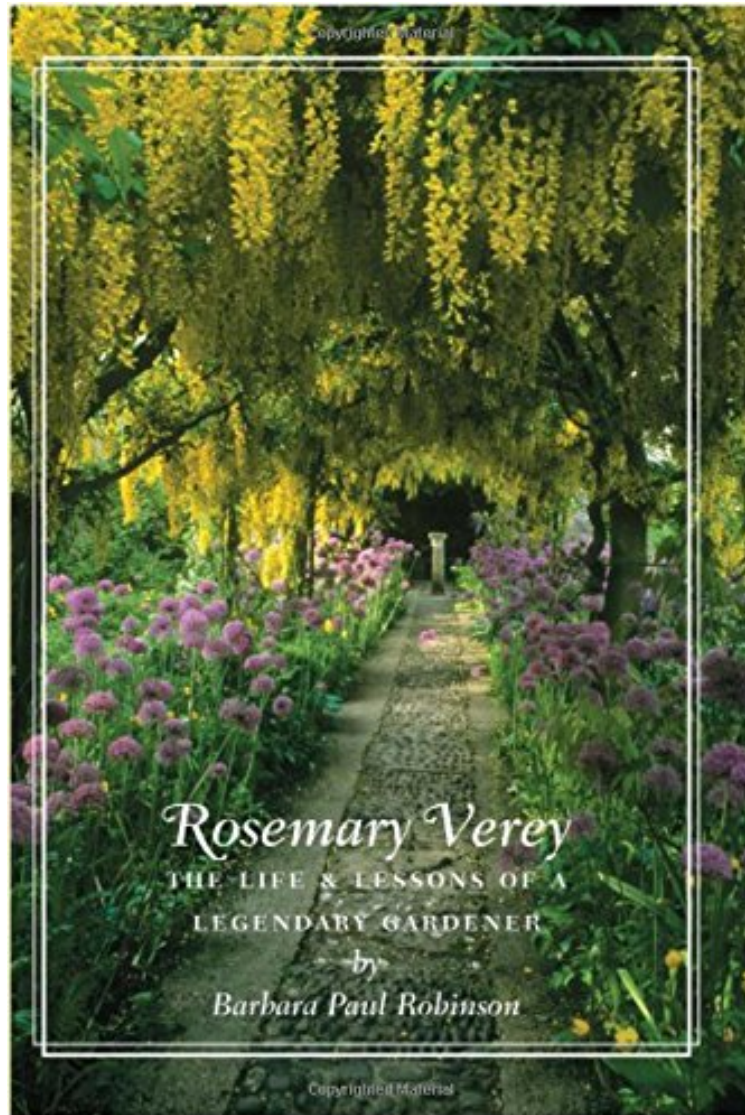


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Rosemary Verey: The Life and Lessons of a Legendary Gardener

Barbara Paul Robinson

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#455492 in Books Barbara Paul Robinson 2012-08-30 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.60 x 1.30 x 5.701, 1.10 #File Name: 1567924506288 pages Rosemary Verey The Life and Lessons of a Legendary Gardener | File size: 78.Mb

Barbara Paul Robinson : Rosemary Verey: The Life and Lessons of a Legendary Gardener before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rosemary Verey: The Life and Lessons of a Legendary Gardener:

21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Garden Designer to Prince Charles, Elton John, Billionaires and everyman. By Dan McC
Rosemary Verey, in her forties; with no training in gardening; with only four acres in

Cotswold; with scant financial support, metamorphosed into the undisputed Queen of traditional English Gardening. She authored 18 best-selling books; advised fashion luminary Oscar de la Renta; was the 'must have' garden designer to HRH Prince Charles, Sir Elton John, King Hussein, American millionaires, billionaires and the New York Botanical Garden. Verey transformed a small grass plot into arguably the most photographed garden ever; attracting 30,000 visitors annually. Verey, a status conscious member of British 'Squirearchy', was imperious, intimidating, unpredictable, querulous, and alcoholic. In public, she transmuted to the most popular, accessible, sold-out keynote lecturer at the most prestigious flower shows in Britain, the US, and Canada. Barbara Robinson traces the metamorphosis. She illuminates the personal characteristics that catapulted Verey from a supportive, compliant, impecunious housewife and mother of four, into the acclaimed authority on traditional garden design, recipient of the Order of the British Empire. The author explains the appeal of Verey's self-effacing, empowering mantra; "If I can do it, so can you. Just get on with it!" In telling Verey's story, the author draws upon their friendship, sustained over ten years by weekly telephone calls (500). Robinson taped interviews with over 69 associates, competitors, clients, staff, and family. Practitioners explain Verey's design strengths... Rule One: "Always create vistas using the longest axis across the garden." It is Robinson's inclusion of the specifics of Verey's "Lessons" that sent me back to the drawing board to correct my garden's flaws. Rewardingly, Robinson's definitive biography adheres to Verey's Rule One; "Create vistas!" .5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Impression of Verey Takes A Tumble By 20yrbreastcancersurvivor After reading this biography I must admit that my impressions of Rosemary Verey took a bit of a tumble. The author does indeed tackle her subject's flaws (alcoholism, drunk driving, adultery, class snobbery and quitting anything she can't be best at), but it is the author's rationalization of these flaws that grates. 'Hunting and adultery go together like eggs and bacon', for example. The author even tries to convince her readers that Verey's husband couldn't find work as an architect in post WWII London because 'rebuilding concentrated on repairs and salvage, hardly challenging work for an aspiring young architect'. WHAT? That is a nonsensical conclusion. Verey's own gardening beginnings at Barnsley House started with her anger over her husband finally hiring a garden designer, years after watching Rosemary grass over all his mother's flower borders. Seems Rosemary was too busy with horses, hunting and tennis to bother with gardens. Strange beginnings. I own and have read most of Rosemary's gardening books, and I respect her horticultural experiences and her writing, but this book disappointed. Entirely too much rationalizing by this author. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. More than a Green Thumb By Night in Tunisia The book was not quite what I expected. I wanted more how-to information with plant names, planting arrangements and ideas. I still found the book to be invigorating, inspiring me to get out and kick my spring garden up a notch. Rosemary was an enigma, conforming to the expectations of her time and transcending them. I enjoyed the parts about her work with Prince Charles and Elton John. The author clearly dotes on Rosemary. The pictures provided good ideas too.

Rosemary Verey was the last of the great English garden legends. Although she embraced gardening late in life, she quickly achieved international renown. She was the acknowledged apostle of the "English style," on display at her home at Barnsley House, the "must have" adviser to the rich and famous, including Prince Charles and Elton John, and a beloved and wildly popular lecturer in America. A child of a generation born between the two World Wars, she could have easily lived a predictable and comfortable life, devoted to her family, church, and horses, but a devastating accident changed her life, and with her architect-husband, she went on to create the gardens at their home that became a mandatory stop on every garden tour in the 1980s and 1990s. At sixty-two, she wrote her first book, followed by seventeen more in twenty years. Her husband's death, shortly after her career began, added a financial imperative to her ambition. By force of character, hard work, and determination, she tirelessly promoted herself and her garden lessons, traveling worldwide to lecture, sell books, and strengthen her network. She was a natural teacher, encouraging her American fans to believe that they were fully capable of creating beautiful gardens while validating their quest for a native vernacular. She also re-introduced the English to their own gardening traditions. Drawing from garden history and its literature, she developed a language of classical formal design, embellished with her exuberant planting style. Here is her story, recounted by a successful Manhattan attorney who worked with her as a volunteer, who saw her as both a person and a professional, and who was close to her for the last twenty years of her life. A demanding and sometimes truculent taskmaster, and a relentless perfectionist, Rosemary Verey, in her life as in her work, was the very personification of the English garden style. Her influence will be felt for generations.

From Booklist Her books are staples of any gardeners library. Her clients included the man who would be king of England and the man who was the king of British popular music. Her lectures were must-see events on both sides of the Atlantic, and her signature garden designs graced manor houses and internationally renowned garden shows. Yet for most of her life, Verey was the epitome of the English gentry. A wife, mother, and devoted churchwoman, Verey discovered gardening late in life. Her first book was written at age 62, and 17 more were published over the course of the last two decades of her life. Yet it wasn't until after her husband's death that she embraced in earnest her career as a popular lecturer, prolific author, and personal garden consultant to such luminaries as Prince Charles, Elton John, and

Oscar de la Renta. A longtime friend, Robinson vividly chronicles the private life and public influence of the diminutive lady who was a powerhouse of British garden design. --Carol Haggas The definitive book on the great gardener and designer. Meticulously researched and invigorated by the author's own personal recollections, Barbara Paul Robinson has captured the essence of Rosemary Verey's genius for creating gardens and also her great capacity for friendship. Rosemary's influence on twentieth-century garden style remains her legacy to designers all over the world. --Penelope Hobhouse Truly great gardeners deserve a fine garden writer as a biographer . . . Rosemary Verey, the former doyenne of twentieth-century English garden design, has found the ideal one in Barbara Paul Robinson. . . . Robinson is able to provide in-depth insight into her subject's character and personality as well as her genius for blending highly original landscape composition with great horticultural craft. --Elizabeth Barlow Rogers. . . all but channels the great Rosemary Verey herself. --Berkshire Style From the Inside Flap Rosemary Verey was the last of the great English garden legends. Although she embraced gardening late in life, she quickly achieved international renown. She was the acknowledged apostle of the "English style," on display at her home at Barnsley House, the "must have" adviser to the rich and famous, including Prince Charles and Elton John, and a beloved and wildly popular lecturer in America. A child of a generation born between the two World Wars, she could have easily lived a predictable and comfortable life, devoted to her family, church, and horses, but a devastating accident changed her life, and with her architect-husband, she went on to create the gardens at their home that became a mandatory stop on every garden tour in the 1980s and 1990s. At sixty-two, she wrote her first book, followed by seventeen more in twenty years. Her husband's death, shortly after her career began, added a financial imperative to her ambition. By force of character, hard work, and determination, she tirelessly promoted herself and her garden lessons, traveling worldwide to lecture, sell books, and strengthen her network. She was a natural teacher, encouraging her American fans to believe that they were fully capable of creating beautiful gardens while validating their quest for a native vernacular. She also re-introduced the English to their own gardening traditions. Drawing from garden history and its literature, she developed a language of classical formal design, embellished with her exuberant planting style. Here is her story, recounted by a successful Manhattan attorney who worked with her as a volunteer, who saw her as both a person and a professional, and who was close to her for the last twenty years of her life. A demanding and sometimes truculent taskmaster, and a relentless perfectionist, Rosemary Verey, in her life as in her work, was the very personification of the English garden style. Her influence will be felt for generations.