



## The Garden of Magic

*Sarah Painter*

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## **The Garden of Magic** Sarah Painter

Don't miss the exciting new title *The Garden Of Magic* by Sarah Painter available on 14/08/2015 - pre-order your copy today!

Iris Harper has lived in Pendleford for decades. The local witch is mistrusted by the townsfolk, but that doesn't stop them from coming to her for potions, spells, and quick fixes. However, time has marched on, and Iris is aware that her days are beginning to fade. Her sumptuous garden is turning against her, the sweet scent of rot potent, and now a young girl has come begging for a solution at her door. The problem she brings causes Iris to remember a man from long ago - a man she loved, the man she could never trust...

## **The Garden of Magic Details**

Date : Published August 14th 2015 by Carina UK

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Author : Sarah Painter

Format : Kindle Edition 107 pages

Genre : Magical Realism, Paranormal, Witches, Novella, Fiction, Fantasy, Romance

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## From Reader Review The Garden of Magic for online ebook

### Denise says

Interesting first book in the series. I am looking forward to reading more.

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### DubaiReader says

Novella.

I'd never read a book by Sarah Painter, but it's hard to resist her beautiful covers, so I offered to review this audiobook for Audiobook Boom. I don't know the author or the narrator, so this is an impartial review.

Iris Harper is a herbalist, but she is getting on in years and I felt for her struggle to get downstairs and answer the doorbell when it rang. She has quite a reputation, but I couldn't quite see how she was going to help when a young girl is wrongly accused of theft.

In fact, I thought she was unacceptably rude to Bex when she came asking for help, and Bex was surprisingly long suffering. In the end, the resolution revolved around a considerable coincidence, which always makes me cringe.

It was an enjoyable listen, if a bit twee; well narrated by Tracey Norman. But it was only a novella, so it was hard to get into the story or the characters, before it drew to its conclusion. For this reason I'd feel this book was better suited to those who had already read some of Sarah Painter's novels, as it would elaborate on some of the folk they had already met. For a first time reader it was too short and didn't make me feel I needed to read more.

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### Shawn says

2.5 stars

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### Allison Armstrong says

It was good, but too short.

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### Traci says

Looking forward to finishing this series. Given that this was the prequel to the series, the possibilities leave me excited for the rest of the books.

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## **Aurelia Rowl says**

A short and sweet prequel featuring Iris Harper; a light, entertaining, story although it seemed to end abruptly.

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## **Marleen says**

Undoubtedly, it's the enchanting cover of this Kindle single that attracted me in first place.

I had never heard of Sarah Painter, but now that I've read The Garden of Magic, I'm glad I discovered this Scottish writer. I like the fluidity of her writing. As for the plot, it delivered what it was meant to do: make me curious about her other books. As with all Kindle singles, it is hard to craft a good story in only a hundred pages.

Iris Harper, the eighty year old hedge witch, who's at the center of this story, is a fascinating character. I liked her strength. I liked her way of thinking – and the fact that she has all this knowledge about herbs. It was great to learn about the different types of witches too.

I look forward to see what Painter's other stories bring.

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## **Heather says**

This was a sweet, short story.

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## **Sweetpea says**

Iris is a witch in the town of Pendleford. The witches in her family all have special talents or "afflictions", as they are regarded. Iris's affliction is an overwhelming compulsion for giving. More importantly, she is compelled to give others what they need, even if it makes no sense to her at the time. Now an elderly woman in her 80's, Iris is beginning to feel the effects of her age.

A young woman named Rebecca (Beccs) comes to her for help with her employer. After resisting his advances, she is accused of stealing as retribution. The employer turns out to be none other than the son of the man that Iris was once engaged to. This knowledge conjures up old, painful memories for Iris. But will she help?

The Garden of Magic is the prequel novella to The Language of Spells. The story was very entertaining and I really enjoyed it. The narration was wonderfully done. Tracey Norman has the loveliest voice and was such a pleasure to listen to. I would recommend The Garden of Magic.

I was voluntarily provided this review copy audiobook at no charge by the author, publisher and/or narrator. This review is my honest opinion.

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## **Rebecca Carter says**

The Garden of Magic is a prequel to The Language of Spells, although it probably doesn't matter too much which order you read the series in. New readers will find this novella a good taster to see whether or not this is the kind of book they'd enjoy, and existing readers can get to learn more about Iris, Gwen's great Aunt.

Iris Harper has lived alone in Pendleford for decades and this sweet little novella allows us to get to know more about her and the Harper family. Past readers will know that Iris has a formidable reputation, but here we discover she hasn't always been this way and what happened in her past to make her into the woman she grew to be.

There is another lighter storyline centered around Bex, a young woman who makes Iris's acquaintance and brings some old memories and feelings back.

Full of more of the spells, herbs and magic found in the rest of the series, I found this book a light easy read that pulls you into the world of the Harper family and all of their curiosities.

My only complaint is I didn't feel the book was quite long enough - yes, I was aware it was a novella - however 22% was taken up with an extract from the Language of Spells. Saying that it was a well written, magical little book and i wouldn't hesitate in recommending it to anyone who likes the magical realism genre.

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### **Christin says**

The Garden of Magic was my first read by Sarah Painter. It is a light read that is a prequel novella to The Language of Spells by Sarah Painter. It was well written and an enjoyable read. Perfect for me when I need to read something light, but still has depth and well a written story.

I look forward to reading more books by Sarah Painter.

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### **Simone says**

I enjoyed this book, however, it felt a little rushed like it was being written due to contract obligations more than anything else. No where near as well written as her other books.

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### **Mary says**

Really enjoyed this story. I thought it was better than the Language of Spells. It was a short story that takes place before Gwen inherits the house so don't expect this to be a continuation of that story. I was kept interested from the moment I started reading - very good story.

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### **Emily Ross says**

I was given this free review copy audiobook at my request and have voluntarily left this review.

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This follows two storylines, one concerning a town witch called Iris Harper, who is struggling with loneliness and age, and a young woman called Bex who is fired from her position as a nanny after she is accused of stealing. I much preferred Iris's storyline and plot even though both felt rather light. It was entertaining but I felt like it ended abruptly.

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## **Heather says**

Iris Harper has the gift, or the curse as her mother called it. She's spent the last 60 years of her life as a hedge witch in Pendleford dispensing wisdom and little bottles of remedies to her neighbors. Iris' lovely garden provides most of her ingredients, but as she ages her garden begins to fall to ruin. One day, a young woman names Bex arrives at her door with a request and a name from Iris' past.

This is the prequel to *The Language of Spells*, which I haven't read yet. Not having read the first didn't stop me from enjoying this book, the characters are fully fleshed out and there aren't any references to scenes or people that aren't in this book. At almost 3 hours, this didn't feel like a novella at all. The ending was so sweet, it put a smile on my face and gave me goosebumps. The references to magic are subtle and not showy at all, it makes you feel like it could be real.

Tracey Norman did a great job narrating this one, her pace was perfect and her accent lovely. Iris was voiced as a crotchety old woman, but without grating on my nerves, and Bex was voiced as sweet and personable. It was a light and easy way to spend 3 hours. I was voluntarily provided this free review copy audiobook by the author, narrator, or publisher.

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