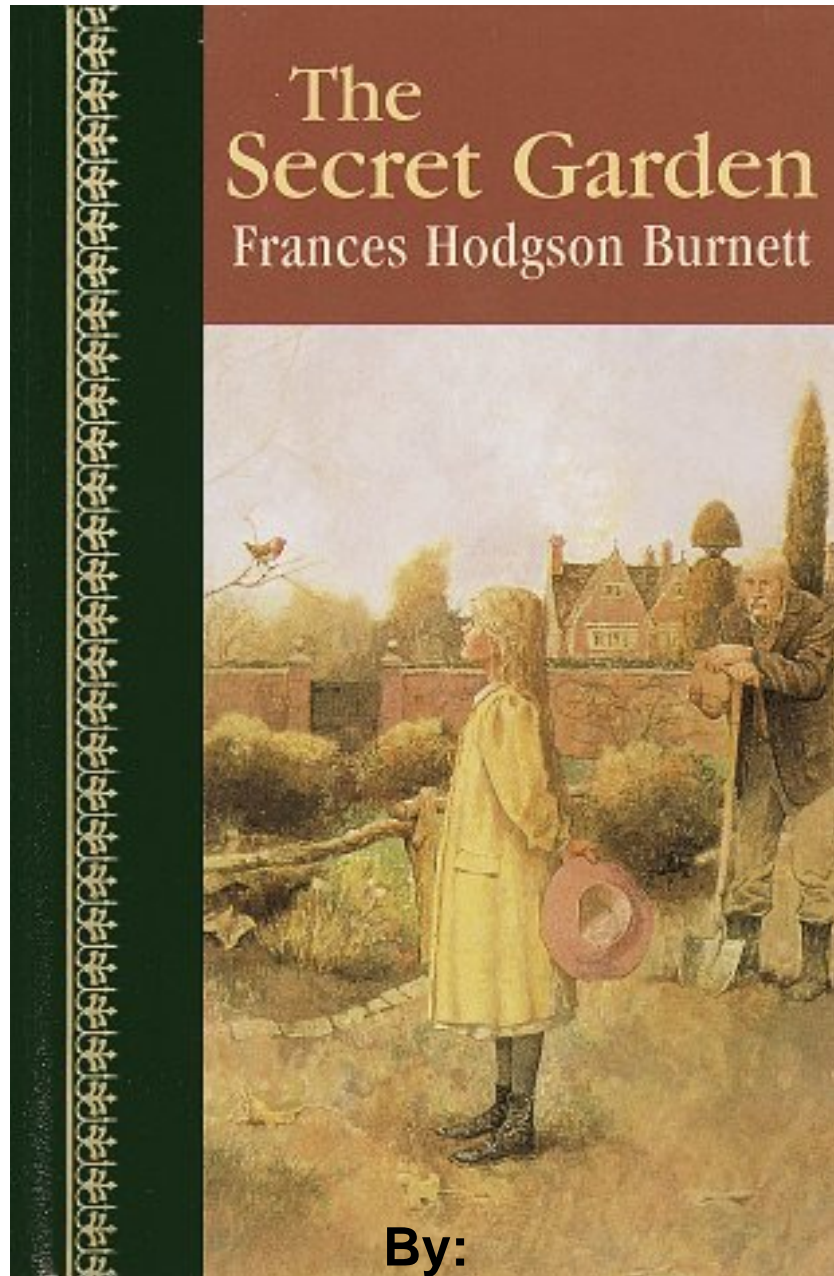


# The Secret Garden Book PDF Download



**By:**  
**Frances Hodgson Burnett**

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## What people Say:

### K.D. Absolutely

I am now confused. I do not know anymore what is my preference when it comes to books.

When I was a kid, I wanted to read only books with pictures like the illustrated "Alice in the Wonderland" or "Rip Van Winkle". Until I read "Silas Marner" with no pictures and I said, wow, books with no pictures are also great!

When I was a teenager, I said I don't like to read books that are hard to understand and read by adults until I read "Lolita" by Vladimir Nabokov and I said, wow, I did not know that th

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When I was a young man, I said I do not want thick books because I do not have time for them until I read "War and Peace" and "The Fountainhead" and I said, wow, thick books can be really engaging and finishing them can give you a different high!

When I became a husband, my sex life became busy, I stopped heavy reading and concentrated on my job (not on copulating you silly) so I just grabbed some easy-read bestsellers like "The Da Vinci Code", "The Kite Runner" until my daughter came and I had to read some children's books to her and she loved them but I secretly hated them until I read to her "The Little Prince" and said, wow, there are still children's books that can speak to me even if I am a grown up man!

When I became a middle-aged man, I discovered Goodreads. There is an option to screen members who apply to become your friend by asking the applicant a question. I thought then that the choice of genre was important so I chose this question:

and from then on, I have been accepting and ignoring invites based on his/her answer. I generally don't accept invites from people who say they don't have any preference. I thought that that kind of answer is wishy-washy or indecisive that reflects his or her not being a serious reader.

## Hailey (HaileyInBookland)

Love love love

Also: counting this as my first BookTubeATHon read even if I read only 2 pages during the actual readathon, I NEED ALL THE BOOKS I CAN GET

## Shayantani Das

Except for the persistent India bashing, I loved this book. In fact Mistress Mary, I loved the ending so much that I forgive your English superiority complex. Next time you visit here though, allow me to take you on the ride across India, I hope your impression will change

## Todd

I know this book seems out of place among the fare I usually read, but hey, all I can say is that I like what I like. There is some intangible quality to this book that really strikes a chord in me. The whole idea of that sickly child being healed with love, attention, and (forgive me an LDS joke) wholesome recreational activities, just somehow speaks Truth to me. I think this book has strong application to today's problems with the rising generation. I really believe that kids these days are ge

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On another level, I really believe that some people are only as sick as they think they are. Working in the healthcare field, it's obvious to me that some people find it quite easy to take the role of a victim. Again, this book speaks Truth concerning the value of attitude and perspective in overcoming perceived problems and finding out that they weren't as bad as you thought they were.

## Manybooks

I first read this wonderful and evocative absolute and utter gem of a story at around age twelve or thirteen (it was likely one of the first longer novels I read entirely in English, not counting those books read for school). I simply adored Frances Hodgson Burnett's

when I read it as a young teenager (or rather, a tween), I continued to love it when I reread it multiple times while at university, and I still massively loved the novel when I reread the story for the Children's

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when I read it as a young teenager (or rather, a tween), I continued to love it when I reread it multiple times while at university, and I still massively loved the novel when I reread the story for the Children's Literature Group in 2011 (and I much continue to love it, having reread it at least twice or so since then).

I honestly think that I enjoyed

even more as an adult than the times I read the novel when I was younger (and that is saying an awful lot). When I first read

as a young teenager, I was definitely enchanted by the garden (and of course, the Robin), and I really liked and enjoyed reading about the Sowerbys, but I did kind of consider both Mary and Colin as somewhat spoiled and selfish (I understood their problems and felt some empathy, but I also felt more than a bit annoyed at and by them, something that I certainly did not experience as much during my adult rereads). As an adult reader, I actually and firmly believe that most, if not all of both Mary's and Colin's problems and behavioural quirks (be they emotional or physical) are the result of parental abandonment and emotional neglect (maybe even abuse). They act and react towards the world the way the world (or at least how most of the world) has always acted and reacted towards them. And without the garden, but also without characters like Martha, Susan and Dickon Sowerby, without Ben Weatherstaff and the Robin, there would never have been any change in and for Mary (or at least, not enough change), and by extension, there would never have been any change in and for Colin and his father either.

One interesting and thought-provoking fact presented in

is that there actually seems to be a real and almost palpable absence of nurturing father figures throughout (except maybe Dickon, but he is just a boy and in many ways resembles more a Pan-like nature deity, and Ben Weatherstaff really is too old and curmudgeonly to be considered nurturing and fatherly). We do have quite a number of nurturing mother figures portrayed who aid Mary, and later Colin in their recovery (Susan and Martha Sowerby, and even Mary later becomes somewhat of a motherly and nurturing figure towards Colin), but we never see or hear much about a Mr. Sowerby (he is a complete nonentity). And while much is made of the fact that Mary Lennox' mother did not seem to want her child (a fact that is rightfully criticised), the fact that Mr. Lennox did not trouble himself much about his daughter either, while mentioned briefly, is seemingly accepted as a given (or at least much more accepted). Also, while the fact that Mr. Craven has spiritually and emotionally abandoned Colin, and cannot stand to see him when he's awake because his son's eyes remind him of the boy's dead mother is noted in the novel, this rather vile and nasty attitude

and behaviour is not (at least in my humble opinion) subject to nearly the same amount of harsh criticism that Mary's emotional and spiritual abandonment by her mother is. I know that the death of Mr. Craven's wife was traumatic for him, but both Mr. Carven's and Mrs. Lennox' actions, or rather their lack of love and acceptance towards their children have had horrible psychological (and psychosomatic) consequences, basically turning both of them into emotional cripples, and Colin into a hysterical hypochondriac who thinks he has a crooked back.

clearly and lastingly demonstrates that children (no, anyone) can only show love, can only be lovable, if they have experienced love themselves. In the beginning of the novel, Mary is described as tyrannical, unpleasant, thoroughly "unlovable" and also as somewhat odd. But how can Mary know anything about love, if she has never experienced love? Her parents certainly do not seem to want her, and she has basically been abandoned to the care of servants, who have also been instructed to keep Mary out of the way as much as possible (and in her innermost soul, Mary likely realises this and much and rightly resents this). Mary's temper tantrums towards her Ayah and other servants, her desire to always get her own way, are not merely Mary imitating the behaviour she witnesses among the ex-pat community in India (although that likely also has a part to play). I believe in many ways, the servants act as representatives of her absent parents, and by lashing out at the servants, Mary is also lashing out at her careless, unloving, absent parents by proxy.