RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

The Last Garden in England
by Julia Kelly

Community Read, March–May 2024

The Longwood Gardens Community Read is a program designed to encourage reading for pleasure, and to start a conversation. Focusing on literature about gardens, plants, and the natural world, we feature an exceptional book annually (paired with a similarly themed younger readers’ book) through a variety of programs, discussions, and lectures across all community partner organizations. For more information about the Community Read, go to longwoodgardens.org/community-read.

This guide was prepared by Longwood Gardens Library and Information Services staff for anyone interested in hosting a book discussion (or another program) for the Community Read book.

If you want to continue to explore the ideas, themes and inspirations of The Last Garden in England, here is a list of resources to fuel your thinking. You will find the books at public libraries and local bookstores.

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SIMILAR FICTION

**A Lady of Good Family**
by Jeanne Mackin. (Penguin Publishing Group, 2015)

From the publisher: “Raised among wealth and privilege during America’s fabled Gilded Age, a niece of famous novelist Edith Wharton and a friend to literary great Henry James, Beatrix Farrand is expected to marry, and marry well. But as a young woman traveling through Europe with her mother and aunt, she already knows that gardens are her true passion. How this highborn woman with unconventional views escapes the dictates of society to become the most celebrated female landscape designer in the country is the story of her unique determination to create beauty and serenity while remaining true to herself.”

**All the Pretty Places: a novel of the Gilded Age**
by Joy Callaway. (Harper Muse, 2023)

From the publisher: “From the moment she was born, the transforming beauty of her family’s nurseries has arrested her heart. From the moment she knew love, her heart belonged with his. Now she’s at risk of losing them both. Joy Callaway illuminates the life of her great-great-grandmother in this captivating story about a daring woman following her passion and finding her voice, while exploring natural beauty and its effect in the lives of those who need it most.”

**The Lost Garden**
by Helen Humphreys. (Norton, 2002)

From the publisher: “…Early 1941 in Britain when the war seems endless and, perhaps, hopeless. London is on fire from the Blitz, and a young woman gardener named Gwen Davis flees from the burning city for the Devon countryside. She has volunteered for the Land Army and is to be in charge of a group of young girls who will be trained to plant food crops on an old country estate where the gardens have fallen into ruin.”

**The Victory Garden**
by Rhys Bowen. (Lake Union Publishing, 2019)

Engaged to an Australian pilot during World War I, Emily volunteers to tend the neglected grounds of a Devonshire estate where she finds inspiration and support in an herbalist's long-forgotten journals.
HIDCOTE MANOR AND GARDENS

*An Author & a Gardener: The Gardens and Friendship of Edith Wharton and Lawrence Johnston*
by Allan R. Ruff (Windgather Press, 2014)

*The Garden at Hidcote*
by Fred Whitsey; photographs by Tony Lord (F. Lincoln, 2007)

*Hidcote: The Garden and Lawrence Johnston*
by Graham S. Pearson (National Trust, 2007)

*Hidcote: The Making of a Garden*
by Ethne Clarke (W.W. Norton & Co., 2009)

*Hidcote Manor Garden: Gloucestershire* (National Trust, 2004)

*Lawrence Johnston: The Creator of Hidcote*
by Graham S. Pearson (Hidcote Books, 2013)

SELECTED BOOKS BY GERTRUDE JEKYLL

*Children and Gardens*
by Gertrude Jekyll; with one hundred and six illustrations by the author

*Classic English Gardens*
by Gertrude Jekyll; paintings by George S. Elgood

*Colour in the Flower Garden*
by Gertrude Jekyll

*Flower Decoration in the House*
by Gertrude Jekyll

*Garden Ornament*
by Gertrude Jekyll

*Gardens for Small Country Houses*
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by Gertrude Jekyll & Lawrence Weaver

Roses for English Gardens
by Gertrude Jekyll and Edward Mawley

Wood and Garden; Notes and Thoughts, Practical and Critical, of a Working Amateur
by Gertrude Jekyll

BOOKS ABOUT GERTRUDE JEKYLL

Almost Home: The Public Landscapes of Gertrude Jekyll
by Kristine F. Miller (University of Virginia Press, 2012)

The Gardener’s Essential Gertrude Jekyll
introduction by Elizabeth Lawrence (D.R. Godine, 1986)

Gardens of a Golden Afternoon: The Story of a Partnership, Edwin Lutyens & Gertrude Jekyll
by Jane Brown (Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1982)

The Gardens of Gertrude Jekyll
by Richard Bisgrove; special photography by Andrew Lawson (Little Brown, 1992)

Gertrude Jekyll: A Vision of Garden and Wood

Gertrude Jekyll: Before the Boots, The Gardens and the Portrait
by Joan Edwards (Bayford Books, 1993)

Gertrude Jekyll: Her Art Restored at Upton Grey
by Rosamund Wallinger (Garden Art Press, 2013)

Gertrude Jekyll and the Country House Garden
by Judith B. Tankard (Rizzoli, 2011)

WOMEN GARDEN DESIGNERS

The Collected Writings of Beatrix Farrand: American Landscape Gardener (1872-1959)
Dear Friend and Gardener: Letters on Life and Gardening
by Beth Chatto (Quarto Publishing, 2021)

First Ladies of Gardening: Pioneers, Designers and Dreamers
by Heidi Howcroft; photographs by Marianne Majerus (Frances Lincoln, 2015)

Lessons from Great Gardeners: Forty Gardening Icons and What They Teach Us
by Matthew Biggs (Mitchell Beazley, in association with the Royal Horticultural Society, 2015)

Money, Manure & Maintenance: Ingredients for Successful Gardens of Marian Coffin, Pioneer Landscape Architect, 1876-1957
by Nancy Fleming (Country Place Books, 1995)

Parks, Plants, and People: Beautifying the Urban Landscape
by Lynden B. Miller (Norton, 2009)

Sissinghurst: Vita Sackville-West and the Creation of a Garden
by Vita Sackville-West and Sarah Raven (St. Martin’s Press, 2014)

Unbounded Practice: Women and Landscape Architecture in the Early Twentieth Century
by Thaïsa Way (University of Virginia Press, 2009)

The Virago Book of Women Gardeners
edited by Deborah Kellaway (Virago Press, 2016)

Women Garden Designers: 1900 to the Present
by Kristina Taylor (Garden Art Press, 2015)