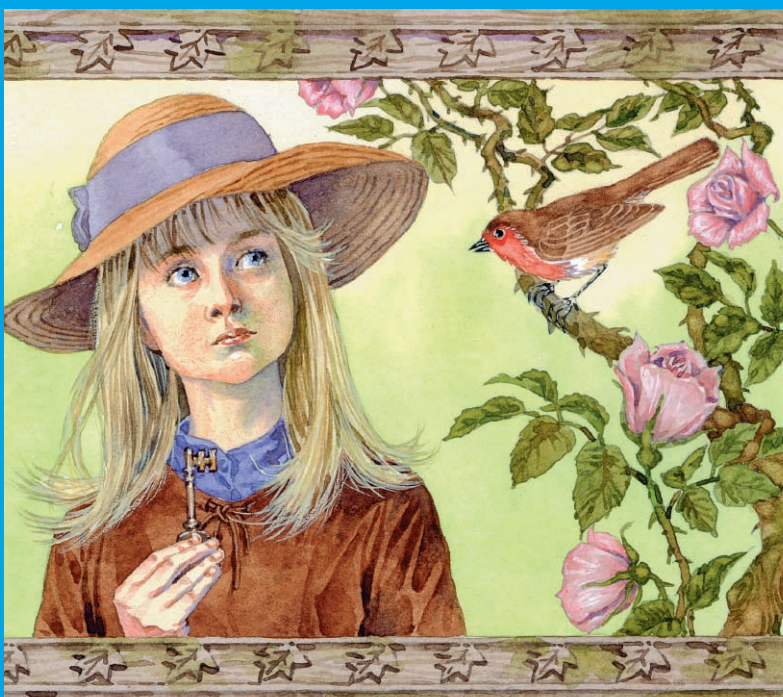


NAXOS
AudioBooks

Frances Hodgson Burnett
THE SECRET GARDEN

Read by **Jenny Agutter**

**JUNIOR
CLASSICS**



NA223512D

1	There Is No One Left	7:08
2	Mistress Mary Quite Contrary	6:48
3	Across The Moor	3:32
4	Martha	6:41
5	Mary Meets Ben Weatherstaff	7:42
6	The Cry In The Corridor	6:01
7	'There Was Some One Crying – There Was!'	4:33
8	The Key To The Garden	4:53
9	The Robin Who Showed The Way	6:54
10	Two Helps O' Rice Puddin'!	5:15
11	Dickon	5:46
12	The Nest Of The Missel Thrush	4:02
13	'Might I Have A Bit Of Earth?'	6:04
14	'I Am Colin'	4:05

15	'I Am Colin' (cont.)	5:32
16	A Young Rajah	6:19
17	Nest Building	6:50
18	'I Won't!' Said Mary	3:53
19	A Tantrum	4:57
20	'Tha' Munnot Waste No Time'	5:00
21	'It Has Come!'	4:19
22	'I Shall Live Forever – And Ever – And Ever!'	4:38
23	Ben Weatherstaff	5:33
24	When The Sun Went Down	3:12
25	Magic	7:03
26	'Let Them Laugh'	4:17
27	The Curtain	1:38
28	'It's Mother!'	7:01
29	In The Garden	7:03

Total time: 2:36:59

Frances Hodgson Burnett

THE SECRET GARDEN

Although the story of *The Secret Garden* takes place in the English county of Yorkshire, Frances Hodgson Burnett lived most of her life in America. She was just 16 when her father died and the family sailed to Tennessee – just as the American Civil War was ending.

She started writing when she was young – she had a natural talent for telling stories and a very strong imagination. Though she lived in Tennessee, her imagination carried her back to those days of her childhood in Lancashire, and her first novel was *That Lass O'Lowries*, about a working class girl. It immediately brought her success.

But it wasn't until ten years later that she had an even bigger success. This was *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, a story about a young boy, Cedric Errol, who returns to England from America to claim his inheritance. It was first published in 1886 and proved a massive hit, selling 43,000 copies in its first year. Having already written a number of plays, she turned it into a drama with productions on both sides of the Atlantic.

These plays, and the original book

(which went on to sell one million copies in England alone) started a craze for everything to do with the title character – including Little Lord Fauntleroy suits (black velvet with white lace collars) which boys of the period were made to wear!

Twenty years later, in 1909, *The Secret Garden* appeared. Mrs Hodgson Burnett was prompted to write the story because she heard that a rose-garden in a country house she used to rent when she visited England was being pulled down. When she stayed there, she had loved the flowers and other plants, and had made friends with a robin who lived in the garden.

The seeds of the story were there, in her own life, but around it she wove an unforgettable tale, with very real people. In *The Secret Garden*, Mary's early life was in India. And it was true that sometimes, when there was an outbreak of cholera – a dangerous disease then – whole families did die.

Mrs Hodgson Burnett knew what it was like to be a child and leave the country and home she loved (though she didn't go to

America as an orphan). She could imagine the loneliness of Mary, and how cold and bleak the Yorkshire moors must have seemed to her after the burning sun and bright colours of India.

And although Mrs Hodgson Burnett lived in Lancashire, the neighbouring county to Yorkshire, and she decided to set *The Secret Garden* in Yorkshire, she remembered the local accent and the local sayings very well – as can be heard in the words and language of Ben Weatherstaff, the gardener.

So, *The Secret Garden* is a mixture of the author's personal experience and her imagination.

It wasn't such a popular success as *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, but in the years following its publication in 1911 it proved itself a classic – like *The Little Princess* which she wrote a couple of years earlier.

And it is now one of a number of great junior classics which date from the late 19th century and early 20th century – among them *Little Women*, *What Katy Did* and *The Railway Children* – which are enjoyed by each new generation.

Notes by Nicolas Soames

**The music on this recording is taken from the
NAXOS and MARCO POLO catalogues**

FIELD NOCTURNES AND SONATAS VOLUME 2 8.550762
Benjamin Frith, piano

MENDELSSOHN SONGS WITHOUT WORDS VOLUME 2 8.550453
Peter Nagy, piano

THE MAGIC OF TWILIGHT 76001-2
Irshad Khan, sitar

Music programmed by Nicolas Soames and Sarah Butcher

Frances Hodgson Burnett
THE SECRET GARDEN

Read by **Jenny Agutter**

When orphaned Mary Lennox arrives at Misselthwaite Manor, her uncle's estate, everybody says she is the most disagreeable looking child ever seen. Depressed and withdrawn, Mary stumbles upon an arched doorway into an overgrown garden. She later discovers her pampered invalid cousin, tucked away in a dark room. Soon a charming journey into the magical secret garden begins...



Jenny Agutter began her performing life as a ballet dancer in the Walt Disney film *Ballerina*. But she rose to fame in the television production and subsequently the film of *The Railway Children*. Since then her film credits have included *The Eagle Has Landed*, *Equus* and *An American Werewolf in London*. She has been equally active in the theatre in varied roles for the RSC, Royal National Theatre and on Broadway.

Her recent TV credits include *The Buccaneers*, *Heartbeat* and the Channel 4 series *And The Beat Goes On*. She also reads Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and *Ballet Stories* for Naxos AudioBooks.

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