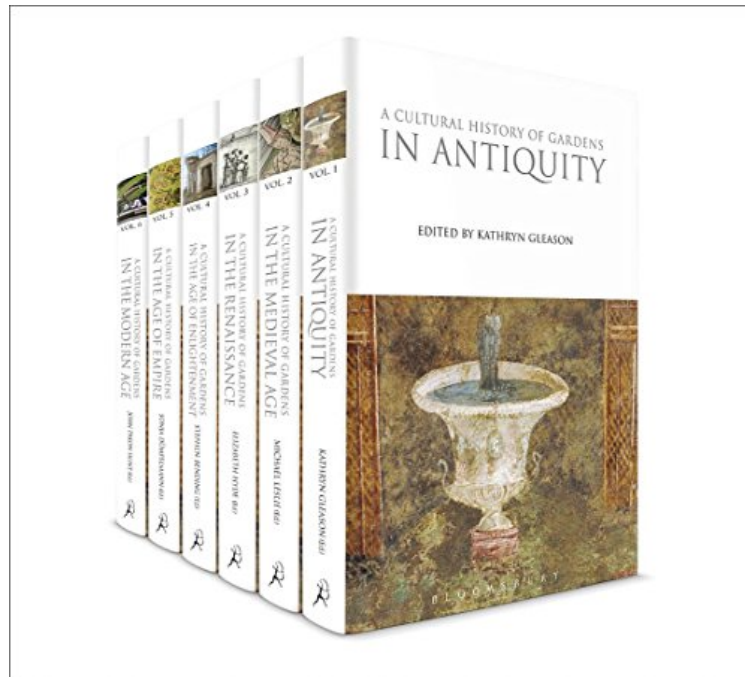


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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Cultural History of Gardens: Volumes 1-6 (The Cultural Histories Series):

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Cultural History of Gardens presents an authoritative survey from ancient times to the present. This set of six volumes covers over 2500 years of gardens as physical, social and artistic spaces. 1. A Cultural History of Gardens in Antiquity 2. A Cultural History of Gardens in the Medieval Age 3. A Cultural History of Gardens in the Renaissance 4. A Cultural History of Gardens in the Age of Enlightenment 5. A Cultural History of Gardens in the Age of Empire 6. A Cultural History of Gardens in the Modern Age Each volume discusses the same themes in its chapters: 1. Design 2. Types of Gardens 3. Planting 4. Use and Reception 5. Meaning 6. Verbal Representations 7. Visual Representations 8. Gardens and the Larger Landscape This structure means readers can either have a broad overview of a period by reading a volume or follow a theme through history by reading the relevant chapter in each volume. Superbly illustrated, the full six volume set combines to present the most authoritative and comprehensive survey available on gardens through history.

VERDICT A wonderful resource for people interested in landscape architecture or anyone looking for an in-depth exploration of the cultural significance of gardens. Susanne Caro, University of Montana Library, Missoula About the

Author Michael Leslie is Professor of English at Rhodes College, USA. John Dixon Hunt is Professor Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania, USA.