

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Naked Ladies Save the Day!

By Cynthia Brian

"To see you naked is to recall the Earth." Federico Lorca Garcia, Spanish Poet



Close up of the Magic Lily

Photo Cynthia Brian

To say that I was depressed belied my true emotions. I was despondent, discouraged, and utterly forlorn. Only 10 days remained until the tropical honeymoon party I was throwing for my daughter and her fiancé and thanks to the rampaging deer destroyers, my backyard was trampled, pillaged, and plundered. In less than 18 days, the battalion of bucks bounding over backyard boundaries had ransacked several moons of careful tending to my cornucopia of curated color. Anything that bloomed or boasted greenery had been snapped, crackled, and popped. Those virulent males had used their antlers as battering rams, ripping off limbs, bark, and breaking in half heirloom bushes of roses two decades old.

Despair set in, despite the numerous suggestions offered by dedicated readers (see next page). My final solution was to erect higher fences. Finally, the fracas was finished, yet my landscape hardly invited a garden gathering.

Then I saw them.

Tiny grey bonnets reached for the sunlight. One by one the resplendent Naked Ladies emerged with bare legs and beautiful pink throats until hundreds danced in the breeze awaiting my approval. "Art can never exist without naked beauty," wrote William Blake, and nature was painting. It was as if their appearance signaled other plants to follow suit: the crepe myrtles burst into bloom, purple beans climbed the trellis, zucchini blossoms erupted, and light lavender fluff florets developed on the spearmint. I was so overjoyed to welcome this renaissance that I danced a jig. Because the bulbs had no foliage for months, I had completely overlooked their turtlebacks and had forgotten that this was the month that favored their presence.

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