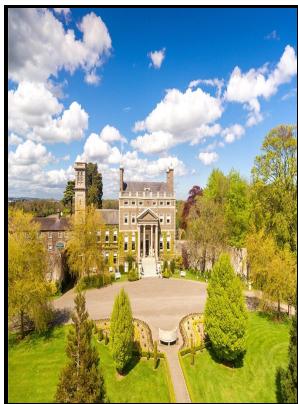


Walled gardens - scenes from an Anglo-Irish childhood

Picador - Anglo



Description: -

- Masson, André, -- 1896-1987.
 Coventry (England) -- Buildings.
 Davis-Goff, Annabel. Walled gardens - scenes from an Anglo-Irish childhood
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Walled Gardens : Scenes from an Anglo

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

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. In the Anglo-Irish world she describes, however, these Horatio Alger-ish traits are not associated with tales of pulling oneself up by one's bootstraps and the triumph of individual enterprise.

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. 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.

Anglo

Her memoir is a judicious balance of personal recollections and wider reflections on Anglo-Irish history.

Walled Gardens:Scenes from an Anglo

Like many other Anglo-Irish families they attempted outlandish and impractical schemes to maintain deteriorating driveways and crumbling houses. Although better off than most of the Irish-Catholic population when Ireland became a Free State in 1921, the future was not moving in a direction that favored the Anglo-Irish.

Walled Gardens:Scenes from an Anglo

Of the battles to maintain a decaying mansion with a leaking roof and freezing corridors, while the stables must be filled with hunters and no expense spared when it comes to racing.

Walled Gardens: Scenes from an Anglo

The affectionate humor with which the author describes her eccentric upbringing is interwoven with her acute perceptions of the remorseless social, political and intellectual eclipse of the Anglo-Irish.

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