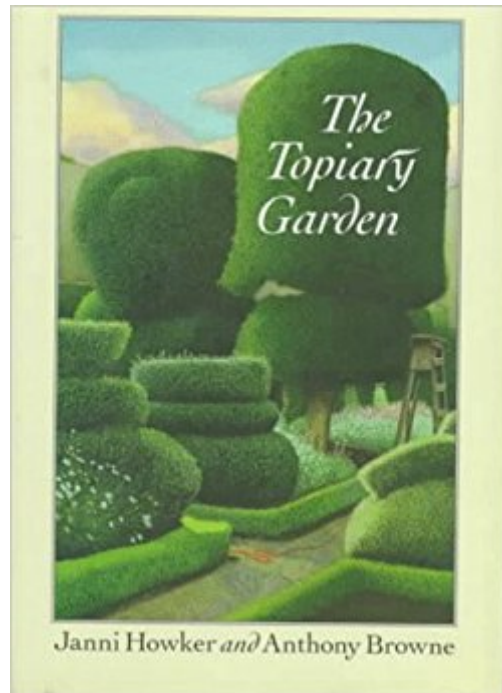




**Ebook Directory**  
the best source of ebook

The book was found

# The Topiary Garden



## Synopsis

Aspiring artist Liz loves the topiary garden of Carlton Hall and learns the story of the estate's retired gardener, ninety-year-old Sally Beck, a story of pluck, courage, and persistent good humor. By the author of *Badger on the Barge*.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 63 pages

Publisher: Orchard Books; 1st American ed edition (March 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0531068919

ISBN-13: 978-0531068915

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 5.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,465,162 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #88 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Technique > Topiary #547742 in Books > Children's Books

## Customer Reviews

Initially published a decade ago in Howker's story collection *Badger on the Barge*, this elegantly crafted tale devolves in the shadow of a topiary garden on the grounds of Carlton Hall, an English country home. Liz and her older brother are camping with their father when Liz encounters 91-year-old Sally Beck, whose face resembles a "crumpled brown paper bag." Smarting from a fight with her brother, Liz grumbles that she sometimes wishes she were a boy. In the intriguing tale-within-a-tale that follows, the old woman explains that she ran away from home at the age of 12, dressed in her brother's clothes, and became an apprentice gardener at Carlton Hall, where she cared for the topiary garden. For years, Sally (known as Jack) kept her gender a secret-until accused of impregnating her employer's maid. Howker's writing is crisp and her imagery striking, but the book's themes (not to mention the text's tiny print) are too sophisticated for readers on the younger end of the suggested audience. Similarly, although Browne's detailed art is impeccably rendered-and contains some mysterious images-picture after picture of the topiary garden may become tiresome for children. Ages 7-up. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 7<sup>^</sup>-12. Furious at the sexist sneers of her older brother, 12-year-old Liz runs off to the Yorkshire

moors. She meets a very old lady who says that when she was 12, she ran away from home forever and was forced to disguise herself as a boy in order to be free. The old lady once worked in the topiary garden at the great country house nearby, a weird, shadowy place where trees and bushes are carved and twisted into unnatural shapes and a nude statue of a woman is protected and imprisoned. First published as part of Howker's acclaimed collection *Badger on the Barge and other Stories* (1984), this novella is now a small, self-contained volume with occasional framed illustrations by Browne. Their quiet combination of the eerie and the elegant captures the surrealistic theme of the story. Kids will be drawn into Liz's family fights, and they'll also get the metaphor of the garden and its distortions. The old woman's story helps Liz assert herself as an artist and as a woman, and, at the end, Liz draws a picture showing the statue standing free in the sunlight. Hazel Rochman

You can read this in a few minutes and it is well written, I was not particularly interested in the girl Liz, but when she started hearing the story of Jack/Sally Beck I was fascinated. I loved the story so much I read it aloud to my husband because it just seemed like the best little story I had ever read. For fans of *Downton Abbey*, it would be interesting as it takes place in that time period before WWI

This is an excellent book for people of my age, and tells the story of the relationship between a teenage girl and old Lady. The book is beautifully illustrated by Anthony Browne and a pleasure to read, it intrigued me from start to finish. I would definitely recommend it and hope to read more of Janni Howker's books in the future. -Miss Jamie Lake, 13.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Just Topiary Photos! Big Book of Photographs & Pictures of Topiary, Vol. 1 The Topiary Garden Topiary - Garden Craftsmanship in Yew and Box Topiary in the Garden: How to Clip, Train and Shape Plants, Shown in More Than 100 Stunning Images The Garden Journal, Planner and Log Book: Repeat successes & learn from mistakes with complete personal garden records. 28 adaptable year-round forms, ... (The Garden Journal Log Books) (Volume 1) Northwest Top 10 Garden Guide: The 10 Best Roses, 10 Best Trees--the 10 Best of Everything You Need - The Plants Most Likely to Thrive in Your Garden ... Most Important Tasks in the Garden Each Month Midwest Top 10 Garden Guide: The 10 Best Roses, 10 Best Trees--the 10 Best of Everything You Need - The Plants Most Likely to Thrive in Your Garden - ... Most Important Tasks in the Garden Each Month The Garden Diary, Journal & Log Book: Plan garden beds and track changes in your

landscape for a year to year record. 100 diary pages, 10 graph pages ... (The Garden Journal Log Books) (Volume 2) A Gardener's Journal: Bright Garden, The Easy Way To Organize Your Garden, Write Your Garden Records, Plans, Thoughts and Memories, Square Foot Plan, ... Year Round, 8 x 10 (20.32 x 25.4 cm), 178 Pages Garden of Secrets Past: An English Garden Mystery (English Garden Mysteries) How to Design a Small Garden - Step-by-Step Landscaping Ideas, Pictures and Plans for Planning the Perfect Small Garden ('How to Plan a Garden' Series Book 5) Wild Woman's Garden: 7 Radical Weeds for Women Over 40 (The Garden Remedy Series) (The Garden Remedy Series) Topiary Sculptures: The Art of Creating Living Sculptures Topiary for Everyone Country Series: English Topiary Gardens The Ultimate Practical Guide to Pruning and Training: How to Prune and Train Trees, Shrubs, Hedges, Topiary, Tree and Soft Fruit, Climbers and Roses Creating Topiary New Topiary: Imaginative Techniques from Longwood Quick and Easy Indoor Topiary: Crafting and Decorating with Nature Basic Topiary A Living Approach

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)