jekyll, Jane Loudon, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Alexander Pope and Horace Walpole. Not surprisingly, something Miss Jekyll once said perfectly sums up Sheldon's book and gardening. Never let an idea get in the way of beautiful plants and combinations.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good second .....By Dianne Foster If you've read and appreciated Elizabeth Sheldon's *PROPER GARDEN* and can distinguish among the varieties of sage and salvia you will probably enjoy her `sequel' *TIME AND THE GARDENER* a little more than if you have not and can not. Sheldon has traveled all over the U.S. giving talks on gardening to mixed audiences. Her colorful slides and gardening anecdotes are always appreciated no matter what the background of audience members, however, she does not write for the novice or new gardener. In addition, whereas *PG* at least included a number of colorful illustrations, there are none in *TG*. So, it helps if you are an experienced gardener who can visualize in the mind's eye how *Lathyrus thunbergii* might appear when surrounded by asters (particularly *A. frikartii* `Mnch') and dusty rose chrysanthemums. I heard Sheldon speak at a conference held at the National Wildlife Federation headquarters here in the Washington area. I enjoyed the talk and her beautiful slides but also noticed that over half of the audience was composed of landscape designers, nursery staff, and other gardening professionals while most of the other folks were people who were hiring these professionals to work in their gardens. Only a few of the attendees were "very good gardeners" (some with `Master" gardener status) and non-pro. Sheldon's advice is best suited to gardens in areas comparable to Ithaca New York-zone 5 with plenty of rainfall and rich black loam. If you can't grow a garden in the Finger Lakes area you are really a failure. If you don't live in zone 5 and/or don't have rich black loam from the last ice age, you will have to improvise to implement Sheldon's suggestions. You might be able to pull off some of her combinations but not without a great deal of effort. If you can't use her gardening advice, you can still enjoy her sketches of famous women gardeners also included in this book. However, be warned, Sheldon is neither as amusing as Henry Mitchell nor as philosophical as Allen Lacy so don't expect more.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Gentle garden wisdom By Valerie Fletcher Adolph Reading "Time and the Gardener" is like visiting an elderly gardening friend whose gentle wisdom and time-honed observations cloak an educated, highly literate mind and an acute wit. Elisabeth Sheldon is an experienced gardener - her experience is marked in decades rather than years. Gardening in New York State, she seems to have tried most species of flowers, trees and shrubs that might grow in that area and climate zone, and she has tried many varieties of each of the species. She writes about them gently, understanding that some grow politely while others lean on their neighbours and others scramble over everything within reach. I found myself smiling through the first section "What I've learned over time" and learning a great deal from the second section, "Timeless Plants: some of My Favourites". In the third section, "Gardeners of Other Times" I re-visited old acquaintances such as Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, and found a sharp and insightful mini-biography of Jane Loudon. This is a delightful book from a writer of great experience. Treat yourself, or a friend, to a copy and curl up beside a winter fire, or under the shade of a tree in summer to relax, learn and enjoy.

A new collection of essays by one of America's premier garden writers. From her vantage point as an octogenarian gardener, Elisabeth Sheldon knows that one of the most important elements in the making of a garden is the passage of time. This is true in the making of a gardener as well; no great gardener is young. Now, in *Time and the Gardener*, Sheldon brings this perspective to bear on the process of gardening, in discussions of her favorite plants, and in a handful of portraits of some gardeners of yore. Sheldon's long life in gardening has yielded a plethora of lessons for instance, novice gardeners should not take gardening books too seriously, gardeners should never berate themselves over plants that die, and gardening in deep woods can be remarkably satisfying. Sheldon is a plantswoman par excellence, and in *Time and the Gardener* she writes delightfully about many of her favorite plants: columbines, lysimachias, clematis, and astilbes. Even gardeners in other times have inspired Sheldon, and in this book she gives us colorful portraits of Jane Loudon, Gertrude Jekyll, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, and others. Marvelously written yet intensely opinionated, witty, and wise, *Time and the Gardener* is vintage Sheldon and will appeal to her legions of fans. Praise for Elisabeth Sheldon: "Elisabeth Sheldon is one of the few writers whose work I clip and file. Some garden writers inform, some inspire; she does both." Pamela J. Harper, author of *Designing with Perennials* "Elisabeth Sheldon is one of America's great garden inspirations." Holly Shimizu, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Elisabeth Sheldon studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Chicago. She is the author of two books, *The Flamboyant Garden* and *The Proper Garden*, which won two awards from the Garden Writers of America Association. Her writings have appeared in *Fine Gardening*, *Horticulture*, and other magazines. She lives and gardens in the Finger Lakes region of New York State. "Passionate articulate gardeners make the best teachers, and Elisabeth Sheldon's many years on her hands and knees in the garden have given her a perspective on gardening and plants that is both inspiring and instructive. Wisdom is a commodity in short supply these days and Sheldon has it along with courage and a sense of humor." -Lynden B. Miller, public garden designer "Elisabeth Sheldon's collection of essays in *Time and the Gardener* are no-nonsense, honestly frank, yet warmly passionate in this retrospective look at her decades-long love affair with flowers and gardening." -Bobby J. Ward, author of *A Contemplation Upon Plants* "Elisabeth Sheldon is an extraordinary gardener, writer, and designer. This book reveals her humor, honesty, and intense curiosity about plants, gardens, and some of the people who share her passion. Reading her collection of essays is the next best thing to having a leisurely tour through her garden with time for reflections on her life and the garden's place in it. *Time and the Gardener* is a beautifully written treasure." -Nancy Goodwin, co-author of *A Year in Our Gardens* "Elisabeth Sheldon offers everything one could want in a garden writer. Her fine prose achieves poignant lyricism on one page, and mordant humor on the next. Her scholar's mind presents information with lucidity, but every fact and opinion is tested against her own vast experience. She never scolds or intimidates - or worse - talks down to her readers. That is the loveliest compliment. For who, really, can match her in experience, or in her passion for gardening? Readers of her previous books should be very glad for this one, which she is publishing at the age of 85, and which is as good as it gets." -Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd, authors of *A Year at North Hill* "Time and the Gardener is a treasury of garden wisdom by a seasoned gardener who is companionable, amusing, and full of surprises. I'm sure Gertrude Jekyll would have enjoyed visiting her garden-- wish I could be a fly on the tree trunk at that tea party!" -Diane Ackerman, author of *Cultivating Delight* "Lovely and lyrical, Sheldon's prose is enough to boost even the most dedicated armchair gardener from his or her seat and into the garden. Not since Thalassa Cruso has there been such a lucent, informative voice." -Michael Weishan, Host, PBS-TV's *The Victory Garden*; Gardening Editor, *Country Living Magazine* "Elisabeth Sheldon's elegant prose is always a pleasure to read. In these essays she shares, with infectious joy, knowledge gained through decades of study and hands-on gardening." - Pamela Harper, author of *Time Tested Plants* "Looking back on a life of gardening, Elisabeth Sheldon shares her insightful opinions, practical knowledge of gardening, and fun yet definitive plant information that all come from dedicated experience. This book will make any gardener smile." -Holly H. Shimizu, Executive Director of the U.S. Botanic Garden "Time and the Gardener is an entertaining and highly educational book from a real American gardener who is a plantswoman and real writer. Sheldon's garden is in a beautiful but tough spot high above one of the Finger Lakes of New York State. Thus, she has dealt with problems all of us face. And she has written one of the handiest and most enjoyable garden books of our era. A good read!" -Gregory Long, president, The New York Botanical Garden

From *Publishers Weekly* "I wonder," writes Sheldon, "is anything more fun than gardening?" If not, reading this collection of her essays certainly comes close. Like Katharine White, Sheldon is both a knowledgeable gardener and a fine writer. Each of her 33 "discussions" imparts solid information and advice without being prescriptive or didactic. Instead, the reader is treated to the very personal and frankly opinionated perspective of a hard-working gardener with a sparkling personality. Sheldon imparts wisdom from both her successes and her mistakes, such as the cylindrical rock garden she formed that ended up resembling "a sort of furry wishing well." From "The Anxieties of Spring-Growing Plants from Seed" to "Fall and Winter Color," her stories are as enlightening as they are entertaining. In "Timeless Plants-Some of My Favorites" she explores several important plant groups and types; and in "Gardeners of Other Times" Sheldon offers five incisive portraits of the creators of modern garden style, complete with a meditation on gardening and personality ("The Ill-Tempered Gardener"). A welcome relief from the glossy fluff so often passed

off as gardening literature, this book will be a joy to readers with an interest in gardening, from neophytes to seasoned experts. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Whether discussing preferred methods of seed germination or the merits of *Aquilegia caerulea* versus *A. chrysantha*, Sheldon's essays impart a wealth of sensible advice tempered with charming, wry wit. From the vantage point of a lifetime creating gardens in woodland glades and sun-drenched fields, Sheldon, now in the autumn of her life, dispenses her pearls of gardening wisdom like beads of morning dew. Through her eyes, we marvel at changes within the garden, as simple as the dropping of a single petal or as ambitious as the removal of ancient trees, and witness changes in interests: a passion for hosta one year, hothouse annuals the next. But it is through her droll, self-deprecating humor that we also reflect upon changes in the gardener herself--the failing eyesight, the creaking bones--that forecast the waning of her gardening days. There is, she cautions, no need to despair, "for . . . we know that out of all the people in the world, no one has had more fun." Readers will share her joy. Carol Haggas Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Whether discussing preferred methods of seed germination or the merits of *Aquilegia caerulea* versus *A. chrysantha*, Sheldon's essays impart a wealth of sensible advice tempered with charming, wry wit. From the vantage point of a lifetime creating gardens in woodland glades and sun-drenched fields, Sheldon, now in the autumn of her life, dispenses her pearls of gardening wisdom like beads of morning dew. Through her eyes we marvel at changes within the garden, as simple as the dropping of a single petal or as ambitious as the removal of ancient trees, and witness changes in interests: a passion for hosta one year, hothouse annuals the next. But it is through her droll, self-deprecating humor that we also reflect upon changes in the gardener herself--the failing eyesight, the creaking bones--that forecast the waning of her gardening days. There is, she cautions, no need to despair, 'for...we know that out of all the people in the world, no one has had more fun.' Readers will share her joy." (Booklist, ALA) "I wonder,' writes Sheldon, 'is anything more fun than gardening?' If not, reading this collection of her essays certainly comes close. Like Katharine White, Sheldon is both a knowledgeable gardener and a fine writer. Each of her 33 'discussions' imparts solid information and advice without being prescriptive or didactic. Instead, the reader is treated to a very personal and frankly opinionated perspective of a hard-working gardener with a sparkling personality. . . A welcome relief from the glossy fluff so often passed off as gardening literature, this book will be a joy to readers with an interest in gardening, from neophytes to seasoned experts." (Publishers Weekly) "Though in her eighties, Sheldon still gardens in the Finger Lakes region of New York and shares a lifetime of knowledge and observations in a collection sure to please her fans. . . Sheldon writes engagingly, and more important, her prose sparkles with common sense. Recommended for all libraries." (Library Journal)