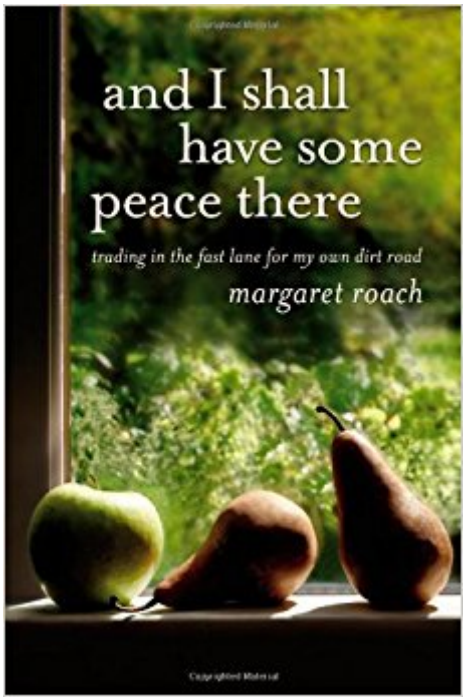
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And I Shall Have Some Peace There: Trading In The Fast Lane For My Own Dirt Road



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Synopsis

Margaret Roach worked at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia for 15 years, serving as Editorial Director for the last 6. She first made her name in gardening, writing a classic gardening book among other things. She now has a hugely popular gardening blog, "A Way to Garden." But despite the financial and professional rewards of her job, Margaret felt unfulfilled. So she moved to her weekend house upstate in an effort to lead a more authentic life by connecting with her garden and with nature. The memoir she wrote about this journey is funny, quirky, humble--and uplifting--an Eat, Pray, Love without the travel-and allows readers to live out the fantasy of quitting the rat race and getting away from it all.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Roach is best known for her popular and critically acclaimed gardening blog, A Way to Garden. In this personal memoir, she describes her transformation as she sheds her corporate carapace as editorial director of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia and begins life in a small upstate New York town. She expects to find peace and solitude there, a place to discern a new identity, independent of her professional success. Instead, she finds herself untethered and unexpectedly fearful of snakes, snow storms, and silence. A circuitous spiritual journey follows as Roach consults with an assortment of shamans and matchmakers and the occasional exterminator. She eventually finds some ballast in the deeper rhythms of country life and the reliable kindness of neighbors.
RoachÃ¢â Â¢s gardening writing on her blog and in her previous book (A Way to Garden) is clear, thorough, and thoughtful. Readers may appreciate her candid, stream-of-consciousness style in this

memoir, but it is too unstructured and inchoate to be as satisfying as her other work. (Feb.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

Perhaps itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s the twenty-first centuryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most existential question: who am I if not my e-mail address? After leaving her coveted position as editorial director for Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, Roach deleted the @ and dot-com from the end of her name and suddenly found herself adrift in both the cyber world of instant access and the concrete world of dwindling bank accounts. More rudderless than any 50-year-old woman with a solid-gold reputation (and AmEx card) should be, Roach retreated to her weekend getaway home in upstate New York and turned it into her primary residence and place of business. She was now Margaret Roach, Inc., but what would she produce? A keen observer of the avian and amphibian life sheltered by her country property, city-girl Roach took comfort in their rituals and habits, adopting what she could for her own unsettled existence. As she moves through the seasons of her first year in self-imposed exile, Roach limns a reflective odyssey for affirmation and acceptance that blends Zen-like wisdom with zany escapades. --Carol Haggas

I was expecting a lovely story about shedding the corporate life for the tranquility and beauty of country living. Which Ms. Roach did, eventually, get to...I think. At least she was able to openly share all of her neuroticism that came from the corporate life, so I'm hoping that exercise was cathartic for her. The only peace I found was when it was over. Sorry, Ms. Roach. Hope your life gets better!

The lovely cover, title, and the author's blog led me to think I would love this book. She leaves the fast lane to garden and delight in a farm in rural upstate New York. I couldn't get past the long self-conscious descriptions of her demanding work for Martha Stewart.

i see a lot of people have got the point so I won't elaborate, I don't know what she did at Martha Stewart, but she can't write, that's the bottom line, the other reviews which discuss this basic point give plenty of examples and detail, so I won't belabor the point.

I picked up Margaret Roach's "And I Shall Have Some Peace There..." because I was looking for insight into my own desire to quit my job and find a different way of living life. Anticipating the story of a "real" woman striking out on her own, I was disappointed to find that Ms. Roach portrayed

herself as whiny, privileged and difficult to relate to. Her relationships with the world around her (especially snakes) and her favorite therapist were rendered in a repetitive, tedious manner. In the year or so on which she focuses, Ms. Roach does not seem to undergo any real growth that would inspire another. As hopeful as I was when I started this book, at its conclusion I was convinced that it could have only found a publisher because of the connections she made in her position within the Martha Stewart empire.

This was a book that I splurged on (in hardback) and that I expected to love because the author has a terrific gardening blog that I enjoy and a promising back story of her escape from NYC and corporate America (she was a bigwig at Martha Stewart) to her garden sanctuary in the country. I had hoped for some gardening essays, some thoughtful but practical commentary on her experience...anything but what actually ended up on the page, which was chapter after chapter of rambling, free-form self doubt and the recurring question of who she is now that she is not a Martha Stewart exec. Far, far too much information about her quest for inner peace (think expensive spas and pricey spiritual advisers) and her quest for a mate (think expensive and exclusive dating service). This clearly talented writer and thoughtful woman has standards so high (perhaps honed by the perfectionism of the Martha Stewart brand) that she cannot possibly live up to her own ideals and spends most of the book holed up in her house wearing sweats and refusing to answer the phone (or was that just my impression?). My own sense is that the author needed more time to decompress and allow her life to settle before turning to the book contract. This book might have been a far more interesting one if it had been written a bit later in the journey once Roach had come to terms with the blessings that her new life affords her.

Some books we get because we hear good things about them, or because we need to know about the subject or because everyone is reading them, or we love the author.When I walked into my B&N that day I had no particular direction or need, bookstores are holy territory for me, I automatically feel better in them. There among the new arrivals was Margaret’s book, it shone like treasure. I didn’t know who Margaret Roach was, her body of work, her previous publications. I don’t garden. I didn’t question, after reading the lines inside the cover, I walked out with the book that would open new windows in my soul and touch me in ways I could not have predicted. I love her blog, it brings together not only novice and expert gardeners but blessed gifted people who share their own expertise with their land, in their kitchens and in their lives. Reading the comments on so very many various subjects, opens my heart and lets more light in. Her new book Backyard Parables just

published is coming to me from you as I write this. I've given this book as a gift several times but that first edition the hands of Spirit presented to me on 3/11 wil stay with me until the end. I've said before, it has enriched the soil in the garden of my soul.

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