



The Jewel Garden: A Story of Despair and Redemption

Monty Don , Sarah Don

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The face of British gardening Monty Don and his wife Sarah tell the magical story of the garden they have built over the last decade THE JEWEL GARDEN is the story of the garden that over the past decade has bloomed from the muddy fields around the Dons' Tudor farmhouse, a perfect metaphor for the Monty and Sarah's own rise from the ashes of a spectacular commercial failure. At the same time THE JEWEL GARDEN is the story of a creative partnership that has weathered the greatest storm, and a testament to the healing powers of the soil. In his weekly column for the Observer, Monty Don has always been candid about the garden's role in helping him to pull back from the abyss of depression; THE JEWEL GARDEN elaborates on this much further. Written in an optimistic, autobiographical vein, Monty and Sarah's story is truly an exploration of what it means to be a gardener.

The Jewel Garden: A Story of Despair and Redemption Details

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Author : Monty Don , Sarah Don

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From Reader Review The Jewel Garden: A Story of Despair and Redemption for online ebook

Rob says

I love this book and it means so much to me. I read it the first time and could recognise the signs in myself of suffering from depression but thought "that's ok but I can't just dwell on it". I then re-read it when I suffered a nervous breakdown and it was just as meaningful but even more helpful. The Don's use the garden as both a metaphor and a therapy. It helped me find some foci in life away from the things driving my problems. A must read for anybody.

Jane Wynne says

A delightful and truthful book charting the rise to fame firstly in jewellery and then as Britain's favourite TV gardener. The development of Longmeadow and in particular, the Jewel Garden is fascinating and makes seeing it on TV all the more poignant.

Linnae says

Inside look at their careers and marriage.

Anyone who has watched BBC's Gardener's World will know Monty Don. He hosts the show, and at least a couple of the segments each time are filmed at his home, in his gardens. He is warm and personable; laid-back, but very knowledgeable. He makes the show, in my opinion. Anyway, after I had been watching for awhile, I managed to get a friend hooked on it as well. She gave me this book for my birthday (and another of his on gardening--review still to come.) I was so excited!

I basically knew nothing about Monty's personal life before reading this book. Apparently he and his wife used to be super successful jewelry makers--as in, they sold their jewelry in very high-end stores, and to all sorts of celebrities. Then their business, which had such meteoric success, came crashing down around them. Gardening, and writing about gardening, is what pulled them back from the abyss. Eventually that became a career for Monty.

On the show, he often talks about his Jewel Garden. I never knew it had such a history behind it!

I ate it up! If you haven't ever heard of Monty Don, I would recommend watching an episode of Gardener's World prior to reading this book. You'll enjoy it a lot more.

I blog at www.ofbooksandblooms.com

Carol Raspberry says

Fabulous book detailing one couple's climb out of bankruptcy and despair back to a life of contentment and shared interests. This book does not gloss over the massive issues they had and they don't pretend things are perfect now. "But in the end the most exciting time of all is always the shining here and now".

Cynthia says

Sounds great I always watch Monty Don on tv I like his approach to gardening but had no idea he had written books too Looking forward to reading this

Leah says

Wonderful read. The first half of the book is quick paced and draws you in. I read it in one sitting. The second half of the book is full of beautiful and delightful meditations on plant life. Because I'm not a British gardener, I didn't recognize all the flowers they were talking about. But, I enjoyed it nevertheless. Particularly when combined with watching Gardener's World 2011, it was a fantastic tour of Monty and Sarah's garden! All that said, I felt for Sarah while reading it. She has certainly had a heavy load to carry on the home front. It suddenly dawned on me while reading this that Monty is probably bipolar. He certainly seems to have left the childrearing to his wife while he obsesses over the garden day after day!

sisterimapoet says

Beautiful. Mesmerising. Inspiring. Comforting.

The perfect read for a long dark January with the earth laying heavy and bare outside the windows.

And then to plan ahead, to order seeds, to dream and wait for Spring...

Ashley Person says

I really liked this book. I'm not a gardener, but I love nature books and I really enjoyed the beautiful descriptions of the garden as well as the memoir of their exploits in the jewelry business. Although I wish there had been more details about the day to day running of it. I also wish there had been more pictures although it was great that the ones in the book were in color.

Sarah says

I had a growing love for Monty Don after a season of Gardener's World, but after reading this book, I am a convert. It was a well-timed read, as I've just gotten my very first garden space and have been working hard to turn it into a beautiful spot, and I've been learning so much more about plants, so I felt like this book fed into that burgeoning knowledge well. I liked this book's candor and the arc of it, between the lows of

depression and debt to the highs of getting Longmeadow and discovering the joys of country life and digging in the dirt, which feels strange to say because it's someone's life. I read it before bed usually, just a page or two a night, and found it really enjoyable.

Sylvia says

I enjoyed this much more than I had expected to. A beautiful honest account of the private personal histories of a well loved tv personality and his wife. Astonishing to know there is so much going on behind the carefree relaxed smiling face I watch every Friday that has only increased my fondness and appreciation. The second section of the book is an inspiring almost poetic tribute to the seasons told through excerpts from the Don's garden diaries. A lovely book. Thoroughly recommended to anyone who loves gardening and or Monty.

Diane Warrington says

This is the fascinating story of a man who on television seems totally together. The story is equally shared with his wife and it is a wonderful story of a couple coping with real hardship and the effects of depression. A good read, very human and very real.

Kiki says

Beautifully produced book full of glossy photographs, a joy for any gardener to hold and leaf through. Advertised as a story of "despair and redemption," yet the despair part of the book was not particularly compelling, and the second half of the book ended up becoming a simple account of how the gardens unfold throughout the seasons. An interesting decision was made to use two voices in the narrative, Monty Don's and his wife Sarah's, identified in the text by alternating between two type styles. This helped give a sense of the two gardeners and of their relationship to one another as co-creators. A satisfying read, but one that would do just as well without the subtitle.

Anne Cook says

Thrilled to find this on bookshelves (yes a real book) at current Housesit. Ten yrs old but still of interest to a NZr. Great photography tells the story along with detailed prose. Also giving insight into Monty's battle with depression.

Debbie says

Fascinated by the first half, detailing the couple's demise and giving insight into Monty's depressions.

Bradley says

Monty Don's gardening programme is essential viewing in my household where his every utterance is treated with reverence. I knew a little about his life, the jewellery business, the depressive episodes etc. This book explains more.

A great many middle aged folk will remember how Thatcher-ism ended badly, many more will remember how it was never much more than misery.

For Monty and Sarah Don it meant the collapse of hard earned financial security and for Monty an added burden of depression.

The book gives the reader a glimpse into this maelstrom, but it is just a glimpse as anyone that has been through similar will attest.

The love of gardening and the creation of garden runs through the entire book, it is the glue that holds all together.

It is written simply and with feeling nicely illustrated throughout. I feel like this is how you would catch up with a couple of old pals over a few drinks.
