

“Oh, if only our gardens could talk! What stories they could tell!...” *

~ Kathryn McKay, *Washington Woman*, Washington, DC

Gardens mean very different things to different people. This is what Carolyn Freas Rapp learned by asking women, “Why do you garden? What got you started? What do you love most about your garden?” The answers she got—and offers in her book,

Garden Voices: Stories of Women & Their Gardens

(© 2005, www.gardenvoices.com, ISBN: 0-9758891-3-3, \$14.95 pb)

—were as varied and as interesting as the people.

Susan’s garden led her from breast cancer back to health. Carol finds inspiration for her watercolors. Francie’s garden transports her back in time to Elizabethan England, while Judy’s nourishes her friendships. Nancy’s garden, which she shares with her husband, is an ongoing experiment to learn if men and women can find common ground. Zoe and Julie turned their love of flowers into a business. Michiko grows

various fruits and vegetables and then uses her camera to transform them into images of passion and beauty. And these are just a few of the women Rapp met.

Each woman Rapp spoke with led her to others. “Collecting stories was like going on a treasure hunt,” Rapp recalls. “I would interview a woman and she would say, ‘You should talk to my friend’ or ‘I know someone who has a garden you should see.’ One garden led me to the next; each amazing woman pointed me toward another.” In **Garden Voices**, she introduces readers to a dozen of her favorite women.

After a brief introduction by Rapp, each of the twelve women shares her own story. Gardening is not just

—over—



Sue says, “What I’ve done is create sacred space in my yard—a garden that enables me to move into the spiritual realms of my life.”



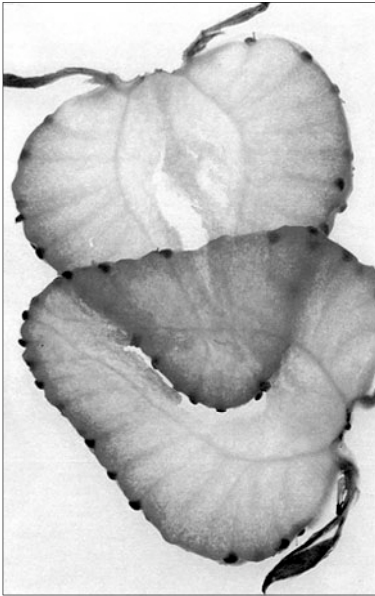
Judy says, “My first deep friendship with a woman was related to gardening. So for me, gardening and friendship go together.”

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* “Oh, if only our gardens could talk! What stories they could tell!...Rapp shares the stories of 12 women who explain how gardening helps heal, inspire and nourish their lives.” ~ Kathryn McKay, *Washington Woman* magazine

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Dancing Strawberries by Michiko Mitsuyasu

“There is always much more in my garden than I need for my photography,” Michiko says. “What I don’t use, I eat. My profession has inspired me to become a vegetarian!”

something these women do. They build their worlds around their gardens because it satisfies their need to create and it fills their souls. **Garden Voices** is not just a book for people who love gardens; it’s for people who love stories.

Rapp hopes that everyone who reads **Garden Voices** will hear a whisper of themselves in the words of these creative, courageous, wise women. “If you are a beginning gardener or thinking about getting started, I hope that these stories will plunge you wholeheartedly into gardening,” Rapp encourages. “If you are a longtime or master gardener, perhaps these stories will add another layer to the richness of your own story in the garden.”

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Carol comments, “I love a lot of color in my paintings, so I plant a riot of color in my own garden. This love of color is what led me to paint other people’s gardens—and that led to lots of commissions and lots of opportunities to work in beautiful gardens.”

To request a review copy of **Garden Voices**, arrange an interview with Carolyn Rapp, or for any additional information, please contact Kate Bandos at KSB Promotions 800-304-3269 or 616-676-0758 • fax 616-676-0759 • e-mail: kate@ksbpromotions.com

Garden Voices

Stories of Women & Their Gardens

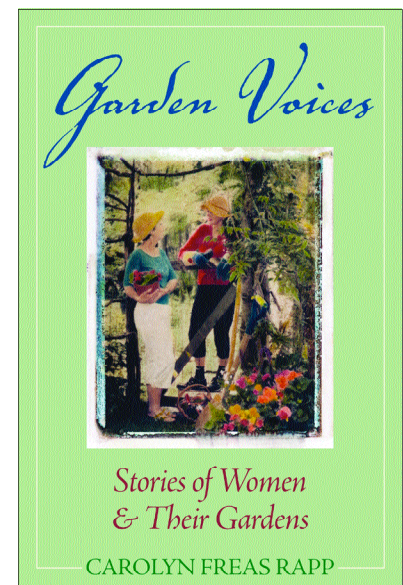
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Garden Voices is available in bookstores nationwide and through online booksellers. For signed and personalized copies of the book, order online at www.gardenvoices.com or call Water Dance Press at 703-241-1610.

For book presentations, contact Carolyn Rapp at 703-241-1610.



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