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The Secret Garden (The Classic Collection)



Synopsis

A young British girl born and reared in India loses her neglectful parents in an earthquake. She is returned to England to live at her uncle's castle. Her uncle is very distant due to the loss of his wife ten years before. Neglected once again, she begins exploring the estate and discovers a garden that has been locked and neglected. Aided by one of the servants' boys, she begins restoring the garden, and eventually discovers some other secrets of the manor.

Book Information

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Audio CD

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Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

Customer Reviews

Mistress Mary is quite contrary until she helps her garden grow. Along the way, she manages to cure her sickly cousin Colin, who is every bit as imperious as she. These two are sullen little peas in a pod, closed up in a gloomy old manor on the Yorkshire moors of England, until a locked-up garden captures their imaginations and puts the blush of a wild rose in their cheeks; "It was the sweetest, most mysterious-looking place any one could imagine. The high walls which shut it in were covered with the leafless stems of roses which were so thick, that they matted together.... 'No wonder it is still,' Mary whispered. 'I am the first person who has spoken here for ten years.'" As new life sprouts from the earth, Mary and Colin's sour natures begin to sweeten. For anyone who has ever felt afraid to live and love, *The Secret Garden's* portrayal of reawakening spirits will thrill and rejuvenate. Frances Hodgson Burnett creates characters so strong and distinct, young readers

continue to identify with them even 85 years after they were conceived. (Ages 9 to 12) --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Soothing and mellifluous, native Briton Bailey's voice proves an excellent instrument for polishing up a new edition of Burnett's story. Bratty and spoiled Mary Lennox is orphaned when her parents fall victim to a cholera outbreak in India. As a result, Mary becomes the ward of an uncle in England she has never met. As she hesitantly tries to carve a new life for herself at imposing and secluded Misselthwaite Manor, Mary befriends a high-spirited boy named Dickon and investigates a secret garden on the Manor grounds. She also discovers a sickly young cousin, Colin, who has been shut away in a hidden Manor room. Together Mary and Dickon help Colin blossom, and in the process Mary finds her identity and melts the heart of her emotionally distant uncle. Bailey makes fluid transitions between the voices and accents of various characters, from terse Mrs. Medlock and surly groundskeeper Ben to chipper housemaid Martha. And most enjoyably, she gives Mary a believably childlike voice. A brief biography of the author is included in an introduction. Ages 6-12. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Starting in about fourth grade, each grade had to put on a play for the school. In the sixth grade or so, I had read "The Secret Garden" and suggested to the teacher that we make a play out of the book. A few of the students wrote the play and I designed the sets which I also helped to paint. A usually very shy boy was chosen to star. He rose to the occasion and was a huge success. It was a huge hit with everyone. It was wonderful to read it again all these years later. It brought back long-forgotten memories.

I bought this book for my 8 year old granddaughter, as this was one of my favorite books as a child. I have read it at least once every couple of years as an adult...to get me inspired to "dig in my gardens after a long winter"...You will love the layout of this book! There are MANY charming pictures, making it a VERY good book for read aloud, as the pictures AND the story will hold a child's interest. The font is old fashioned and equally charming. All in all, this is a lovely version and I prefer it above all the others. I will buy this book again for each of the other granddaughters as they come of age...This book is a bit larger in size than the book we found at the library as kids, but it is so beautiful you won't mind the larger dimensions. This book will be a cornerstone to building a child's home library, and one to share with future generations. When I sent this book to her, I also sent a copy of the DVD of the Secret Garden, a child size gardener's tote with small hand garden

tools, child-sized garden gloves, and a half dozen seed packets of old fashioned, easy to grow flowers to further inspire her to ask "for a bit of earth".

A delightful classic tale of hope, faith, and courage, *The Secret Garden* spotlights three children who are unique and somewhat "weird" in the eyes of their peers. Mary Lennox grew up in India, but has come to live with her uncle Archibald Craven in Yorkshire. Upon her arrival, she is demanding, imperious, and not at all healthy. But gradually, after meeting a boy who lives across the moor, she begins to blossom. Discovering a secret garden seems to inspire a sense of magic in the two children, which then extends to the young master of the house, Colin, who has always believed that he is too fragile to do anything at all, and that he is, in fact, dying. The three children demonstrate the power of believing in something and almost magically change their lives. The Yorkshire dialect, the beautifully described settings, and the core message are worthwhile reasons to still read this classic. This was my first read of this book...and I'm awarding it four stars.

The book is wonderful. This particular edition of *The Secret Garden* is horrible. The "publisher" just printed it off of the internet, I suspect, and didn't bother to format it. There are no paragraph indentations, and the spacing of the words is weird to make the lines justify on the right and left margins. The moral of this story is: click the "Look inside" link even if you already know the book!

It's hard for me to say how much I love this book and how much it has meant to me over the years. Very few children's books have given me the flights of imagination that this one has. It's one of the books that I think about regularly even though I first read it 44 years ago. The descriptions of India, the descriptions of the house on the moors, the description of the garden, it came as close to a perfect book for children as I had read. There's no fantasy or magic or space aliens, just humans interacting with each other. Burnett knows exactly what will stir the imagination of children and this is one of the books that I think no child should miss reading or hearing.

"The Secret Garden" by Frances Hodgson Burnett is a very old (originally written in 1911) Classic novel. I enjoyed the sweet endearing story, but I had some difficulty reading it, because of the dialect (Yorkshire) of the characters. In trying to figure out what they were saying, I would lose focus on the story.

The story starts with Mary Lennox. Miss Lennox, a small thin girl with a thin face and a little thin body, her hair also thin and colorless along with her sour expression-you could easily see her personality described quite easily on her face. She lives in India. Her father being a high official under the English Government, her mother being a beautiful lady who only cared to go to parties and did not want to have a child in the first place both discarded Mary vigorously. Put under the care of an Ayah she turns into a selfish, disagreeable little girl that nobody seems to take any notice of. One day a terrible disease falls across the house and with both her parents dead as well as half of the servants, the rest flee in fright and leave Mary quite forgotten in her small nursery until two officers find her. She is taken to England and is told to live with Mr. Archibald Craven, a hunchback whose wife's brother was Mary's father. Slowly, as she lives in such a deary and quiet house she gets to know Mr. Craven and for the first time learns how to trust and love and care for people. She lets Mr. Craven open up a little more and in return she learns to open her heart. She also meets Dickon-the boy who seems to talk to animals. She ponders the boy's ways as they are so different to hers. So much brighter and more lively Dickon is always full of warmth and enthusiasm. Together they find The Secret Garden which belonged to Mr. Craven's dead wife and build it back to life. Although the process is slow one day she discovers the whimpers that come somewhere far deep into the house at night and meets with Mr. Craven's son-Colin. Colin being just as disagreeable a child and self absorbed as Mary herself, although at first they fight a great deal and do not start off with a good start, they end up helping each other. The book is a worthwhile read and a beautiful story.

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