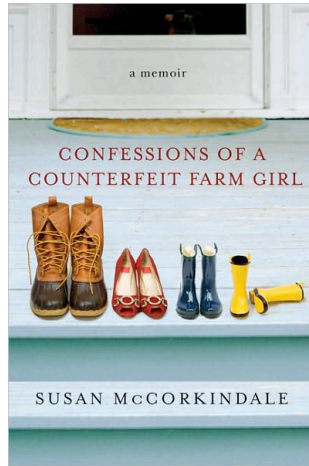


**Book Review – Are You Ready for a Good Laugh?**

Nothing could be more amusing than reading about a shoe loving, makeup wearing, once-a-week-hair-salon visiting, manicure sporting New York City Marketing Director findind herself on 500 acres of prime cattle farm. Especially when the story is written by Susan McCorkindale, a woman with a wonderful self-depreciating humor and wit. Her move into the “sticks” from New Jersey is epic. “*Confessions of a Counterfeit Farm Girl*” isn’t a “gardening book” per se (Susan readily admits she has a brown thumb), but it does illustrate the immense difference of life in a cul-de-sac with city life at the doorstep and life on a 500 acre farm, no less than 25 minutes from the nearest Starbucks.



Susan takes us on her family’s journey from New Jersey suburbs with her high-powered, stressful and salaried job at *Family Circle* magazine to their ultimate farm life outside of Upperville, in Fauquier County.

Though not all can relate to what sounds like a cushy job - how can “delegating” and “power lunches” be stressful? -readers will sense the frustrated undertones of being the Mom at work while her boys spend their days without her. The 9/11 catastrophe was the impetus to lead her husband (nicknamed “Hemingway” due to his literary career) in

the push to leave city life behind. Hemingway’s brother, after purchasing the 500 acre cattle farm had the open position of manager. So, off to rural Virginia they went.

Gardeners, or other transplants such as Ms. McCorkindale, will surely appreciate the culture shock requiring one to don wellingtons or mukluks before heading out the door. *Via Spiga* stilettos won’t do traipsing through the cow do-do (though there are several hilarious attempts to prove they will).

When you started your gardening, was it because you had an overwhelming desire to dig in the dirt or because your husband deemed your new job to be Home Veggie Queen (then going behind your back to produce the largest, most luscious tomatoes imaginable)? Either way, you will enjoy this foray into our Loudoun County way of life - even if you reside in one of our cul-de-sacs, don your stilettos and either drive or catch the County Commuter bus into town.

Susan has a blog on her web site which contains more tidbits of day to day life in Rural Virginia:  
<http://www.susanmccorkindale.com/>

**Linda Shotton,  
 Loudoun County Master Gardener**

**Subscriptions**

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