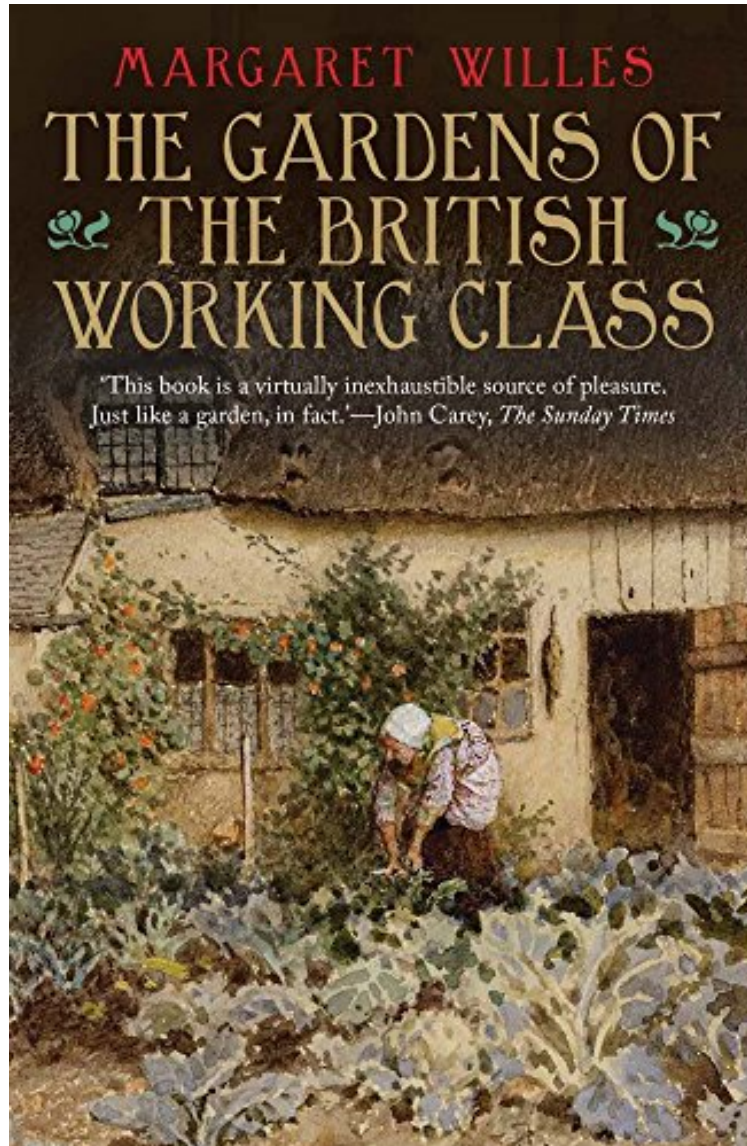


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The Gardens of the British Working Class

Margaret Willes

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Margaret Willes : The Gardens of the British Working Class before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gardens of the British Working Class:

2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerWonderful book! Exactly like I hoped!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. History in your backyard.By E. ClarkeAs as gardener and lover of history this book was quite an enjoyable read. The author managed to keep the information relevant to modern day gardeners while still delving into the details of historical British gardens. The book flowed well, and I was never bogged down in

the minutiae that sometimes comes with historical books.

This magnificently illustrated peoples history celebrates the extraordinary feats of cultivation by the working class in Britain, even if the land they toiled, planted, and loved was not their own. Spanning more than four centuries, from the earliest records of the laboring classes in the country to today, Margaret Willes's research unearths lush gardens nurtured outside rough workers cottages and horticultural miracles performed in blackened yards, and reveals the ingenious, sometimes devious, methods employed by determined, obsessive, and eccentric workers to make their drab surroundings bloom. She also explores the stories of the great philanthropic industrialists who provided gardens for their workforces, the fashionable rich stealing the gardening ideas of the poor, alehouse syndicates and fierce rivalries between vegetable growers, flower-fanciers cultivating exotic blooms on their city windowsills, and the rich lore handed down from gardener to gardener through generations. This is a sumptuous record of the myriad ways in which the popular cultivation of plants, vegetables, and flowers has played and continues to play an integral role in everyday British life.

in this wonderfully rich study, Margaret Willes reveals the forgotten history of Britains working-class horticulturalists PD Smith, the Guardian.