

★ **The Secret Gardens of Frances Hodgson Burnett****Angelica Shirley Carpenter****Helena Pérez García, Illustrator**

Bushel & Peck Books (Jul 23, 2024)

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Frances Hodgson Burnett's life, though thorned with tragedy, blooms within this inspirational picture book. The real-life inspirations for Burnett's most famous works, including *A Little Princess* and *The Secret Garden*, are revealed alongside details of her childhood, when her imagination sustained her through hardships. The gray drudgery of industrial Manchester, England, contrasts with the vivid floral hues of Burnett's gardens in stunning illustrations that perfectly pair with the book's timeless message: "hope is never far for those who can imagine."

DANIELLE BALLANTYNE (July / August 2024)

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