



Losing the Garden: The Story of a Marriage

Laura Waterman

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In 1971 Laura and Guy Waterman decided to homestead in a cabin in the mountains of Vermont. For nearly three decades they created a deliberate life using no running water or electricity. It was an extreme that most of us can only imagine sustaining for a week or two.

The end of their marriage came on a frigid day, February 6, 2000 when Guy climbed to the summit of Mount Lafayette in New Hampshire's White Mountains and sat down among the rocks to die. *Losing the Garden* is the memoir of a woman who was compelled to ask herself "How could I support my husband's plan to commit suicide?" It is an intimate examination of dark family histories and a marriage that tried to transcend them.

Laura's father was the pre-eminent scholar of Emily Dickinson, Thomas H. Johnson, whose brilliance was muddied by alcoholism. Guy Waterman lost two sons (one son was a subject of Jon Krakauer's bestselling book *Into the Wild*). Finally, Laura Waterman comes to terms with her husband's long depression and his complex nature. Her awakening and affirmation of life after loss is a love story, a portrait of an intense and unusual marriage.

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