

# Walled gardens - scenes from an Anglo-Irish childhood

Picador - Walled Gardens: Scenes from an Anglo



Description: -

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Masson, André, -- 1896-1987.

Coventry (England) -- Buildings.

Davis-Goff, Annabel. Walled gardens - scenes from an Anglo-Irish childhood

-Walled gardens - scenes from an Anglo-Irish childhood

Notes: Originally published: London: Barrie & Jenkins, 1990.

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## Anglo

Of course, it's just possible that the original Irish were a mousey lot with barely distinguishable national traits and it took layers of conquerors throwing themselves into being more Irish than the Irish themselves to have produced the extreme national characteristics we know and love today. Where the emotional chill of an aristocratic drawing room is contrasted with the warmth of the servant-filled kitchen. Even if the reviewer decides to forgo the reference, those horse-obsessed gentlemen will inevitably turn up in any book - fiction or nonfiction - purporting to evoke the vanishing world another inevitable phrase of the Anglo-Irish.

## Walled Gardens:Scenes from an Anglo

And sometimes, Davis-Goff crosses the boundary between sounding mature and self-accepting and sounding a trifle complacent.

## Walled gardens : scenes from an Anglo

The majority of pages are undamaged with minimal creasing or tearing, minimal pencil underlining of text, no highlighting of text, no writing in margins.

## Anglo

In the world where she grew up, keeping a horse was considered a necessity, but central heating, decent food, hot water, and workable plumbing were undreamed-of luxuries. Memories of her girlhood in southern Ireland, so different from her later life in London, Hollywood, and New York, are delicately evoked: the camaraderie between children and servants; the coziness of her grandmother's drawing room; the chill of rushing from an unheated bathroom through icy corridors to a room with a fire when shampooing her hair in her parents' home; and the warmth of the beautiful walled gardens that were a feature of so many country houses she knew. This is an affectionate yet unsentimental memoir of a transitional generation, one born too late to benefit from the last years of the Ascendancy, but too early to integrate into the mainstream of contemporary Irish life.

## Walled Gardens : Scenes from an Anglo

See the seller's listing for full details. Her forays into family history take her back to her grandparents' generation and farther still, in the book's fascinating final chapter, to the story of a Goff ancestor who was one of the signers of King Charles's death warrant. Like many other Anglo-Irish families they attempted outlandish and impractical schemes to maintain deteriorating driveways and crumbling houses.

### **Walled Gardens: Scenes from an Anglo**

Oddly enough, the narrative is marred by an occasional disjunctiveness that occurs not when it shifts from memory to history, but in the middle of describing a specific incident or person. Decades later, when Davis-Goff was growing up, economic hardship was still a fact of life, both for poor, working-class Roman Catholics and for genteel, impoverished Protestants. William Goffe, along with his father-in-law, Edward Whalley, fled Restoration England for the American colonies residents and former residents of New Haven, Conn.

### **Walled Gardens: Scenes from an Anglo**

The selections are interspersed with Kiely's biographical commentary and illustrated with many lovely photographs and paintings, including the work of the poet's brother, Jack Yeats. Yeats's death and has been authorized by his estate. However much one loves the Irish one can only be dismayed by the thought of a new wave of immigrants displaying exaggerated forms of already fairly extreme behavior.

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