Inspiration for The Last Garden in England by Julia Kelly
Julia Kelly’s influences

- Upton House and Gardens in Warwickshire, designed by Kitty Lloyd Jones
- Garden designer Gertrude Jekyll and other women garden designers
- Hidcote Manor in Gloucestershire, designed by Lawrence Johnston
“…it wasn’t just Upton House’s wartime history that drew me in but its gardens as well, which combine beautiful, classically English borders with a wild-seeming Bog Garden.”

-Julia Kelly, author’s note, p. 350
“All the better that [Upton Gardens] was designed by a young woman named Kitty Lloyd-Jones, who, according to her biographer, was hired by clients in the 1920s and 1930s to lend a sense of good taste to the grand gardens they’d acquired with their new houses bought with new fortunes.”

-Julia Kelly, author’s note, p. 350
Gertrude Jekyll

“Venetia became an amalgamation of the talented female gardeners of the past like Lloyd-Jones and the far more famous Gertrude Jekyll, whose influence on gardening was so deep that many of her principles are still used today.”

- Julia Kelly, author’s note, p. 350
Lindisfarne Castle, Northumbria, U.K.
Gertrude Jekyll garden at Durmast House, Hampshire, U.K.

Photo by David Sleasman
“Not far off from Upton House is Hidcote Manor in Chipping Campden, the product of the real-life Lawrence Johnston, who Venetia and Matthew pay a visit to in the early days of their courtship. It was after a visit to Hidcote on a hot August day that I decided to focus Venetia’s vision for Highbury House around a series of garden rooms. Hidcote is laid out in much the same way, with hedges dividing the rooms in which Johnston focused on a single color or theme.”

-Julia Kelly, author’s note, p. 350

Photos by David Sleasman
Hidcote Manor Garden
“The red borders were in full bloom when I visited and served as inspiration for the lovers’ garden in this book. In fact, it was when I saw the red borders that I started to see the possibility of what Highbury’s fictional gardens could be.”

- Julia Kelly, author’s note, p. 350
Women Garden Designers

• Edith Wharton
• Vita Sackville-West
• Beth Chatto
• Beatrix Farrand
• Lynden Miller

…and so many more
Isabelle Greene, Silver Garden designer, Longwood Gardens
Isabelle Greene
Silver Garden designer
Longwood Gardens