



Frances Hodgson Burnett was born in England in 1849, but she also spent many years living in the United States. She is the author of over 40 books. Frances loved plants and flowers. She wrote most of *The Secret Garden* outside sitting in a walled rose garden.

“When Mary Lennox was sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle, everybody said she was the most disagreeable-looking child ever seen.”

Mary’s new home is a lonely place. Can she find a bit of earth to call her own—a magical, secret garden?



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THE SECRET GARDEN



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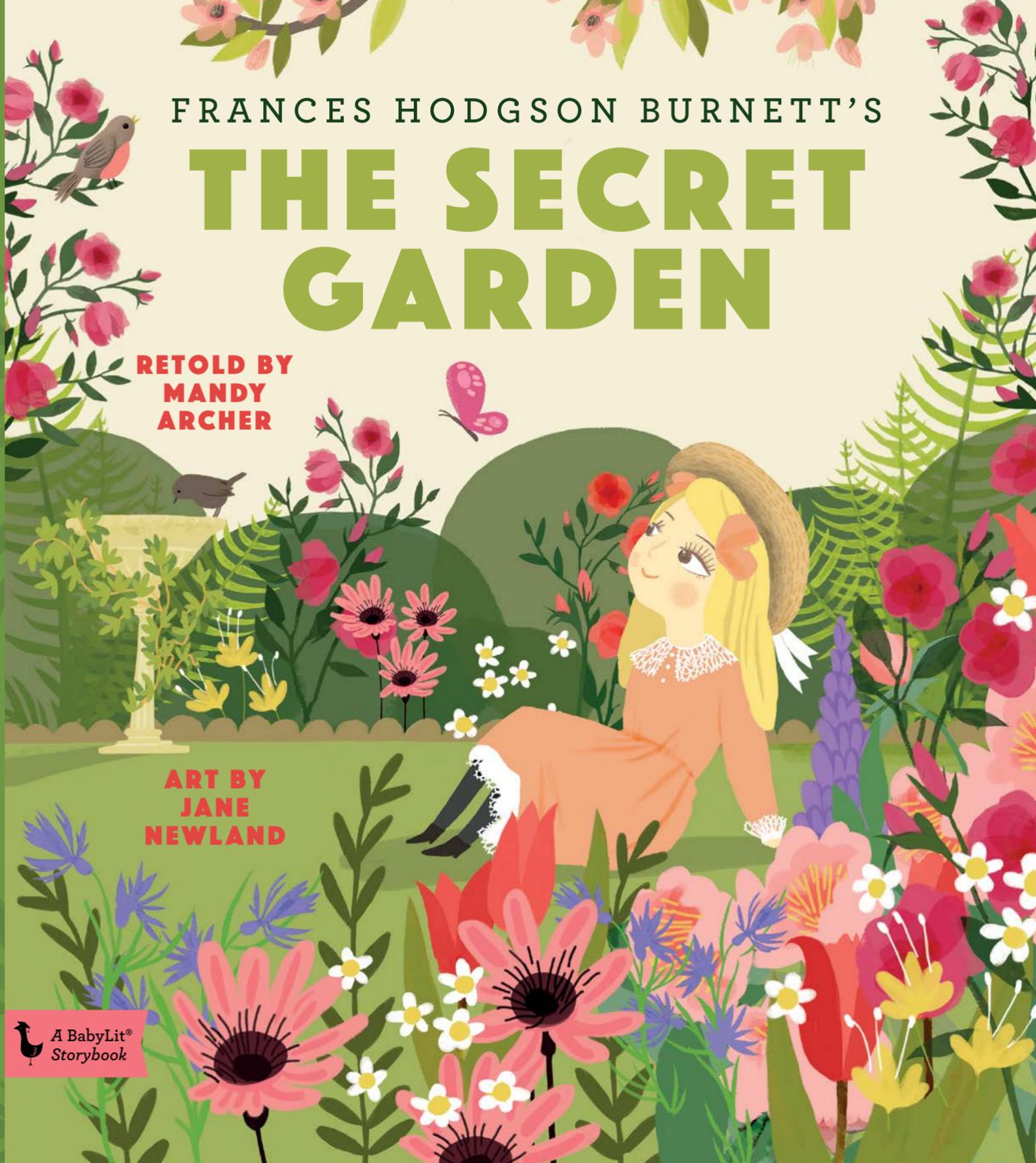
THE SECRET GARDEN

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A BabyLit® Storybook



Mary Lennox was a sour, disagreeable girl. She had been spoiled ever since she was a baby.

Mary lived in India. Her mother and father were always busy, so their servants looked after her instead.



When she was nine years old, a disease spread across the land. Sadly, Mary was the only one in her family to survive.



Misselthwaite was a gloomy place. Mary's uncle, Mr. Craven, did not come to visit her. The only person she had to talk to was Martha the housemaid.

Martha knew lots of stories. She told Mary about her brother, Dickon, and his animal friends, about Mr. Craven's love for his wife, and the garden that he had locked up when she died.



Mary wondered how a garden could stay locked up forever. She wished that she could find it and peep inside.



One morning, Mary gazed out of the window. She had never seen a sky so blue. The moor looked new and big and wonderful.

Martha smiled. Springtime was coming.



The little girl went out to play. There was the robin again! Mary got closer. What was that sticking out of the earth?



“Perhaps it is the key to the garden!”

Dickon pushed Colin through the great gardens, past the fountains, all the way to the ivy-covered wall. Mary unlocked the door.

The boy gazed up at the secret garden for the very first time.

“I shall get well!
And I shall live for ever
and ever and ever!”





Ben promised not to let anyone at the big house find out what was happening in the secret garden. He told the children about Colin's mother. The roses had all been planted for her.

"There is Magic in there—good Magic, you know, Mary, I am sure there is."

Spring gave way to summer. The garden burst into life. Colin learned to walk, and then to run. Mary grew tall and pretty. The children were coming alive, too.