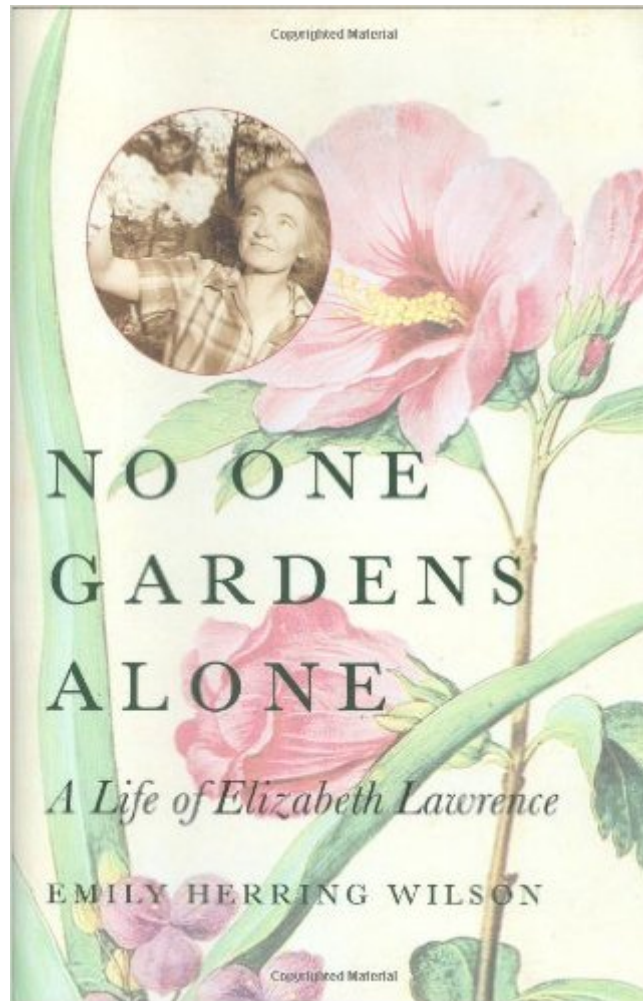


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No One Gardens Alone: A Life Of Elizabeth Lawrence



Synopsis

The first biography of the renowned Southern gardening writer by the editor of the acclaimed book *Two Gardeners* Elizabeth Lawrence (1904–1985) lived a singular, contradictory life. She was a true Southerner; a successful, independent gardening writer with her own newspaper column and numerous books to her credit; a dutiful daughter who cared for her elders and always lived with her mother; a landscape architect; an accomplished poet; a friend of literary figures like Eudora Welty and Joseph Mitchell; and a woman people called “St. Elizabeth” behind her back. Lawrence earned many fans during her lifetime and gained even more after her death with the reissue of many of her classic books. When Emily Herring Wilson edited a collection of letters between Lawrence and famed New Yorker editor Katherine S. White in *Two Gardeners*, she found legions of readers, in the South and elsewhere, who were eager to know more about the legendary Lawrence. Now, one hundred years after her birth, *No One Gardens Alone* tells for the first time the story of this fascinating woman. Like classic biographies of literary figures such as Emily Dickinson or Edna St. Vincent Millay, this book reveals Lawrence in all her complexity and establishes her, at last, as one of the premier gardeners and writers of the twentieth century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The photograph on the front cover is a true herald of the delights of this superb biography of Elizabeth Lawrence, "No One Gardens Alone." A slender, fair-haired lady with surprisingly strong eyebrows gazes happily, adoringly at three blossoms as tall as she is and almost as big. The flowers

(hydrangea? marigolds on mega-steroids?) gaze adoringly back. Readers can be justifiably fascinated by a garden writer whose books are at once reticent and forth-coming. Lawrence wrote such classics as "The Little Bulbs," cited after more than 30 years in today's gardening books. Those in search of botanical knowledge of what plants to grow and how to grow them would also meet Mr. Krippendorf and "Lob's Wood," the independent and feisty Miss Dornan who preserved plants native to the South, that legendary editor and writer Mrs. E. B. White from Maine, Mrs Chestina Welty and her daughter Eudora, and a Canterbury tales procession of farm women, nurserymen, other passionate gardeners, as well as redoubtable Mrs Lawrence, her mother and fellow gardener. Until this biography, however, much was known about Lawrence's gardens in Raleigh and Charlotte, NC, but little of the woman who wrote with such enthusiasm and elegance. The product of a decade of clearly painstaking research, Emily Herring Wilson has brought us a garden of earthy delights in a superb biography, satisfying as much as possible our interest in the making of a gardener and of her gardens. Lawrence came from a time and place where families remembered directly the grandparents and great grandparents from the Revolution and the Civil War. Born into two such families, she was a soft-spoken Southerner, a forthright talker, and a lady who considered the use of first names even after a year of correspondance a great step.

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