



The French Gardener: A Novel

By Santa Montefiore

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The French Gardener: A Novel By Santa Montefiore

A neglected garden. A cottage that holds a secret. A mysterious Frenchman (handsome, naturally). A family in need of some love. These elements are entwined in this heartwarming novel by the author reviewers consistently compare to Maeve Binchy and Rosamunde Pilcher.

It begins as Miranda and David Claybourne move into a country house with a once-beautiful garden. But reality turns out to be very different from their dream. Soon the latent unhappiness in the family begins to come to the surface, isolating each family member in a bubble of resentment and loneliness.

Then an enigmatic Frenchman arrives on their doorstep. With the wisdom of nature, he slowly begins to heal the past and the present. But who is he? When Miranda reads about his past in a diary she finds in the cottage by the garden, the whole family learns that a garden, like love itself, can restore the human spirit, not just season after season but generation after generation.

Wise and winsome, poignant and powerfully moving, *The French Gardener* is a contemporary story told with an old-fashioned sensibility steeped in the importance of family and the magical power of love.

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The French Gardener: A Novel By Santa Montefiore Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Montefiore's well-crafted, evocative novel is instantly sensual and welcoming. When Miranda Claybourne's seven-year-old is expelled from school, the stylish Londoner, magazine writer and mother of two, ditches her posh Notting Hill digs for the idylls of a country estate. But her simple-life fantasies soon fail. Her husband's preoccupied with his job and his mistress; the kids lash out at each other while Gus, the elder, terrorizes both farm animals and his new classmates. Enter Jean-Paul, a handsome, mysterious Frenchman with an offer to tend her woefully neglected gardens. Cleaning out the estate's rundown cottage for Jean-Paul, she discovers the secret journals of the previous lady of the house—a brilliant gardener, Ava Lightly, and her love affair. As if by magic, Miranda's garden begins to thrive and she owes it all to Jean-Paul, with whom she thinks she's falling in love. The drama of the journals distract from her own failing marriage, and Miranda delights in the idea that her life is running parallel to Ava's—it's a lovely coincidence, until she stops to consider exactly what may have drawn Jean-Paul into her garden. (*June*)

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From [Booklist](#)

A rambling country estate may have lured Miranda and David and their children from their elegant London lifestyle, but not even the enchantment of once magnificent gardens, or fascination with an abandoned cottage can mend the emotional and physical chasm that is deepening between them. Left alone while David returns to London during the week, Miranda is overwhelmed by establishing a new home, disciplining an unruly child, and maintaining her own career. Her prayers are seemingly answered when a charismatic Frenchman suddenly appears with an offer to restore the gardens to their former glory. As the friendship between Miranda and Jean-Paul grows, so do her suspicions about David's fidelity, leading Miranda to seek refuge in an abandoned diary that details a passionate tryst between the estate's former owner, Ava, and her intriguingly unnamed gardener. Despite the obvious D. H. Lawrence overtones, Montefiore crafts a sweetly provocative romance that transitions seamlessly from Miranda's contemporary marital discord to Ava's past affair. --Carol Haggas

Review

"Montefiore is a grand storyteller."

-- Emily Melton, *Booklist*

"Nobody does epic romance like Santa Montefiore. Everything she writes, she writes from the heart." (Jojo Moyes)

"Instantly sensual and welcoming." (Publishers Weekly)

"Charming, moving....A perfect book for a lazy summer day." (Library Journal)

"Utterly irresistible....You're spellbound by the sheer charm." (Daily Express)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donna Bauer:

What do you consider book? It is just for students since they're still students or it for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that query above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great and also important the book The French Gardener: A Novel. All type of book is it possible to see on many options. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

Troy Munoz:

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Christopher Hartwick:

Are you kind of active person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your day time to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill even analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your short time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find reserve that need more time to be go through. The French Gardener: A Novel can be your answer as it can be read by you who have those short free time problems.

Clara Williams:

Is it you who having spare time and then spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something new? This The French Gardener: A Novel can be the answer, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a geek activity. So what these guides have than the others?

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