



*a spiritual  
journey  
through  
gardening*

Judith  

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Handelsman



A PLUME BOOK

For my mother, Nina, who has always stood by me. This book could not have been born without her help.

And thanks to *Joan Blue*, for her ceaseless love and unwavering belief in me; *Gloria Kamler*, for the richness and longevity of our friendship; and *Barbara Horton*, for the integrity of our work together.

*He who cultivates a garden, and brings to perfection flowers and fruits, cultivates and advances at the same time his own nature.*

—Ezra Weston,  
Massachusetts Horticultural Society, 1845

*The temple bell stops  
But I still hear the sound  
coming out of the flowers.*

—Basho, Japanese Zen poet (1644–94)

*Never forget:  
we walk on hell  
gazing at flowers.*

—Issa, Japanese Zen poet (1763–1827)