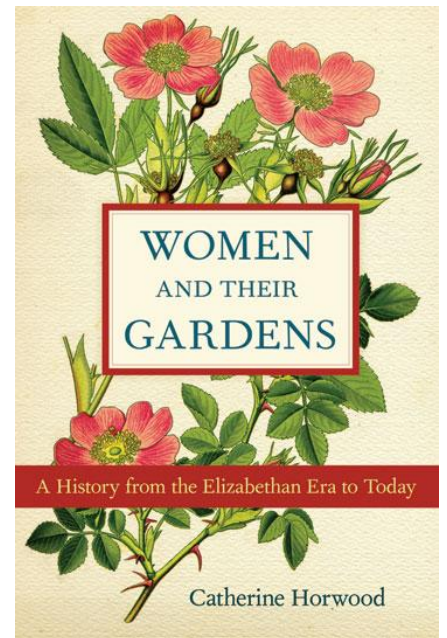


Reading Guide:

Women and Their Gardens: A History from the Elizabethan Era to Today

Catherine Horwood (2012)



1. The author seems to make the argument that gardening has quite a bit to do with class structure, and is intimately tied in with class distinctions. Do you agree? Why or why not?
2. Similarly, the author argues that gardening and the social place of women, and their lack of rights, are intimately related. Do you agree, why or why not?
3. Catherine Horwood notes that “For many [English women in the eighteenth century], involvement with and a love of gardening often began in childhood, just as in adulthood, a garden can be a place in which to escape.” (pg 101 – 102) Do you think this is true of the period in which Horwood notes this, and do you think is still true today?
4. What do you think is the most important contribution Gertrude Jekyll, the “Queen Victoria of horticulture,” made to proper English society?
5. What does this book demonstrate about gender roles in English society during the early modern period to the present?
6. Besides the history of women and gardens, do you think the author has an underlying theme or agenda?
7. The author arranges the book in five distinct sections. Do you like the way it was formatted? Did you think it was easy to follow or would you have preferred an alternate format?

About Catherine Horwood

Catherine Horwood is honorary research fellow of the Bedford Centre for the History of Women at Royal Holloway, University of London. A passionate gardener, she has won many prizes for her gardens and was for many years assistant organizer of the National Gardens Scheme for London. She now gardens

high on a roof in north London and firmly on the ground in Suffolk.¹

Other Books by Catherine Horwood

- ***Potted History: The Story of Plants in the Home***, Catherine Horwood (2007) | A look at how and why plants entered the home.
- ***Keeping Up Appearances: Fashion and Class Between Wars***, Catherine Horwood (2011) | An exploration of British fashion during the 1920s and 30s.

Other Related Texts

- ***The Curious Gardener: A Gardening Year***, Anna Pavrod (2010) | The author takes readers on a year long journey through English gardening: how to garden, where to get the best plants, and what to garden during the various seasons.
- ***The Making of the English Gardener: Plants, Books, and Inspiration, 1560 -1660***, Margaret Willes (2011) | A discussion of the century-long horticulture revolution in England.
- ***Garden Voices: Stories of Women & Their Gardens***, Carolyn Freas Rapp (2007) | An exploration of the relationships between women and their gardens.
- ***Green Thoughts: A Writer in the Modern Garden***, Eleanor Perenyi, Michael Pollan, and Allen Lacy (2002) | A compilation of essays on gardening.

¹ From *Women and Their Gardens*