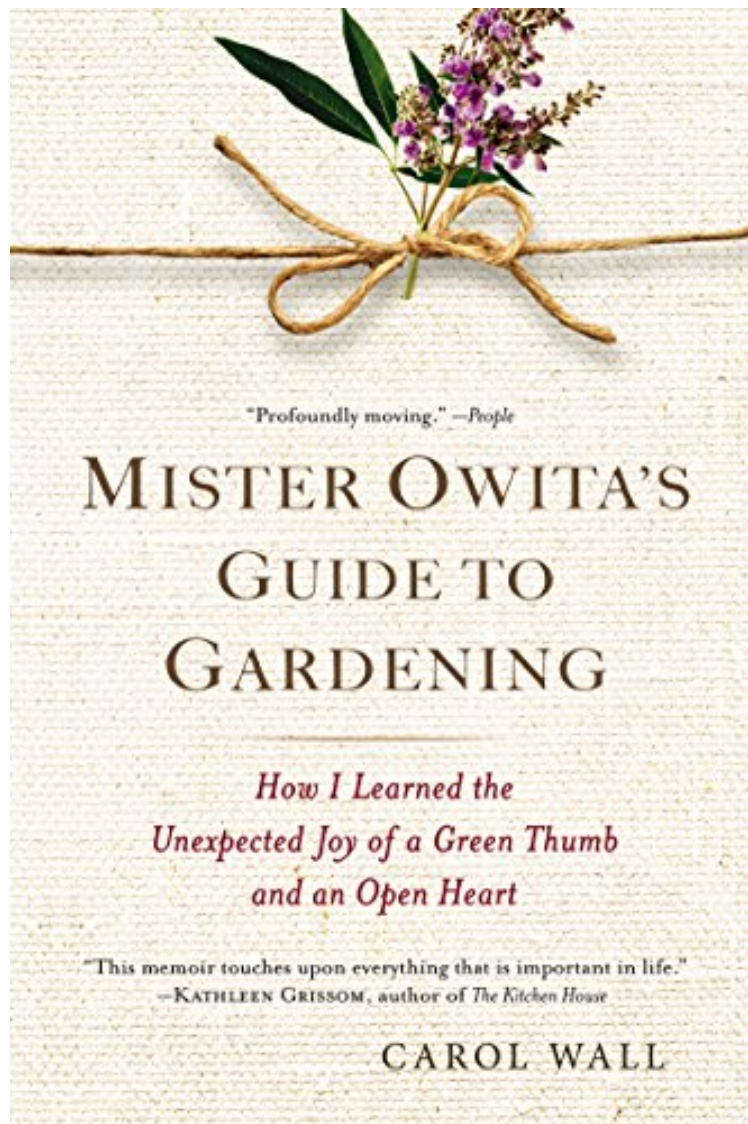


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Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening: How I Learned the Unexpected Joy of a Green Thumb and an Open Heart

Carol Wall

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Carol Wall : Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening: How I Learned the Unexpected Joy of a Green Thumb and an Open Heart before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening: How I Learned the Unexpected Joy of a Green Thumb and an Open Heart:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Teacher of the Year to Mr. Owita. By Joyce This was a book that I am glad that I read. I had mixed emotions to parts of it, but still found myself choosing to pick up the book in a quiet place to read and finishing it rather quickly. I love to garden and have developed some special friendships with unlikely people (also immigrants). I felt that I was going to connect so much with the author. I was surprised to discover that I didn't feel I had as much in common with the author as I expected. Then I realized that was the key. Gardening and befriending people from all walks of life have always been who I am. They come naturally to me (plenty of other things don't). They did not come naturally to Carol Wall and in the process of opening herself up to both those things, she learned so much. She was brutally honest about herself - she had to look herself in the mirror, both literally as she dealt with fear of returning cancer, and figuratively as she faced truths about herself. Mr. Owita is a very special man and I am thankful to Carol Wall for sharing him with us. She was better for having known him and I feel I am better for having read about him. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Introspective, poignant, and we are all reflected. By Laurie A Richter This account of a most unlikely relationship reinforces that the best of life happens in ways we least expect. Carol Wall's writing is so honest and self-revelatory but rather than feel like she had exposed herself, I felt like she had exposed me. I think any reader will find more than one passage where they will have the distinct feeling that she knows them and is speaking from a place we all inhabit. The story, itself, is simple and about everyday life, but the lessons it teaches go far beyond. I read it in one day starting on an airplane and couldn't put it down until I was finished. And while the end isn't a typical "happy ending," I still felt so uplifted. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Mr. Owita's Guide to Gardening by Carol Wall. By Mary Leahey It is difficult to review this book without giving important details away. But Carol, a teacher and wife, is going through many issues in her own life and she meets Mr. Owita, a gardener from Kenya. Carol is not dealing especially well with things when she meets Giles Owita. The relationship that builds and the obvious effect it has on each of them, maybe especially Carol, is surreal. This book is so well written, that you feel as though you are part of the story when you are reading it. You feel as though her triumphs are your triumphs and when I finished the book I had a different outlook on life. Everyone can relate to this book and take a piece of it with you through your own travels through life. My husband also read this book and he too could not put it down. He told me he could not remember reading a more well written book ever!!!!

A true story of a unique friendship between two people who had nothing and ultimately everything in common. Carol Wall, living in a lily-white neighborhood in Middle America, is at a crossroads in her life. Her children are grown; she has successfully overcome illness; her beloved parents are getting older. One day she notices a dark-skinned African man tending her neighbors yard. His name is Giles Owita. He bags groceries at the supermarket. He comes from Kenya. And he's very good at gardening. Before long Giles is transforming not only Carol's yard, but her life. Though they are seemingly quite different, a caring bond grows between them. But Carol and Giles both hold long-buried secrets that, when revealed, will cement their friendship forever. Includes a Readers Guide

From Booklist She knew nothing about gardening. He knew everything. She was a well-to-do white woman. He was an impoverished immigrant from Kenya. And yet, in the garden he transformed for her from a patch of weeds into a flowering paradise, Wall and Owita found common ground in the triumphs and tragedies they shared. Both would admit it was an unlikely friendship. She was a fretter, consumed by things she could not control: her recurring cancer, her father's Alzheimers, her mother's stroke. He had a tranquility and acceptance that was mystifying in the face of all he had had to endure: a daughter left behind in Africa, a PhD in horticulture he couldn't use, forcing him to subsist on part-time jobs, and, worst of all, the devastation and shame of being HIV-positive. Both had their shares of heartache over children and parents and life-threatening illnesses that challenged them in unimaginable ways. In this heartbreaking yet heartwarming paean to the joys of friendship and gardening, Wall crafts an elegiac tribute to an extraordinary man. --Carol Haggas In this profoundly moving memoir, Owita teaches Wall how to find grace amid heartbreak and to accept that beauty exists because it is fleeting as in her garden, as in life. People, 4 stars In this lovely memoir, a surprising friendship blooms between a horticulturist with a harrowing secret and the author, a cancer survivor with a bad attitude and a sad yard. A perfect spring awakening. Good Housekeeping "No green thumb is required to enjoy the warmhearted pleasures of Carol Wall's moving memoir, Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening.... magnetically compelling ... Grace and gardening go hand-in-glove in this fine book about what really matters in life: friendship, kindness and watching a garden grow." USA Today With her children grown and out of the house, Carol Wall is obsessed perhaps overly so with ripping out her azaleas. That is, until she meets a certain Giles Owita, Kenyan gardener, supermarket bagger, general-life philosopher and perhaps one of the most refined and gracious characters to ever hit the page (except that he's real) A warning for the shy: The basic goodness of Owita's attitude may cause you to beam spontaneously as you read, leading to off looks from strangers at the coffee shop. Oprah.com "A must-read memoir.... Both shocking and profoundly moving. This book is not just about gardening." AARP blog In this heartbreaking yet heartwarming paean to the joys of friendship and gardening, Wall crafts an elegiac tribute to an extraordinary man. Booklist "[T]his memoir chronicle[s] the many lasting rewards garnered from an unexpected

friendship..." Publishers Weekly (starred review)"A pleasure to read. Walls bittersweet story of human kindness has universal appeal." Kirkus s"I couldnt put this book down. I found myself liking the principal characters from the opening pages, and my affection for them never wavered. If you enjoy inspirational memoirs or gardening books (or both), this moving account of a life-changing friendship is for you." BookpageAbout the AuthorCarol Wall is a writer whose essays and articles have appeared over many years in Southern Living magazine and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. She lives on a tree-lined street in the heart of Middle America.