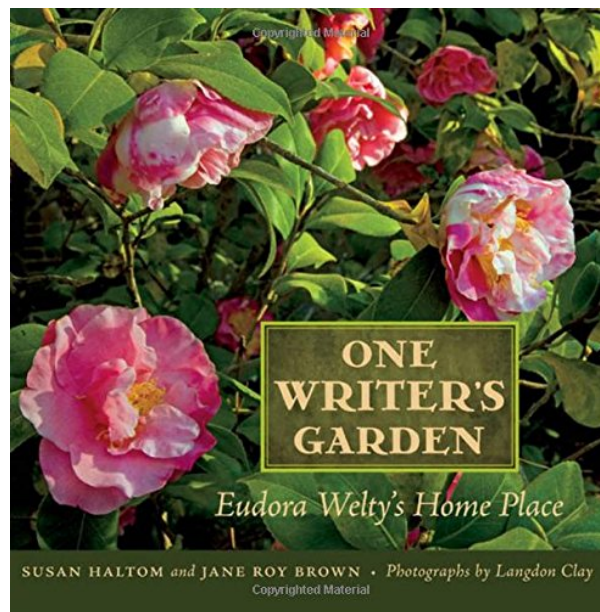
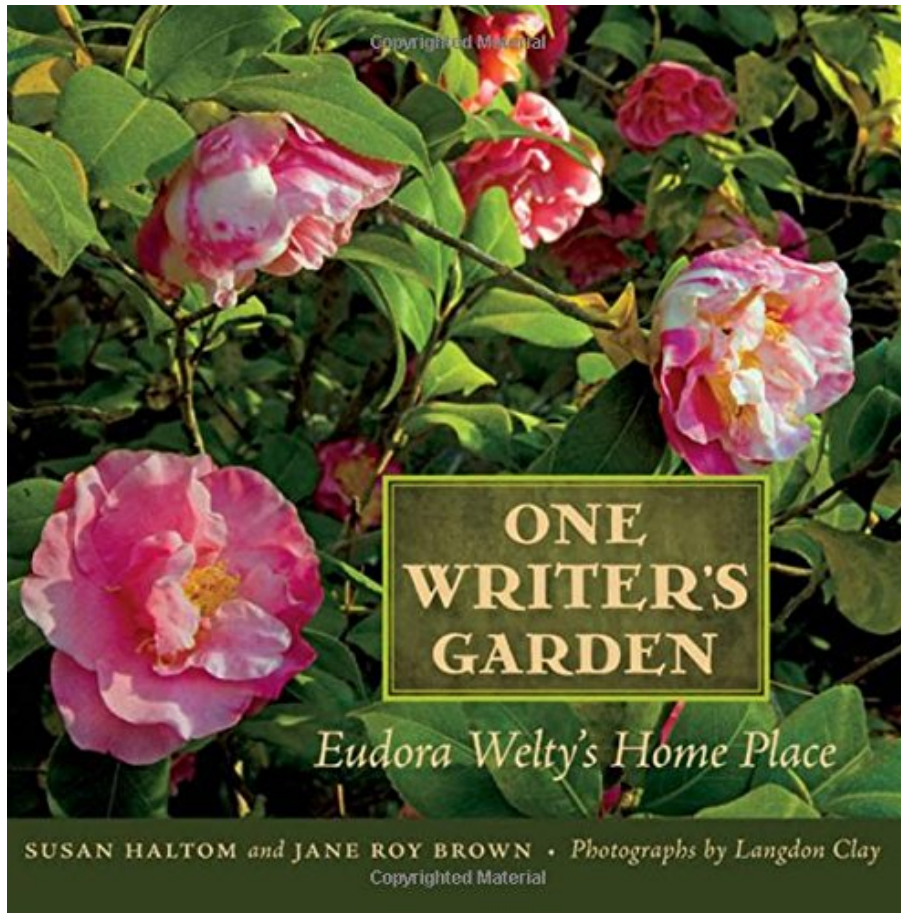


ONE WRITER'S GARDEN: EUDORA WELTY'S HOME PLACE BY SUSAN HALTOM, JANE ROY BROWN



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From the Inside Flap

A rich exploration of the garden Welty tended with her mother and how that work affected her writing

About the Author

Susan Haltom, Ridgeland, Mississippi, is a garden designer and preservation and maintenance coordinator of the Eudora Welty garden. She has published in Mississippi Magazine, Mississippi Gardens, Old House Journal, and Magnolia, the journal of the Southern Garden History Society.

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ONE WRITER'S GARDEN: EUDORA WELTY'S HOME PLACE BY SUSAN HALTOM, JANE ROY BROWN PDF

By the time she reached her late twenties, Eudora Welty (1909-2001) was launching a distinguished literary career. She was also becoming a capable gardener under the tutelage of her mother, Chestina Welty, who designed their modest garden in Jackson, Mississippi. From the beginning, Eudora wove images of southern flora and gardens into her writing, yet few outside her personal circle knew that the images were drawn directly from her passionate connection to and abiding knowledge of her own garden.

Near the end of her life, Welty still resided in her parents' house, but the garden-and the friends who remembered it-had all but vanished. When a local garden designer offered to help bring it back, Welty began remembering the flowers that had grown in what she called "my mother's garden." By the time Eudora died, that gardener, Susan Haltom, was leading a historic restoration. When Welty's private papers were released several years after her death, they confirmed that the writer had sought both inspiration and a creative outlet there. This book contains many previously unpublished writings, including literary passages and excerpts from Welty's private correspondence about the garden.

The authors of One Writer's Garden also draw connections between Welty's gardening and her writing. They show how the garden echoed the prevailing style of Welty's mother's generation, which in turn mirrored wider trends in American life: Progressive-era optimism, a rising middle class, prosperity, new technology, women's clubs, garden clubs, streetcar suburbs, civic beautification, conservation, plant introductions, and garden writing. The authors illustrate this garden's history?and the broader story of how American gardens evolved in the early twentieth century-with images from contemporary garden literature, seed catalogs, and advertisements, as well as unique historic photographs. Noted landscape photographer Langdon Clay captures the restored garden through the seasons.

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19 of 20 people found the following review helpful.

Beautiful photos, interesting angle on history

By Jaylia

Eudora Welty grew up in an era when gardens were taken seriously, seen as an escape from the increasingly busy world and thought to prevent nervous breakdowns, so it's not surprising that both Welty's fiction and letters are full of references to flowers. This gorgeous book is packed with color photographs of the garden Welty helped restore before her death in 2001, a garden that had originally been tended by her mother, but flowers are not the sole focus of *One Writer's Garden*. While tracing the role of gardening in the lives of Welty and her mother authors Haltom and Brown also deliver an interesting angle on the social history of the early 1900's. Women's garden clubs were flourishing then with greenery seen as the cure for all of society's ills. Even during the height of the depression garden clubs were still multiplying and their members were busy planting trees along city streets and flowers in gas stations. *One Writer's Garden* is full of fascinating anecdotes of a time when magenta was not well thought of because, being the color of arsenic used in pesticides, it represented pollution in the minds of the purist gardening club women. Planting magenta flowers was actively discouraged then, and Eudora Welty's mother preferred to avoid walking down streets with that color in its gardens.

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

Beautifully written and illustrated!

By JPB

This is a fascinating history, well illustrated with historic photos as well as images of the garden in its current, beautiful state. This volume deserves a place alongside "*The Orchard: A Memoir*" by Theresa Weir, on any bookshelf! The best garden book I have read in a long, long time.

20 of 23 people found the following review helpful.

A coffee table book that deserves to be read

By Lifelong Reader

This is a beautiful book, on fine paper with elegant typography and stunning color photographs, but it is more than a garden book and more than a coffee table book. It deserves to be read. The writing is as crisp and elegant as the book's design, and it is packed with interesting and often humorous detail about Eudora Welty's life and times, about gardening in the South in the early twentieth century, and about the influence of gardening on Welty's works. This would be a great present for anyone who loves the writings of Eudora Welty or who enjoys gardening. (Treat yourself, too.)

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