

The Secret Garden Book Project

The SECRET GARDEN

DID YOU KNOW?



festival theatre
edinburgh

The Secret Garden was originally going to be called *Mistress Mary* after the English nursery rhyme:

*Mistress Mary, quite contrary,
How does your garden grow?
With silver bells, and cockle shells,
And marigolds all in a row.*



Great Maytham Hall in Kent, England, where **Frances Hodgson Burnett** lived for many years is often said to be the inspiration for the book's setting. The author herself kept a large garden, including a rose garden.



The Secret Garden was first published in *The American Magazine* in 1910 (100 years ago!) It was serialised, i.e. the story was told over several editions of the magazine. The magazine was aimed at adults.

In 1911 the book was published as one whole story in both New York and London, ensuring it was read all over America and Britain. This time it was seen more as a book for children. This picture shows the book cover from 1911.



Frances Hodgson Burnett was a practitioner of **Christian Science**. This religion was founded by **Mary Baker Eddy** (*in the picture*) in 1866. People who practice this religion believe that you can cure illnesses by banishing negative thoughts and beliefs.

The author explores the idea of the mind's healing powers in *The Secret Garden*.