

The Pleasures of the Garden

AN ANTHOLOGY

Selected and Introduced
by Christina Hardyment

Read by **Anton Lesser, Frances Jeater,
Sean Barrett, David Timson** and others

Includes

Pliny the Younger

Francis Bacon

Alexander Pope

Frances Hodgson Burnett

Thomas Jefferson

Jane Austen

Gertrude Jekyll



1	Introduction, read by Christina Hardyment	5:40
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Part 1: Lovers of Gardens and Lovers in Gardens

2	John Gerard in <i>The Herbalist</i> , 1597 ✨ 🌿	2:23
3	Homeward by Tao Yuan Ming ✨	3:55
4	Bright Green and Lush 🌿	2:54
5	Purest of Human Pleasures by Sir Francis Bacon ☀	6:35
6	A Brood of Nightingales by The Reverend William Lawson ✨	6:59
7	Innocent Delights by Joseph Addison ✨	3:42
8	Syringa Ivory Pure by William Cowper 🌿	1:24
9	We talk also of a Laburnum by Jane Austen 🌿	5:44
10	The Pride of My Heart by Mary Russell Mitford 🌿	5:15
11	How Little One Wants by Gertrude Jekyll 🌿	4:22
12	Enjoy Thyself a Day 🌿	1:27
13	A Garden Enclosed from Song of Solomon 💎	4:24
14	The Lusty Month of May by Sir Thomas Malory ✨	2:55
15	A Garden Fair by Music's Tower by Stephen Hawes 🌿	4:34
16	Make Me a Mandrake by John Donne ✨	2:05
17	No Nook More Eden-like by Charlotte Brontë 💎	7:50
18	The Planet of Love Is on High by Alfred, Lord Tennyson 💎	4:06
19	The Cap and Bells by William Butler Yeats 💎	2:31

Part 2: Grand Designs

20	An Abundance of Brimstone by Diodorus Siculus ☼	3:31
21	The Blue Fig with Luscious Juice O'erflows by Homer ♣	2:36
22	All Is Calm and Composed by Pliny the Younger ✨	7:04
23	The Pleasant Whisking Wind by Robert Laneham 🌿	5:50
24	A Prince-like Garden by Sir Francis Bacon ☼	6:56
25	The Genius of the Place by Alexander Pope ♣	8:29
26	A Labyrinth of My Own Raising by Joseph Addison ✨	4:36
27	The Horticultural Xenophobe by Tobias Smollett ✨	4:57
28	In the Hands of the Improvers by Jane Austen 💎	5:45
29	The Simplest Way by William Morris ☼	5:49
30	No Plan of Any Kind by William Robinson ✨	5:57
31	Tears of Ecstasy by Reginald Farrer 🌿	5:28
32	A Garden of Sweet Scents by Gertrude Jekyll 🌿	8:51

Part 3: Practical Gardening	
33	Whatever Had the Most Blooms by Bai Juyi ✨ 2:43
34	A Full Dung Barrow by Walafrid Strabo ✨ 7:02
35	Nosegays and Posies by John Gerard ✨ 3:51
36	Bring Your Orange Trees Boldly Out by John Evelyn ✨ 8:20
37	Vegetable Pride by Erasmus Darwin ✨ 5:17
38	The Auspicious Moment by William Cowper 🍀 3:44
39	Snapdragons Blooming by Thomas Jefferson ☒ 8:50
40	A Bachelor of Husbandry by Philip Yorke 🍀 2:50
41	Well Stricken in Years by Robert Louis Stevenson ✨ 8:39
42	They Gardened in Bloomers, <i>Punch</i> , 1896 ✨ 1:05
43	A Cast-Iron Back with a Hinge in It by Charles Dudley Warner ☒ 7:37
44	Being Entirely Ignorant by Elizabeth Arnim 🍀 7:35
45	The Unkindest Cut by Samuel Reynolds Hole ☒ 3:16
46	Grubbing Weeds from Gravel-paths with Broken Dinner-knives by Rudyard Kipling ✨ 3:27
47	The Actual Tools by Gertrude Jekyll ✨ 3:05
48	The Smoke's Smell by Edward Thomas ✨ 1:38

Part 4: Solace for Body and Soul	
49	The Belly of the Dragon from the <i>Sakutei-ki</i> ☼ 3:45
50	Invisible Wisdom by John Gerard ✨ 5:37
51	A Pleasing Savour of Sweet Instructions by John Parkinson ✨ 3:14
52	Killing and Quickening by George Herbert ✨ 4:00
53	Fresh and Spruce by Henry King, Bishop of Chichester ☼ 1:27
54	A Green Thought in a Green Shade by Andrew Marvell ✨ 4:17
55	Slow but Sure by John Bunyan ☼ 1:04
56	Human Grandeur Is Very Dangerous by Voltaire ✨ 6:18
57	Prostrate Peas by Henry Jones ☼ 2:38
58	Good Taste and Not a Gaudy Pride by John Clare ✨ 5:48
59	Paying Back the Garden by Edward Bulwer Lytton ✨ 3:57
60	Roses and Lovers by Algernon Swinburne ☼ 5:26
61	Persevere! by Helena Rutherford Ely 🌻 4:04
62	It Isn't a Quite Dead Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett ✨ 8:53
63	A Nation of Gardeners by Avray Tipping ☼ 3:01
63	Even God Would Have to Have a Nose by D.H. Lawrence ☼ 1:46
64	Egoistic Reverie by William Cowper, Edmund Gosse and Forbes Sieveking ☼ ✨ ✨ 4:13
6	Ferned Grot by T.E. Brown ✨ 1:53

Total time: 5:05:30

Readers:

Anton Lesser	✿
Frances Jeater	✿
Sean Barrett	✿
David Timson	✿
Roy McMillan	✿
James Hutchinson	✿
Clare Wille	✿
Geoffrey Whitehead	✿
Kerry Shale	✿
Will Keen	✿

Track 64: Egoistic Reverie:

Cowper – Sean Barrett
Edmund Gosse – David Timson
Forbes Sieveking – Anton Lesser

◆ = Taken from previous Naxos AudioBooks recordings:

Track 13: A Garden Enclosed,
read by Michael Sheen and Josette Simon – from *The Old Testament*
(ISBN 9789626340912)

Track 17: No Nook More Eden-like by Charlotte Brontë,
read by Amanda Root – from *Jane Eyre*
(ISBN 9789626343579)

Track 18: The Planet of Love Is on High (extract from *Come Into the Garden Maud*), read by Michael Pennington – from *The Great Poets: Alfred, Lord Tennyson* (ISBN 9789626349816)

Track 19: The Cap and Bells by William Butler Yeats,
read by Marcella Riordan – from *The Life and Works of W.B. Yeats*
(ISBN 9789626342640)

Track 28: ‘In the Hands of the Improvers’ by Jane Austen,
read by Juliet Stevenson – from *Mansfield Park*
(ISBN 9789626344675)

Track 56: Human Grandeur Is Very Dangerous by Voltaire,
read by Neville Jason – from *Candide and Zadig*
(ISBN 9789626348819)

Track 62: It Isn't a Quite Dead Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett,
read by Jenny Agutter – from *The Secret Garden*
(ISBN 9789626342350)

The Pleasures of the Garden

Selected and Introduced by Christina Hardyment

I have long had the habit of listening to audiobooks while gardening, so from this it has been a natural step to create an audiobook collection of the writings of gardeners and those who love gardens. It is a gardening anthology specifically for our rushed and troubled times. Its purpose is to remind us of the pleasures, not the pains, of the garden – though it does occasionally touch upon the latter. I hope it will provide both practical and spiritual inspiration, alongside historical and technological interest, and, in places, bring forth smiles or indeed laughter.

The majority of the writers who appear in this anthology can fairly be described as having classic status. The collection ranges widely through time and place, for garden-lovers occur in every century and every country, from Ancient China to English suburbia, from Pliny in first-century Italy to Robert Louis

Stevenson in 19th-century Hawaii. Some of the books I have chosen deserve to be heard at much greater length, and some, notably those by Gertrude Jekyll and Reginald Farrar, will I hope be enjoyed complete and unabridged one day. However, gargantuan poems such as William Cowper's *The Task* or Alfred Tennyson's *Maud* are quite adequately enjoyed in brief; and the writings of John Evelyn and Thomas Jefferson actually benefit from being abbreviated. Garden writers can be pompous and pretentious, lyrical and light-hearted, deliberately and accidentally funny – or both, perhaps, as seen in D.H. Lawrence's hymn to a red geranium: '... even God would have to have a nose / to smell at the mignonette. / You can't imagine the Holy Ghost sniffing / at cherry-pie heliotrope.' I hope that there is something here for every mood.

To manage this vast and hetero-

generous collection of what are literally other men's flowers, I chose four themes. The first concerns love: pure love of gardens and pure (and impure) love in gardens. The second is about garden design: ostentatiously artificial and artfully naturalistic, for great mansions and homely cottages, making the most of the different seasons. Francis Bacon, Joseph Addison and Gertrude Jekyll all offer ideas for winter gardens, and Jekyll adds gardens planned for the scent of their flowers and the sound of their various leaves, most memorably 'the great Reed, *Arundo Donax* [which] makes more noise in a moderate breeze than when the wind blows a gale, for then the long ribbon-like leaves are blown straight out and play much less against each other; the Arabs say, "It whispers in the breeze and is silent in the storm"'.

The third of my themes concerns practical matters. There are many ingenious ideas worthy of modern consideration – though few of us will be able to establish the 'brood of nightingales' which William Lawson deemed an essential in the 17th-century garden of his vicarage at

Ormesby, Teeside. Pliny dined around a large basin 'which serves as a table, the larger sort of dishes being placed round the margin, while the smaller ones swim about in the form of vessels and waterfowl'. Reginald Farrer peppered the sides of a Yorkshire gorge with a shotgun filled with seeds; the successful results can still be seen. 'Use your hand as a sieve to protect delicate seedlings during watering,' suggested the ninth-century monk Strabo. In this section are so many mentions of the joys of growing mignonette and violets that I plan to plant quantities of these top Victorian favourites next spring. Here too we find awe-inspiring professional gardeners like James Philip of Erddig and amateur gardeners who frankly admit their own mistakes, one such being Elizabeth von Arnim.

Finally, I looked for poems that offer solace to weary souls, whether they are seeking peace and wisdom (see the works of John Park-in-the-Sun and John Clare) or want something more dramatic (Swinburne). Some find proof of God's existence in their gardens; some find the

fate of plants to be a metaphor for that of humanity; some are just humble about the pleasure they take in gardening: 'It is like taking care of a friend in old age, who has been kind to us when he was young', reflects mine host in Bulwer-Lytton's *Paul Clifford*.

When possible, I have chosen descriptions of gardens which can still be visited today. They include Pliny's villas at Laurentinum and Lake Como, Elizabethan Kenilworth, Jane Austen's home at Chawton and John Clare's at Helpston, Francis Bacon's gardens at Gorhambury and John Gerard's at Hatfield, and Kew, praised for its 'tropic umbrage' by Erasmus Darwin in the 18th century and for its glen-like rock garden by Reginald Farrer in the 20th (we also hear that it was the scene of a sensation in the 1890s, when bloomer-clad lady gardeners appeared there). Great Maytham Hall in Kent inspired Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*. William Morris's gardens at the Red House, Bexleyheath and Kelmscott Manor, Oxfordshire have been appropriately restored; so too have many of the gardens designed by Gertrude

Jekyll and Avray Tipping. Reginald Farrer's home at Ingleborough Hall, Yorkshire, and William Robinson's at Gravetye Manor are still horticultural legends.

The greatest reward that I reaped from my research is the important lesson that gardens are not just for working in but are for reflection and recreation. Short of time and money to pay for help in the garden as most of us are, it is too easy for a garden to become a reproach rather than a pleasure. Since composing this anthology, I have provided my own garden with more places to sit and developed a Zen-like tolerance of weeds ('just flowers in the wrong place,' as someone once said). I hope that you will do the same.

Notes by Christina Hardymont

The music on this recording is taken from the NAXOS catalogue:

- DELIUS** SPRING MORNING / THE WALK TO THE PARADISE GARDEN 8.557143
Royal Scottish National Orchestra; David Lloyd-Jones, conductor
- JENKINS** FANTASIA IN F MAJOR 'ALL IN A GARDEN GREEN' 8.550687
The Rose Consort of Viols
- UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE** GREENSLEEVES / GREEN GOOSE FAIR 8.553442
Estampie; Graham Derrick, conductor
- MENDELSSOHN** NO. 30 IN A MAJOR, OP. 62/6, SPRING SONG 8.554055
Péter Nagy, piano
- ELIZABETHAN SONGS AND CONSORT MUSIC** FANTASIA / GALLYARD 8.554284
The Rose Consort of Viols
- FIELD** NOCTURNE NO. 11 IN E FLAT MAJOR / 8.550762
NOCTURNE NO. 13 IN D MINOR
Benjamin Frith, piano
- ENGLISH FESTIVAL** ALLEGRETTO / ALLEGRETTO (INTERMEZZO) / 8.550229
MODERATO (ROMANZA)
Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra; Adrian Leaper, conductor

SAMMARTINI AFFETTUOSO	8.557298
Aradia Ensemble; Kevin Mallon, conductor	
MACDOWELL TO A WILD ROSE / TO A WATER-LILY	8.223631
James Barbagallo, piano	
ENGLISH STRING FESTIVAL IN MINUET STYLE / AIR	8.550331
Capella Istropolitana; Adrian Leaper, conductor	
BRAHMS INTERMEZZO IN A MAJOR: ANDANTE TENERAMENTE	8.550354
Idil Biret, piano	
PURCELL FANTAZIA UPON ONE NOTE IN F MAJOR, Z. 745	8.553957
The Rose Consort of Viols	
LAWES PAVEN	8.550601
The Rose Consort of Viols; Jacob Heringman, theorbo; David Miller, theorbo	

Music programming by Sarah Butcher



Christina Hardyment is a journalist and broadcaster who has written books on a wide range of subjects including a biography of Sir Thomas Malory (www.christinahardyment.co.uk). She is especially interested in the way that domestic circumstances and surrounding landscapes affect creativity. Since moving to an Oxford house with a very large garden, she has spent an increasing amount of her time digging, planting and planning, and in exploring both the history of gardens and the literature inspired by them. This is her third anthology for Naxos AudioBooks.



One of Britain's leading classical actors, **Anton Lesser** has worked extensively at the National Theatre, and is an associate artist of the Royal Shakespeare Company. His many television appearances include roles in *The Cherry Orchard*, *King Lear*, *The Politician's Wife*, *Vanity Fair*, *Perfect Strangers*, and *Dickens*. Films in which he has appeared include *Charlotte Gray*, *Fairytale – A True Story*, *Imagining Argentina*, *River Queen* and *Miss Potter*. He is a familiar voice on radio, and has become particularly associated with his award winning readings of Dickens for Naxos AudioBooks.



Frances Jeater's theatre work has included Gertrude in *Hamlet*, an American tour of *Much Ado About Nothing*, Middle and Far-East tours of *Harvey*, and *Prisoner of Second Avenue* at Theatre Royal Haymarket, London. For television she has appeared in *Gift of the Nile*, filmed in Egypt. She reads Chaucer's *The Wife of Bath's Tale* and part of *Great Explorers* for Naxos AudioBooks.



Sean Barrett started acting on BBC children's television in the days before colour, when it went out live. He grew up through *Z Cars*, *Armchair Theatre*, *Minder* and *Father Ted*. His theatre credits include *Peter Pan* at the old Scala Theatre and Noël Coward's *Suite in 3 Keys* in the West End. His film credits include *War and Peace*, *Dunkirk* and *A Cry from the Streets*. He was a member of the BBC Radio Drama Company. For Naxos AudioBooks, he features in *Molloy*, *Malone Dies*, *The Unnamable* and *The Canterbury Tales III*, and reads the part of Vladimir in *Waiting for Godot* and Nakata in *Kafka on the Shore*. He has also read *Barnaby Rudge* and *No Country for Old Men* for Naxos AudioBooks.



David Timson has made over 1,000 broadcasts for BBC Radio Drama. For Naxos AudioBooks he wrote *The History of Theatre*, which won an award for most original production from the Spoken Word Publishers Association in 2001. He has also directed four Shakespeare plays for Naxos AudioBooks, including *King Richard III* (with Kenneth Branagh), which won Best Drama Award from the SWPA in 2001. In 2002 he won the Audio of the Year Award for his reading of *A Study in Scarlet*. He reads the entire Sherlock Holmes canon.



Roy McMillan is a director, writer, actor and abridger. For Naxos Audiobooks he has read stories by Robert Louis Stevenson and the introductions to works by Nietzsche and the Ancient Greeks. He has directed readings of Hardy, Hopkins, Kipling, Milton and Blake; Austen, Murakami, Conrad and Bulgakov, among many others; and has written podcasts and sleevenotes, as well as biographies of Milton and Poe. He has also directed plays for Radio 3 and Radio 4.



Clare Wille has been working as an actress and voiceover artist since graduating from RADA in 1997. Her theatre work includes *Seeing Without Light* at the Drum Theatre and Theatre Royal, Plymouth, and *Look Back in Anger* with London Classic Theatre Company. Her television credits include Five's sketch show *Swinging*, BBC 2's rolling news spoof *Broken News*, CITV's *Girls in Love* and appearances in *Vital Signs*, *Life Begins*, *All About Me*, *Where the Heart Is* and *Doctors*. She played Pru in Victoria Wood's *Housewife 49* and DS Rachel Dawson in *Heartbeat*. She has also read *Cranford* and *Cotillion* for Naxos AudioBooks.



Kerry Shale's theatre credits include *His Girl Friday* (National Theatre), *Frost/ Nixon* (West End) and six solo shows which he has performed in London, Berlin, Sydney and New York. His television credits include *Not Going Out*, *Love Soup*, *Gideon's Daughter* and *10 Days To War*. His film credits include *Genova* and *Universal Soldier: A New Beginning*. He has won three Sony Radio Awards, the APA Award for Male Audio Book Performer (UK) and the Audie Award for Best Male Reader (USA). For Naxos AudioBooks he has read *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, *Moses and other stories from the Old Testament*, *History of the Conquest of Mexico* and *The Good Soldier*.



Geoffrey Whitehead trained at RADA. His theatre credits include Alan Ayckbourn's *Three Men in a Boat*, the role of Bassanio in *The Merchant of Venice* at the Theatre Royal Haymarket, Ivor Fish in Tom Stoppard's *Rough Crossing*, Polonius in *Hamlet* at the Norwich Playhouse, as well as appearing in *Henry V*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Othello* and *King Lear* in Stratford and London. His television credits include *Z Cars*, *Upstairs Downstairs*, *The Sweeney*, *Poirot*, *Young Indiana Jones*, *Midsomer Murders* and *Little Britain*. He has also worked in film and radio. This is his first reading for Naxos AudioBooks.



James Hutchinson was born in Newcastle upon Tyne and read English Literature at University College London before winning a scholarship to train as an actor at LAMDA. He has worked in theatre and recorded several plays for BBC Radio 4. This is his first reading for Naxos AudioBooks.



Will Keen's theatre credits include *The Duchess of Malfi*, *The Tempest*, *Antigone* and *Dido, Queen of Carthage*, as well as playing the title role in *Macbeth* and *De Flores* in *The Changeling*, both directed by Declan Donnellan. His television credits include *Foyle's War*, *Wired*, *Casualty 1907*, *The Colour of Magic*, *Holby City*, *Murphy's Law* and *The Bill*. This is his first recording for Naxos AudioBooks.

Credits

Selected and introduced by Christina Hardyment

Produced by Nicolas Soames and Roy McMillan

Recorded at Hats Off Studios, Oxford and Motivation Sound Studios, London

Edited by Sarah Butcher

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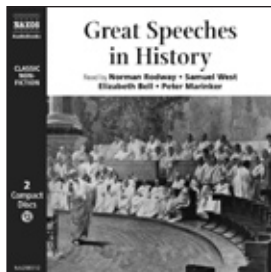


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read by Derek Jacobi and cast



The Essential John Milton

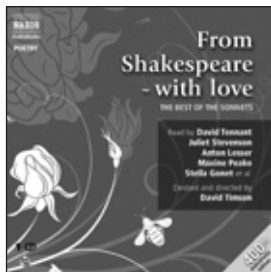
(Milton) ISBN: 9789626348857
read by Anton Lesser, Samantha Bond
and Derek Jacobi



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Souza, Matthew Marsh, Stella Gonet,
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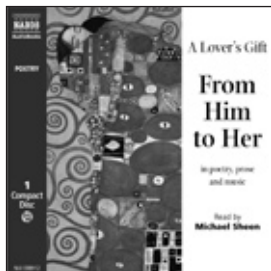
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The Pleasures of the Garden

AN ANTHOLOGY

Selected and Introduced by Christina Hardyment

Read by **Anton Lesser, Frances Jeater,
Sean Barrett, David Timson** and others

The Pleasures of the Garden begins in ancient China and ends on the Isle of Man; it admires both stately landscaped parks and a soap box full of red geraniums on a fire-escape. It shows that gardening is for everybody, whatever their resources. It features classic writers on gardens such as John Evelyn and Gertrude Jekyll, famous historical figures like Pliny the Younger, Francis Bacon and Thomas Jefferson, the novelists Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë and Robert Louis Stevenson, and the poets John Donne, John Clare, W.B. Yeats and Rudyard Kipling.



Christina Hardyment is an historian and writer who is especially interested in the way that domestic circumstances and surrounding landscapes affect creativity.

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5:05:30**