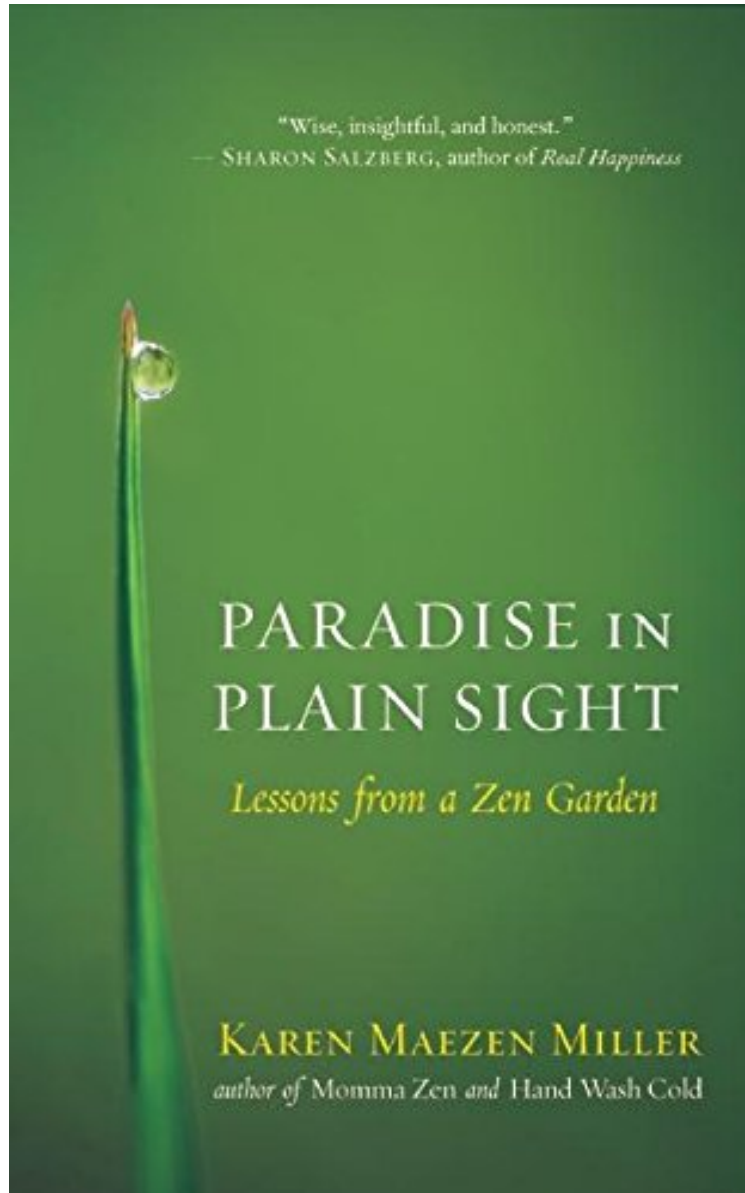


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Paradise in Plain Sight: Lessons from a Zen Garden

Karen Maezen Miller

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Karen Maezen Miller : Paradise in Plain Sight: Lessons from a Zen Garden before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Paradise in Plain Sight: Lessons from a Zen Garden:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. as I realized how much energy I wasted on the small thingsBy Leslie PilibosianI found this book a thoughtful, challenging read that made me grow in my understanding of my life and my hope of where I want to go (grow!). It expanded my view, as I realized how much energy I wasted on the small things.

I would recommend reading one chapter every few days, since there is much to learn and consider - starting with the short verse/poetry at the beginning of the chapter. Well worth your time. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Profoundly simple. By BlueRidgeMama You do not need to be Buddhist, zen, minimalist, etc. to enjoy and find inspiration in this book (being a human is probably the only requirement but hey - alien life forms, advanced canines - who am I to judge?). The opening idea that paradise is a walled garden - i.e., a backyard - is so profoundly simple. I have enjoyed and heartily recommend all of Karen Maezen Miller's books and benefit from regular re-readings - I always find a new layer of insight or something relating to my current situation. tells me I bought this one three years ago, so - I'm off to begin this one again right now.... 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A beautiful book, a book for your whole life. By Pleasance Lowengard I adore this book. I have read all of Maezen's books I think this is the best, yet. Maezen has an incredible gift to help bring the teachings into our lives, to inspire us, to help us understand the gifts she has been taught. I especially love the way she integrates stories and teachings so that it is relevant to all. I give this book as a gift to many friends and recommend it regularly. This book is incredibly special and dear to me, and will be part of my library and life for years to come.. I have already re-read it a few times keep it close to me wherever I go.

Come See the Garden That Is Your Life When Zen teacher Karen Maezen Miller and her family land in a house with a hundred-year-old Japanese garden, she uses the paradise in her backyard to glean the living wisdom of our natural world. Through her eyes, rocks convey faith, ponds preach stillness, flowers give love, and leaves express the effortless ease of letting go. The book welcomes readers into the garden for Zen lessons in fearlessness, forgiveness, presence, acceptance, and contentment. Miller gathers inspiration from the ground beneath her feet to remind us that paradise is always here and now.

"Paradise in Plain Sight, for all its talk of gardening and the little details of domestic life, is one of the most thoroughly and unapologetically Zen books I have read in a long time. This is not easy Buddhism. This is a book that speaks as the tradition itself does: unflinchingly confident and perfectly at home with not knowing. May we all be so fortunate as to one day open a gate and find ourselves standing in a place so spacious, so overgrown and full of possibility. And may we say yes." -- Koun Franz, *Sweeping Zen* "A skillful blend of personal narrative and insightful dharma teaching . . . Miller's prose is always fresh and potent, grounded in the knowledge that anything we do can become a gateway to profound realization"-- *Dharma Spring* "Readers find it easy to relate to the author's story of finding her way out of fear, selfishness, and doubt to buy a home with a 100-year-old Japanese garden. She takes stock of her rocks, bamboo, and ponds to describe concepts of faith, emptiness, and "right view" . . . stories of bountiful fruits, flowers, and leaves relate thoughts on forgiveness, compassion, and letting go." -- *Library Journal* "This little slip of a book, like the best of all soulful books, slips deep in your soul practically unnoticed. Suddenly, you're sitting bolt upright, because you've been reading quietly along and you realize you've just inhaled a sentence that packs a spiritual wallop. You needn't be a gardener, nor inclined to long hours of meditation, nor a disciple of Zen. And you certainly needn't travel to the nearest Japanese garden to unearth the truths Miller so generously lays at your mud-sodden soles." -- *Chicago Tribune* About the Author Karen Maezen Miller is a Zen Buddhist priest and teacher at the Hazy Moon Zen Center in Los Angeles. The author of *Hand Wash Cold* and *Momma Zen*, she leads retreats around the country.