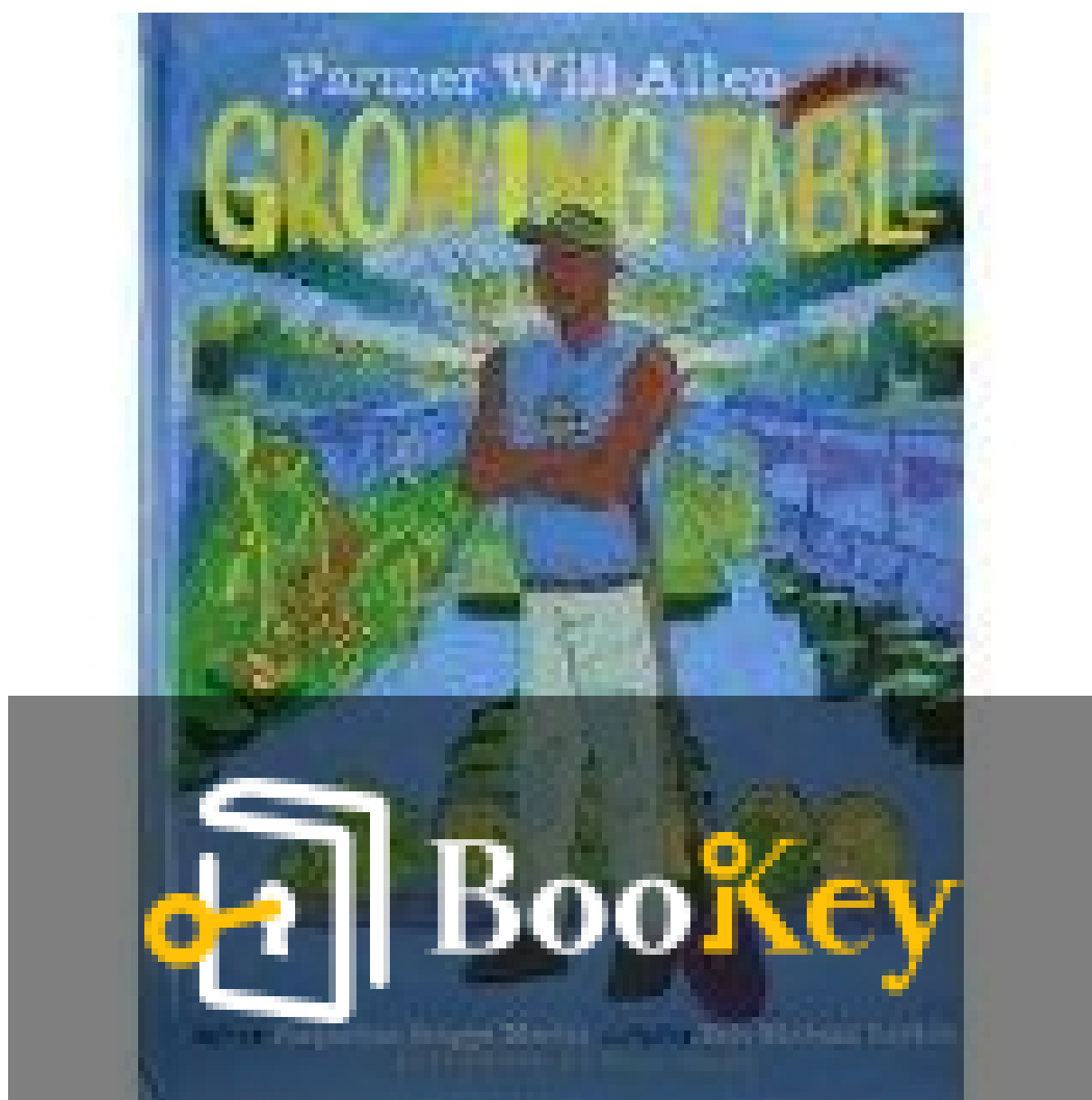


Farmer Will Allen And The Growing Table PDF (Limited Copy)

Jacqueline Briggs-Martin



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Farmer Will Allen And The Growing Table

Summary

"A Tale of Urban Farming Innovation and Community Nourishment."

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About the book

In a world where urban landscapes are often associated with towering concrete structures and bustling markets, "***Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table**" by Jacqueline Briggs-Martin tells a refreshing tale of transformation and hope. This heartwarming story captures the journey of Will Allen, a man with towering dreams and the tenacity to bring them to life. Once a basketball player, Will envisioned a vibrant change where others saw gloom and empty lots. He dedicated his efforts to turning vacant city spaces into thriving urban farms, bringing fresh produce directly to neighborhoods in need. This inspiring narrative invites readers of all ages to witness how one man's passion for the earth can sow seeds of community, nourishment, and resilience. Dive into this uplifting tale, and discover how a single idea can blossom into a movement that feeds the soul and reunites people with the land they share.

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About the author

Jacqueline Briggs-Martin, an esteemed American author, is celebrated for her captivating storytelling and passion for weaving narratives that resonate with both children and adults alike. With a career that spans decades, she has carved a niche for herself in children's literature, often bringing real-world stories to vibrant life through her writing. Her exceptional ability to blend fact and fiction is evident in her books, which often focus on themes of community, sustainability, and the wonders of the natural world.

Briggs-Martin's books, like "Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table," not only entertain but educate, inspiring young readers to think critically about the environment and their role in it. Her works, which have won numerous accolades including the Caldecott Medal, underscore her dedication to literary excellence and her commitment to encouraging informed curiosity in young minds.

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Summary Content List

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chapter 1 Summary:

The book "Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table" by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, with illustrations by Eric-Shabazz Larkin, tells an inspiring story of Will Allen, a visionary urban farmer, whose journey showcases his passion for food and community.

In his childhood, Will Allen was surrounded by abundant home-cooked meals, thanks to his mother's penchant for preparing large quantities of fresh food. Despite not having luxuries like a car or a television, his family always had wholesome meals, creating a profound appreciation for food in young Will. However, he wasn't as fond of the hard work that came with growing it. Dreaming of a different future, he pursued basketball and "white-shirt work," eventually playing professionally in Belgium.

It was in Belgium that a casual request to help dig potatoes reminded Will of his love for working the land. This rekindled passion for farming grew as he shared hearty meals with Cyndy, his wife, and their friends. After his basketball career ended, Will transitioned to a traditional job in Wisconsin but kept tending to a vegetable garden on his in-laws' property, yearning for his own space.

Will recognized a pressing problem: fresh vegetables were as rare in the city as trout in the desert. He believed that everyone should have access to

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nutritious food. Standing in front of an abandoned city lot, he envisioned a sprawling table laden with fresh produce, sparking a new idea in urban farming. This vision of urban agriculture and determination to transform vacant lots into thriving gardens marked the beginning of a new kind of farm, paving the way for communities to reconnect with the land and enjoy the fruits of their labor. Through his efforts, Will Allen not only cultivated crops but also community, nourishing bodies and spirits alike.

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chapter 2 Summary:

Will Allen, a visionary urban farmer, embarked on transforming an unused city lot in Milwaukee into a thriving agricultural hub. The lot, originally barren and polluted, posed a significant challenge due to its chemical-laden soil. Will's dream of cultivating fresh vegetables for local children who had never tasted truly ripe produce seemed daunting, given his lack of resources for traditional soil remediation.

Recalling a technique he learned in Belgium, Will decided to turn to composting—a sustainable method of creating fertile soil from decomposed organic matter. With the help of friends who contributed food scraps ranging from apple peels to old zucchinis, Will began to fashion compost heaps in big white buckets. He enriched these piles with hay, leaves, newspapers, and red wiggler worms, essential for breaking down the waste into nutrient-rich soil.

As Will nurtured this transformation, neighborhood kids became curious and soon joined in, fascinated by the process and the worms, which they began to study. They learned to refine the worms' diet, realizing the importance of avoiding spicy foods while providing ample watermelon rinds, sweet potato scraps, and other suitable leftovers. This process fostered a sense of community and education around urban agriculture.



Once the composting efforts bore fruit, Will set about maximizing the limited space of his city plot. He creatively utilized vertical space, hanging plant baskets from ceilings and installing shelves crammed with pots of spinach, chard, and lettuce. To further enhance productivity, he incorporated aquaponics—a sustainable farming technique that utilizes fish wastewater to nourish plant roots, which in turn, cleans the water for the fish.

Realizing the potential of his city farm, he expanded its biodiversity by introducing goats, chickens, turkeys, and bees. This development led to the establishment of "Growing Power," a testament to innovative agriculture, community involvement, and sustainable practices. Through perseverance and creativity, Will Allen turned an otherwise unproductive urban space into a flourishing ecosystem, providing fresh, healthy food and inspiring a new generation of urban farmers.

Aspect	Details
Visionary Leader	Will Allen
Location	Milwaukee city lot, originally barren and polluted
Challenge	Transforming chemical-laden soil without traditional resources for remediation
Solution	Composting using organic material and red wiggler worms
Community Engagement	Neighborhood kids joined to learn and contribute to the composting process

Aspect	Details
Education	Kids learned the science of composting/worms' dietary needs
Creative Space Utilization	Vertical space with hanging baskets and shelves for various plants
Innovative Farming Technique	Aquaponics utilizing fish wastewater to nourish plant growth
Biological Expansion	Introduced goats, chickens, turkeys, and bees
Outcome	Flourishing ecosystem providing fresh food, inspiring urban farming
Legacy	"Growing Power" initiative was established, symbolizing innovative agriculture and community involvement

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Community involvement in sustainable practices

Critical Interpretation: This chapter emphasizes the transformative power of community involvement in creating sustainable practices, highlighting how individuals can come together to initiate positive change. You can draw inspiration from this by realizing that even in what seems like an insurmountable challenge, such as turning a polluted city lot into a thriving farm, collective effort can bring about significant environmental and social benefits. By harnessing shared resources and knowledge, just like Will Allen did with composting and aquaponics, you can create impactful solutions that benefit both your local surroundings and the greater community. The involvement of neighborhood kids also illustrates how education and participation can spark interest and foster future leaders committed to sustainability. Engaging with your community can lead to innovation and genuine transformation of spaces into productive, healthy ecosystems.

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chapter 3 Summary:

FINDING FARMERS

Will Allen, donning his signature jeans and blue sweatshirt, tirelessly works from dawn to dusk on his urban farm. Despite his dedication, he realized that growing all the food he envisioned required more hands than his alone. Observing the diverse community around him—teenagers, schoolchildren, and people of all ages—he saw potential farmers. His efforts paid off as his "table" soon expanded to the size of several supermarkets, producing thousands of pounds of food. Residents from the nearby high-rises began frequenting his farm for fresh produce, fish, and eggs, while upscale restaurants sought his commodities. Yet, Will aspired to take this nourishment worldwide, dreaming of a table that transcends borders.

GROWING POWER AROUND THE WORLD

Contemplating the global table, Will appreciated that his growing team of trained urban farmers held the solution. Thus, he embarked on a mission—teaching city dwellers across America to cultivate their own food. His journey took him and his red wigglers (a type of composting worm crucial for fertile soil) even further to places like Kenya and London.

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Meanwhile, Milwaukee witnessed a constant influx of 20,000 annual visitors to his farm, eager to learn farming concepts, from simple plots to innovations on city lots, rooftops, and even abandoned highways.

WILL AND THE FIFTY MILLION

But Will isn't stopping. He envisions fifty million more individuals becoming food growers—utilizing porches, pots, side yards, and exploring new avenues like multi-story vertical farms and repurposing empty factories and warehouses. Dreaming of city farms as ubiquitous as streetlights, Will sees future farmers, even in children today, who might cultivate gardens for their families and communities from any available space. How expansive can this global table become?

AFTERWORD

In a heartfelt message, Will Allen reaches out to readers, encouraging them to embrace farming as he did—despite initial reluctance in his youth. He shares his passion for transforming urban spaces into lush gardens, whether on rooftops or through innovative vertical structures dedicated to agriculture. Will inspires readers to eat fresh, plant gardens in any possible nook, and perhaps even start composting with worms to enrich the soil—a key to

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successful farming.

Inviting readers to visit his Growing Power farm in Milwaukee, Will emphasizes that they are vital to a future filled with healthy, safe food. With his friendly challenge, he beckons everyone to join him in this agricultural revolution, offering support and a vision where anyone can cultivate their own "table." With an invitation to witness his thriving farm, Will eagerly anticipate what the next generation of growers will achieve.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Community Collaboration with Diverse Farmers

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 3 of 'Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table,' you're invited to see how collaboration and diverse engagement can propel personal and community dreams into reality. Will Allen recognized that meaningful change isn't cultivated alone, so he reached out to the hearts and hands around him—children, teenagers, residents from different backgrounds—to craft a thriving urban agricultural initiative. This provides a powerful lesson for you: harness the collective strength within your communities, acknowledging that each individual's unique contributions can lead to remarkable growth and impact. By rallying together and embracing diversity in skills and ideas, you can plant the seeds of transformation in your own life, ultimately bringing your visions—whether they're akin to Will's grand table or reflective of your personal ventures—to full bloom. Embrace collaboration and diversity within your community for enhanced growth and success.

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