



The Secret Garden & A Little Princess

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This carefully crafted ebook: "The Secret Garden & A Little Princess" is formatted for your eReader with a functional and detailed table of contents.

"The Secret Garden" – Mary Lennox, a sickly and spoiled little girl, is orphaned to dim prospects in a gloomy English manor. Her only friend is a bed-ridden boy named Colin whose prospects may be dimmer than hers. But when Mary finds the key to a Secret Garden, the magical powers of transformation fall within her reach. The Secret Garden is an inspirational tale of transformation and empowerment.

"A Little Princess" – Captain Ralph Crewe, a wealthy English widower, enrolls his young daughter Sara at Miss Minchin's boarding school for girls in London, to prepare her for a life in high society. Sara enjoys a special treatment and exceptional luxuries, and Miss Minchin openly fawns over Sara for her wealth. But all that changes when Captain Ralph suddenly dies after losing all his fortune, leaving Sara in poverty and in disfavor with Miss Minchin.

The Secret Garden & A Little Princess Details

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From Reader Review The Secret Garden & A Little Princess for online ebook

Quonnetta says

a little garden is a good book.it is about a gurl and her father they were rich. her father had to go to work he worked at the diamond minds. so she had to go to this school that you live in. because she was rich she got everything she wanted she had a person that does everything for her.the person that owned the school did not like her because she got everything she wanted. she got everything she wanted because her father paid for it they had alot of money.then her father died and she was soo poor she had no money so the lady that owned the school made her live in the attic.after a year she fond her fathers friend he was in the diamond minds with her father then he took care of her.

Nicole Rollins says

Read almost any review of *The Secret Garden* and nearby you will see the words ‘Christian Science’. It is believed that Christian Science may have inspired Burnett to write *The Secret Garden*, emphasizing the healing powers of nature (over medicine), and the notion that one can negate dark thoughts with joyous thoughts. Unfortunately, while the connection between Burnett and Christian Science could very well be true, I think it potentially hinders a large audience of readers who would appreciate this novel for its suggestion that God is the ultimate healer. Christian Science or not, Burnett is spot on with much of what she implies about faith and the miraculous healing powers of God—naively misunderstood, misnamed, and “euphemized” as ‘Magic’ throughout the novel. Colin, a supposed invalid who begins to feel better after having visited the secret garden, attributes his improvements to the same magic that has rejuvenated the vacant garden after being abandoned for 10 years.

“What is it? What is it? It’s something. It can’t be nothing! I don’t know its name so I call it Magic. I have never seen the sun rise but Mary and Dickon have and from what they tell me I am sure that is Magic too. Something pushes it up and draws it. Sometimes since I’ve been in the garden I’ve looked up through the trees at the sky and I have had a strange feeling of being happy as if something were pushing and drawing in my chest and making me breathe fast. Magic is always pushing and drawing and making things out of nothing. Everything is made out of Magic, leaves and trees, flowers and birds, badgers and foxes and squirrels and people. So it must be all around us. In this garden—in all the places. The Magic in this garden has made me stand up and know I am going to live to be a man” (p. 207).

When you read this passage, how can you not think of all the miraculous times in the Bible Jesus healed someone, especially the lame! Burnett skillfully develops Colin’s character so her readers can make their own conclusion that Colin’s lameness is all in his head. He didn’t require medicine. He required fresh air, activity, friendship, love, and more importantly, the healing power that only Jesus provides- hope. And Colin is not the only one who requires and gains hope throughout the story—Mary (the main character whose parents really never paid her much attention and died) and Archibald (Colin’s widowed father) do too. Burnett encapsulates what hope can do for a person when she writes: “But the calm [peace] had brought a sort of courage and hope with it. Instead of giving way to thoughts of the worst he actually found he was trying to believe in better things” (p. 249). And after gaining his hope, Colin quickly realizes that he must “meditate” on the Magic—just as one would mediate on Scripture—to transform his physical and emotional well-being.

“Magic is in me! Magic is making me well! ... If you keep doing it every day as regularly as soldiers go through drill we shall see what will happen and find out if the experiment succeeds. You learn things by

saying them over and over and thinking about them until they stay in your mind forever and I think it will be the same with Magic. If you keep calling it to come to you and help you it will get to be a part of you and it will stay and do things” (p. 208). Replace ‘Magic’ with Holy Spirit and Burnett perfectly characterizes what it means to have and practice faith. Whether or not Christian Science influenced Burnett’s thinking here, the idea she is conveying—have faith in the Lord, grow in His Word—is truth.

Probably one of my favorite parts of the novel, that exemplifies the natural Christian response to praise God and give thanks, is when Colin is taught the Doxology after being overcome with pure joy and thanksgiving for how much strength he has gained in the garden. Still unaware that ‘Magic’ is God, Colin recites the Doxology and suggests that perhaps giving thanks to the Lord is what he means when he gives thanks to ‘Magic.’ But the scene doesn’t end there! Ben Weatherstaff is brought to tears after reciting the Doxology himself (yes, just a page before, Ben is the one to suggest they sing the Doxology but with no “particular reverence”), which seems to signify the anointing of the Holy Spirit washing over him.

Now, even if you are not a Christian and you don’t want to read beyond the ‘Magic’ as ‘faith’, you could essentially read this book as someone who believes in the healing powers of nature. While Christians will still argue nature is God’s creation and therefore God is the healing power, a reader who values nature for what it is—free beauty!—will most likely appreciate and love the lengthy descriptions of flowers blooming, ivy spreading, and the sun rising (mostly nature coming to life) that ultimately characterizes Burnett’s writing style.

Shannon says

Enjoyed reading this with the kids. Great descriptive writing which helps with envisioning the characters and secret garden. A lovely book.

Wintermint says

I just finished reading a little princess, and it was a finaminal book. It is about a girl who loses her father (Captin Crewe) and has to go from being treated like a princess, to being treated like a scullery maid. I suggest it to all poeple who love to read and just eat up books as fast as they get them.

Wintermint

Ms Always Write says

Not many books that I've read and reread, but this one is definitely one of them! One of the first books I read when I was growing up and for sure one of the more memorable ones. There are so many movie versions of the book as well, but you definitely can't go wrong with this one:

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0108071/>

The book is simple, clean, and easy to read, but it's very easy to love the characters and the book. I would definitely recommend this to anyone, young or old. A classic and one of my favorite books of all time.

Marianne Mullen says

Read with my daughter who was 8 at the time. We loved it. Loved the dialect and the mystery of what would happen. Remember reading the book as a child and still love it as an adult.

Even though my daughter didn't understand a lot of the language and we spent a lot of time discussing the book, she did understand the whole concept of "Magic" and how your thoughts control your life. Love the message for her at this age.

Angela Liao says

In my opinion I thought this was an average book. The plot and characters were interesting. One of the reasons I didn't enjoy reading this book was because of the way the dialogues were written. The book wasn't written in modern English--which made it difficult for a reader to understand. This book reminded me of the process of reading Romeo and Juliet.

As I am reading this book I didn't feel it was right for others to treat Mary that way. They say she isn't as pretty as her mother, but they never thought about how difficult it is for an orphan like Mary to continue living. I really admire Mary's personality, even though at certain times she can be a little cold towards others. I wonder how Mary can live through the process of her parents not caring about her? I think that's the reason for why Mary wasn't very affected by the fact of her parents' death. Neither was she affected when her uncle didn't care much about her.

P.S. Winn says

Great stories and classics to have handy for an amazing read

Maria Sung says

(This is the book I read this summer)

The main character Mary Lennox is a young child living in her mother's brother, Archibald Craven's huge mansion in England, after Mary's parents die from a disease. Mary's parents couldn't pay attention to Mary well, due to their jobs, so Mary almost grow alone. After she moves in to Archibald's house, she faces new journey. Uncle Archibald's wife had died, so he is not coming to his house often, leaving his son at home. Mrs.Archibald died in the garden, so Mr.Archibald walled the garden. Mary meets new friend, Dickon, maid Martha's young brother, and finds back "The Secret Garden". Mary and Dickon finds Colin(Archibald's son) not able to walk. After they help Colin improve his health, and rescue the dead garden, when Mr.Archibald comes back, extremely surprised, then got inspired to be more closer with his son Colin.

I liked the scene where Mr.Archibald dreams of her dead wife telling him to go back to his house. Then when he comes back he was inspired by his son able to walk again, then decides to care his son Colin better.

It was very touching, and a sad scene of the book. I also recommend this book for people who like mysteries and fantasy. :)

Brian Collins says

Two Terrific books.

Manfred Manfred says

The secret Garden is probably the most amazing and thought provoking children's book every written. Such a profound insight into the hearts and minds of the main characters Mary, Colin, Dicken etc- a little romanticised perhaps but still amazing.

The story is set in Yorkshire and it starts off with a kind of dark Gothic atmosphere with Mary stuck in this monstrous and spooky house and her only comrade of sorts is the servant girl Martha - Dicken's elder sister. The house at night is filled with all sorts of horrible tormented wailing which Mary bravely follows until she meets her bedridden and hypochondriac cousin Colin, the heir of the great manor house who is certain he is crippled, deformed and destined to die at a young age. He is in fact incredibly neglected by his father who has been mourning for a decade or so over his late wife who dies tragically in the Garden. After that he locks the Garden and closes it forever.

The company of Mary cheers the child up a bit, but it is not until he hears stories of the Secret Garden that Mary has just rediscovered that his interest in life is renewed. Eventually with the help of Martha's little brother Dicken, the Master of animals, plants and all other sorts of enchantment, the Secret Garden is brought to life again and Colin finally has something to live for other than his imaginery hump and other illnesses.

The main theme of the book the Garden itself symbolizes a kind of Paradise Lost that must be regained through the spiritual innocence, love and lifeaffirming Joy of the three children. Dicken is the Nature child in the story, a kind of Pan figure and the symbol of the pure rustic peasant child who, with his ability to charm animals and breathe life back into the soil, works miracles on first Mary who is the Keeper of the Secret Garden and then on Colin - who, as the heir of the Manor itself, is its owner.

A final miracle takes place at the end of the book which although stretching our gullibility as readers to the limit brings about the perfect resolution to the story. It is a lovely plot twist which not only reunites father and son again, but also restores the social order of things left by a ten year old tragedy and the abandonment of the Father's duties as Lord of the Manor.

This book was written towards the end of the 19th century about a time when the social order of England and societies links with Mother Nature and the pastoral idyll of the country life was viewed as sacrosanct - The author lived in a time that had not been devastated by two world wars, the Holocaust, Hiroshima and the current trend of globalisation, the digital revolution and the infotainment society.

It is therefore a pretty slow paced book, filled with didactic passages and pretty morals, as well as a gushing Romantic sentimentalism. Even in the time it was written it is clear that the novel looks back to a Golden

Age where the servants, villagers and their leige Lord were meant to live in a social harmony of bliss and harmony based on a set hierarchical structure ordained by God himself. It is also clear that it draws upon the old Renaissance idea of Mother Nature as being God's second book of revelation and instruction (the first book being the Bible). As such Nature is viewed in a totally non-Dawinistic sense. Instead of being Red in tooth and claw, Nature is both a guide and teacher as well as a benevolent and nurturing Mother - She is the Faery Queen of the New Eden which awakens at the touch of those like Dicken, Mary and Colin who see her with pure vision.

Dicken of course is the High Priest of this Eden, he is an archetypal Pan figure, the go-between for Mother Nature and the Fallen Adam and Eve of her world, Colin and Mary. When he connects them both back to their original link to her, the two are totally enthralled and awaken not only to the Secret Garden around them, but also the Secret Garden inside their own hearts and souls.

Colin and Mary both call this mystical awakening to Nature's Wisdom, White Magic and when he discovers its amazing healing powers, Colin vows that he will write books on the mystery of this magical force inside him and the Secret Garden. When the world learns of this Magic and Knowledge then all its problems and misery will disappear and the Paradise that existed at the morning of the world will be regained. This is a very odd idea for us in our time, but you have to remember that in those days Milton's Paradise Lost, along with Tennyson's Idylls of the King were two of the most important and influential books in the period. So the idea of regaining the Lost Paradise of Eden was not out of the question for people of the 19th century!

The film I think that was based on the book I thought was also amazingly beautiful.

There was a second book written Back to the Secret Garden, based on the first. But this book was written post WW II and the age of England's innocence along with the mystique of her Gardens was no longer there anymore was it?

Five stars for the Secret Garden - three stars for its sequel.

Review by Manfred

Heavily Rewritten 19-1-2017

Really like the whole India thing thats in it as well. Mary originally lived in India before she came to the Manor, so she brings some of the old stories and ideas from India which she learnt from her Ayah or Nurse there. Along with her meeting Dicken and finding the Garden, the stories from India help inspire her belief and Philosophy of White Magic.

Sim says

I remember watching these movies as a child, and though I remember A Little Princess as being more dramatic in the film than what the book actually portrays, these two stories are adorable and I can only hope to have a son as soft and caring as Dickon and a daughter as smart and kind and poised as Sara

Priscilla says

One of my most beloved novels. The Secret Garden has the first real great female character of children literature: Mary Lennox. She is the first heroin girl is really human described with hard-temper, opinion. She is the garden: sick, alone, almost dead, forgotten by men/adult people. The lonely and sad girl grows with the garden and became a better person learning with nature and real friendship be a person for the first time since she born one decade before.

Reminds me Charles Dickens... as Pip, Stella, Oliver Twist, Mary Lennox represents the suffering of the children lost in middle of the problems of adults while they can't deal with their own problems and ignore (or explore) their responsibilities with young people. Mary Lennox discover she is alive, not dead, and have the right to exist. She starts her adventure inside a dark house of 100 closed rooms and inside the garden, the unique world accepted her well. with nature and her friendship with a boy (good and pure spirit of nature) she change her own destiny and do more: she do the same for her cousin and save him and make him exist also. Mary's courage to discover the garden and her own fault of life and make her own will happen until the end is amazing.

The Secret Garden reminds me other great novels like White Fang by Jack London, the young man having as better friend a wolf. And reminds me more of Mule by Shawn Williamson, I read in the same year. Williamson's novel is also great because as Dickens and Burnett describes the changes occurred in England during the modernity of Industrial Revolution... turns men so lost, hurt, empty, worst, corrupt, bad, indifferent crashed by all news at the same time in a world without immediate answers... the unique salvation to young people was be in contact with nature or the most deep goodness (Oliver Twist) to be cured from the problems of modern man created to himself.

I like to read novels about the early period of modernity until the beginning of 20th century because they described in many ways the same agony actual men are living now. The darkness showed in The Secret Garden is the same showed in Frankenstein by Mary Shelley... at least in Mary Lennox's story she met the light in a closed garden while Pip and Stella don't because they are more realistic like Daniel "fell boy" from Mule... a character good but imperfect living in middle of brutality of his time... is just a person who learnt some lesson but will do mistakes as all of us. Because he is too human like Mary to be as Oliver.

Komal says

This is hands down one of my favourite books ever. The writing is descriptive and magical, reflecting the story of this book. We met our main character, and are immediately aware of how the author knows her faults, and we see Mary Lennox go throughout the book, becoming the person she once envied.

GraceT._8Rdg says

In the Secret Garden Mary has to move to Misselthwaite Manor after her parents died. During her stay she met a boy named Dickon. After awhile she found a garden and she and Dickon replanted it. One day she heard someone crying, when she found the crying she also found a sickly boy named Colin. They became great friends, and after awhile Mary and Dickon took Colin to the Secret Garden. A couple months later

Colin's father came home to find Colin healed and the Secret Garden in full bloom.

I would rate it 5 stars. I would recommend it to anyone who loves a good all-day read. The author did a good job of never letting the story lag. I learned that even the queerest people can change. I can relate to Mary the most because I love the outdoors and finding new things.
