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Home & Organizing

Perfect Can Be the Enemy of the Good

Posted on May 13, 2010 8:30:00 AM | By [ErinDoland](#)

Back when I was teaching U.S. and British literature, each semester I would have a student who was extremely bright and capable but who had a difficult time turning in assignments. These students were typically so concerned with getting everything perfect on an assignment that they would be paralyzed by fear of finishing the work. Instead of turning in something with mistakes in it, they wouldn't turn in the assignment at all.

Many people have a similar problem with organizing.

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No Obligation Book Club

Here's a Question for You, Bookies

Posted on May 12, 2010 10:43:21 PM | By [SimplyStatedAdmin](#)

As always, it comes from our friends down the hall on the print side of Real Simple; your answer could appear in the September issue. And the question is: What is the most memorable book you read in school? And, of course, why? Did you bawl your eyes out while reading Wilson Rawls' Where the Red Fern Grows, stumble your way through Plato's Symposium, devour Madame Bovary? Please include the title and the author as you tell us know why this particular book comes to mind when you think back on your school days. Thanks, Bookies! Are you reading this via an e-mail or RSS feed? If you wish to comment, please click here.

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Beauty & Fashion

BUILT Fishnet Laptop Sleeve Discount & Giveaway....That's Right, Fishnet!

Posted on May 12, 2010 2:55:19 PM | By [JuleeWilson](#)

Fishnets aren't just for your legs anymore....Ooo la la!

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Home & Organizing

Small Appliances That Are Worth the Space

Posted on May 12, 2010 2:47:00 PM | By [KristinAppenbrink](#)

Juicers and coffee makers and toaster ovens, oh my! It seems like there are a million different small kitchen appliances designed to take up precious counter space. But how many of them are actually worth it in terms of cost, electricity usage, and of course, space?

I have a short list of appliances that I think are "worth it," as I'm sure you do too. I also have a list of appliances that I'm on the fence about, and I would love to hear if any of them are on your must-have list.

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Home & Organizing

Trina Turk Home

Posted on May 12, 2010 7:57:07 AM | By [HollyBecker](#)

When I first heard about fashion designer Trina Turk looking to launch a home line, I felt a tingle of excitement as so often I've looked at her clothes and imagined them as soft furnishings for the home. There are many prints and patterns in the fashion world that can easily cross over to interiors and Trina Turk's bold patterns and colorways is a stunning example of this. In this collection you can find table linens, rugs, towels, pillows and candles... let's have a look at a few of my favorites that are currently available for purchase in her online shop or over at....

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No Obligation Book Club

Pick Your June Book!

Posted on May 11, 2010 5:32:35 PM | By [SimplyStatedAdmin](#)

Hello, Bookies: So what's in the mix this time? Everything from a debut novel to an indisputable classic, a short story collection to intriguing historical fiction. Real Simple Food Assistant Lindsay Funston will lead next

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month's discussion of the winning book. Pick your favorite of the four below by Sunday, May 23! Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet, by Jamie Ford Ford's debut novel, set in the Seattle of World War II, is a story of love young and old, familial relationships across generations, and upheaval on both personal and global scales. Nine Stories, by J.D. Salinger The late, reclusive master followed The Catcher in the Rye with this 1953 collection of short stories originally published in The New Yorker. The Lacuna, by Barbara Kingsolver The most recent novel from the popular author is an ambitious, layered, decade-spanning mix of fictional and real-life characters that won her excellent...

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Home & Organizing

Grow into Gardening, Plus a Giveaway

Posted on May 11, 2010 3:45:00 PM | By [SimplyStatedAdmin](#)

Each Tuesday in May we will have a guest post from Jessie Atchison, brand manager for [Burpee Home Gardens](#), about how to start your own vegetable garden. They are also giving away eight complete garden starter kits. [Click here](#) for the original post and giveaway details.

So you want to grow your own vegetables this year? Great! You're not alone. According to the 2009 Edibles Gardening Trends Research Report, nearly 7.7 million households were new to vegetable gardening in 2009. The key to a successful garden is to start out with one you can manage—and avoid biting off more than you can chew.

If you're thinking about trying your hand at gardening this year, here are a few things that can help make your experience a rewarding one.

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Home & Organizing

Is a Fear of Missing Out Contributing to Your Clutter?

Posted on May 11, 2010 8:30:00 AM | By [ErinDoland](#)

My first semester of college, I had a difficult time going to sleep at a reasonable hour. College was full of so many opportunities -- there were inside jokes to be made, pranks to pull, conversations to be had -- and I couldn't experience them if I were asleep. Eventually, exhaustion and sanity won, and I started going to bed at a decent time. I found that I survived if I missed out on a few fun things with my friends, and, more importantly, I was a lot more entertaining to be around when I had a good night's sleep under my belt.

Similarly, some people hold onto clutter because they fear they'll miss out on an opportunity if they let go of an object.

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If you're thinking about trying your hand at gardening this year, here are a few things that can help make your experience a rewarding one.

Start Small: First-time gardeners can make the mistake of planning an area that's too large to maintain. Getting your feet wet with a small garden makes it easy to expand from year to year. An area of about six-by-eight-feet is a good start. Or you might even consider starting with a single tomato plant or a container garden.

Consider Your Time: Gardens do require a time commitment. You have to keep an eye out for any signs of damage or disease, so any problems can be caught early. Check often to see if your garden needs to be watered. When the soil an inch below the surface is dry—every two or three days in summer—it's time to break out the watering can. Stake large plants to keep air flowing around lower leaves, and pick fruit when ripe to ensure continuous production. Don't have that much time? Try container gardening instead. Many

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vegetables and herbs are excellent in large pots for your sunny balcony or patio, and don't require the same commitment as a full backyard garden.

Choose the Right Spot: When selecting your location, pick a spot with as much sun as possible (at least six hours each day). Close proximity to a water spigot is ideal, too, whether you use a hose or watering can. As you dig, remove as many stones as possible and all grass and weeds. Also, break up any large clumps of earth with a garden spade or metal pitchfork so your plant roots start strong. Adding compost and other organic materials will both enhance your soil and increase your plants' output.

Like any project, growing vegetables and herbs requires work. But by following a few basic skills and techniques, you can really make gardening a fun and rewarding experience. Next

week we'll take a look at choosing what to grow.

Don't forget to enter the Burpee Gardens giveaway by commenting on [this post](#) by Thursday, May 13th. And check back here on Friday, May 14th to see if you are one of our eight lucky winners.

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