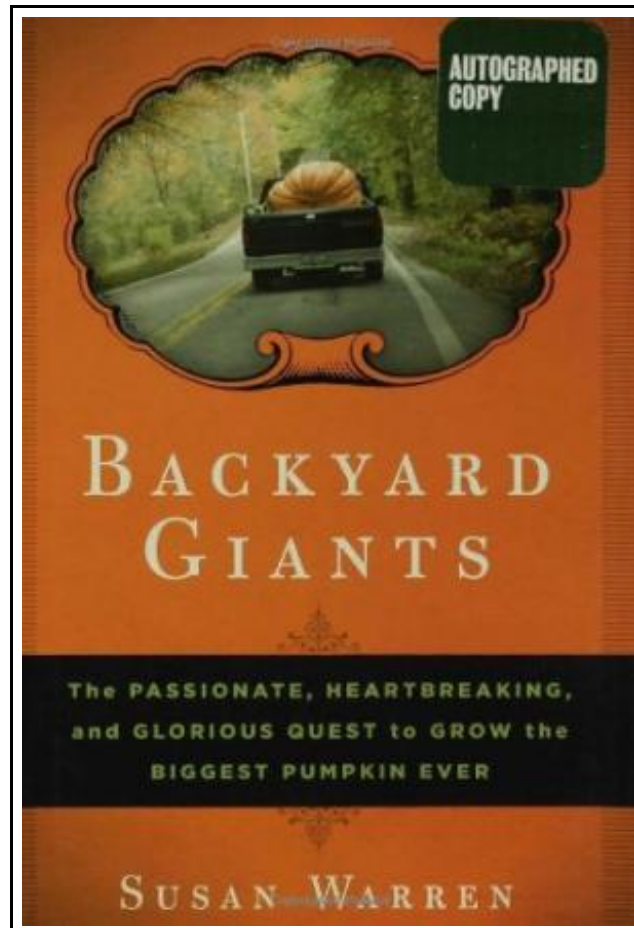


Backyard Giants: The Passionate, Heartbreaking, and Glorious Quest to Grow the Biggest Pumpkin Ever



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(Dr. Reta Murphy)

BACKYARD GIANTS: THE PASSIONATE, HEARTBREAKING, AND GLORIOUS QUEST TO GROW THE BIGGEST PUMPKIN EVER



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Bloomsbury USA, 2007. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: Praise for Backyard Giants: & "Strangely engrossing. Warren masterfully limns the subculture and the personalities of the fanatical growers, and the degree of peril is so high it is impossible not to get swept up in the suspenseful course of the season. Quirky and surprisingly affecting good fun--Ira Glass must be jealous." - Kirkus & "In a world of biggests, highests, fastest, and farthest -- of human obsessions that stretch the imagination -- it should come as no surprise that there are people who devote the better part of their lives to growing pumpkins as big as elephants. But while size certainly matters, Susan Warren's expertly reported, charmingly told tale is about much more than the hidden subculture of enormous fruit. Backyard Giants is about the inexplicable drives and complex emotions that make the world such a wondrous place." -- Stefan Fatsis, author of Word Freak: Heartbreak, Triumph, Genius, and Obsession in the World of Competitive Scrabble Players "Of all the whack-brained things people do in their back yards - the compulsive cultivation of grass, the feeding of carnivorous bears, and let us never forget lawn darts - this is one of the most thoroughly whack-brained. In hog-wallows of manure, fertilizer and pesticide, pumpkins the size of old sofas are coaxed and coddled like race horses. Grown men (and a few women) hover over their patches, guarding the virginity of flowers with Ziploc bags, pruning vines with surgical angst, and arranging fans or woolen blankets on the swollen squash as the weather dictates. They lie awake in their beds listening for vandals and the sounds of growth-gone-mad as the gourds engorge themselves by 40, 50, 60 pounds in a night. A hairline split in the squash's...

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