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Virginia Woolf's Garden



Synopsis

A chronological account takes the reader through the key events in the lives of Virginia and Leonard Woolf, and their deaths. This is allied to an account of the garden and its development, and the creation and development of the key areas of the garden. A wonderful selection of full-colour contemporary photographs, archive photographs, illustrated maps and planting plans take the reader through the various garden 'rooms', including the Italian Garden, the Millstone garden, the Orchard, the Vegetable Garden, the Terrace, the Walled Garden, the Fishpond Garden and the Greenhouses and Conservatories. Throughout there are quotations from Virginia and Leonard's diaries, giving a vivid account of their plans for, views on and activities in the garden.

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Customer Reviews

Lovingly written, lavishly colored and splashed with a multitude of photos, this is a tremendous book for any Woolf fan. I've only had opportunity to glance through it a few times, but each time I am drawn in; and where I meant to spend only a moment's glance becomes an extended time of sitting, reading, and looking. As far as I can tell, the only open pages in this volume which do not contain a beautiful photograph are the last few pages of sources. This is everything you'd expect of a book detailing gardens - and then some. Filled with quotes and details from Leonard and Virginia, and coupled with the abundance of well-taken photographs, the book is a labor of love and inspiration. One can practically smell and feel the flowers blossoming through the pages - and the wealth of information strewn throughout, waiting to be combed through, is simply tantalizing. I had no

expectations when I preordered this book - indeed, I had very little information on it at all. I'm very glad I made the purchase and can't wait to pirouette through its pages.

If you happen to be a follower of the Bloomsbury Group, and a lover of all things Virginia Woolf, as I have been for the last 40 years, you will simply love this book. It shows the gardens around Monk's House that Leonard Woolf cultivated and cared for. Virginia took advantage of the beauty and serenity that they provided her from within the gardens themselves, or as a backdrop to a view from the house or her writing shed. I can imagine that they provided her with much inspiration for her delicate creative constitution. This book is a must, if you love looking at gardens, and for those who are particularly interested in Bloomsbury, this is an essential!!

The tale of Virginia Woolf's garden is captivating. Caroline Zoob gently and deftly tells how Virginia and Leonard found the property, made it their own, withstood her bouts of illness and WWII --- and sadly, how VW met her demise. It's an insightful look behind the garden walls. Leonard was a skilled horticulturalist, and Virginia loved the fruit of his efforts. Anyone who adores English gardens, and who is enamored with the life of VW and the Bloomsbury group, will thoroughly enjoy this. The photography and layout are commendable, too.

Virginia and Leonard Woolf's garden is captured in a tapestry of rich prose and pictures in the lovely book. Stories abound: can you imagine them placing those lovely millstones, found propped up, into a lovely garden square? Caroline Zoob, the caretaker of Monk's house interweaves Woolf's writings, her struggles with mental illness, and the healing power of the garden as a much needed hobby for Leonard Woolf. I especially brought away so many interesting details that reflect my own garden life....Leonard Woolf would make a special trip to prune, he had a love for dahlias in pinks and reds, lavender and cosmos abound in late summer. I also found it interesting that Woolf enjoyed putting up her own jams and jellies. The house is also covered: the slow renovations that were brought about by the success of each book, and that lovely green was the subject of teasing by Woolf's sister Vanessa. The rumblings of war ensue: but the garden goes on, even when her nephew is killed in the Spanish Civil War...and the poignant detail of Woolf's scolding by a blackout warden just before her death, makes this story so interesting I could not put it down. I read the book in one sitting on a long afternoon. But wait...the book doesn't end there, it covers Leonard Woolf's interesting story after his wife's death and a treasured, though platonic, romance that gave him hope and led to a shared interest in more exotic plants. Really, for this gardener, who has read A LOT of

books on famous gardens, this is unequalled. A perfect combination of prose and pictures.

Oh this is a beautiful book. I am a long-time Virginia Woolf admirer, fan I guess we say. She is so important to me, I am grateful for her wisdom and her language, cherish knowing her life and her work. Just now I am nearing the end of Caroline Zoob's gorgeous book, growing teary, and not wanting it to end. Zoob combines a "regular" (and finely photographed) gardening book which would delight any garden lover with plans and plants, and a careful study of Woolf's oeuvre, discovering in her research so many references to gardens. I found Zoob's delightful embroideries to be a favorite, and unexpected delight in this book - somehow they seem perfectly in keeping with the Bloomsbury approach to life - art in all forms. Zoob's telling of the last years of Leonard's life at Monk's house also surprised me - in all my reading I'd never read so much about the years after Virginia. It's all so tenderly and expertly told by someone who obviously loved the garden and came to love Virginia Woolf. Thank you for this wonderful addition to my gardening and Woolf treasures. A terrific book.

A nice large size book to read. Well presented with photos and story line. Thoroughly enjoyed this book and it was unexpected to be so good. Previous reviews on this book made me realize it would be a great book to buy. Do not hesitate to purchase it if you like seeing a garden develop over time.

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