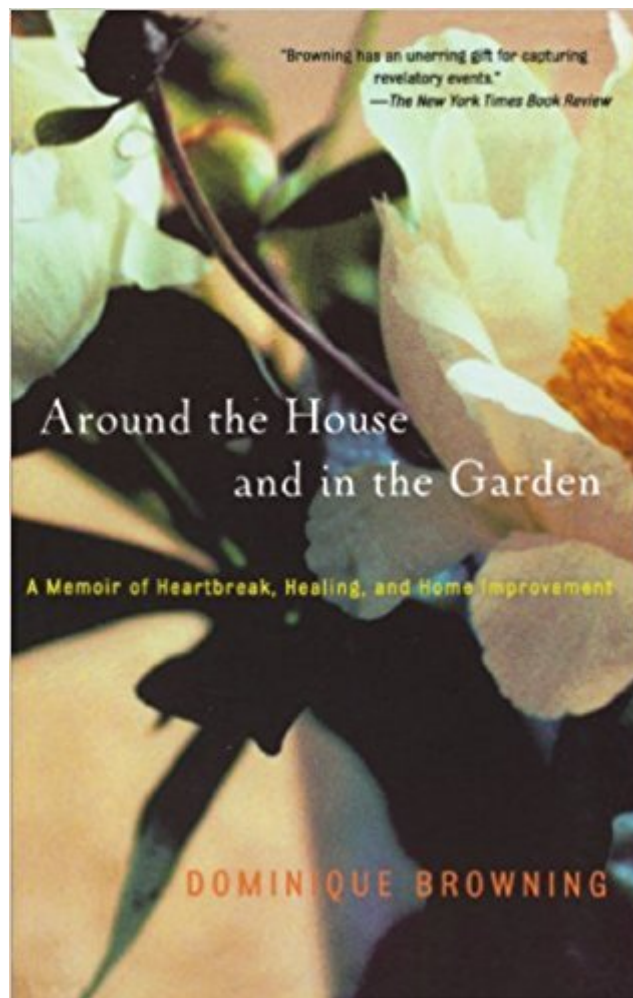




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# **Around The House And In The Garden: A Memoir Of Heartbreak, Healing, And Home Improvement**



## Synopsis

"My story," writes Dominique Browning, the editor in chief of House & Garden, "is about the way a house can express loss, and then bereavement, and then, finally, the rebuilding of a life." Around the House and in the Garden is a moving narrative, culled from Browning's much-loved monthly editorial column, about the solace and sense of self that can be found through tending to one's home. From building a high stone wall in the garden to learning that every kitchen deserves a good kitchen couch, Browning reminds us that making a home is more than just a materialistic endeavor -- it is a way for us to comfort and reinvent ourselves, to "have the final word about what goes where...what feels comfortable, what is life enhancing...and gives us strength to go out and embrace the world."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When Browning and her husband of 15 years divorced, she kept the house and garden they had shared in Westchester, but for a long time she was too depressed to care about where she lived. Gradually, she begins to see that working on the house she had neglected and transforming it into a home again is a way to recover from her despondency. In these short, elegant essays, Browning, a former editor-in-chief of House & Garden, muses on the aspects of domestic life that revived her and shows how she healed her heart and her home at the same time. That symbol of doomed love, the master bedroom, for example, she had abandoned. She fills the bathroom with comfortable furniture and flowers and learns to enjoy lounging in the tub while looking out the window at the

moon. A garden bench, a fireplace, chairs grouped together for companionship, the long-neglected garden, impractical objects like a grand piano or ornate candlesticks, the kitchen, a place for companionship as well as "a nice place to be lonely" all these she comes to revere. Soon even the moss-covered bricks in her crumbling driveway delight her, as do ordinary rituals like weeding the garden, planting a tree and cleaning her closets so she can enjoy the memories they contain. Browning has written a warm and graceful paean to the commonplace, imbuing everything she contemplates with magic. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Browning expands on her popular column for House & Garden. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Dominique Browning is full of insight and grace when it comes to understanding the hearts and minds of those who have suffered a loss of "place". I absolutely LOVED the book - I could not replace my now out-of-print hard copy - but this paperback is worth it's weight in gold.

Buy this book for anyone you know going thru divorce or for one who has always wanted a home, or decorated a home or loved a home. Dominique is in your head and writes it just like you feel and wish you could express! She is your copilot, your emotions, the spokesperson for your grief, your fears, your hope and your joy. She's beside you and makes you smile. This will go on my favorites shelf to be shared and bought again and again and again!

I loved this book because I could so relate to it. When my husband died, I became a gardener. I create and nature takes it away. So, I recreate. It's been awhile since I read this but I have shared it and keep it in my library to reread as desired. Will be doing that soon, as there was mention of a tree or two that I wish to try in my yard.

As a longtime fan of personal essays -- and one who teaches writing workshops on the topic -- I found this to be an exceptionally enjoyable and beautifully written collection. Best of all, as a homemaker who loves the domestic arts, I think Browning strikes just the right tone of love and yearning for home. Most of us are too busy these days to spend all the time we'd like creating a home and garden, or nurturing a young family. Browning hones in on these desires and serves up poignant pieces everyone can relate to -- even if we're not divorced or uprooted. I would love to see

more of her work (yes, I subscribe to her magazine just to read her essays) in book form!

Reading this book was like sitting in the parlor and having a cup of tea and girl talk with Ms. Browning. It was such a comfort...couldn't wait to snuggle in bed at night to get to the end...also love her new book, Slow Love.

I wish she stayed in Rhode Island.....I thought she was happiest there....

An honest, beautifully written book of one woman's trials and celebration. I loved the house and garden as a reflection/metaphor for Dominique's inner state. Full of inspiration and hope, this book might change your life, if you let it!

Just enjoyed this descriptive book. A good read.

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