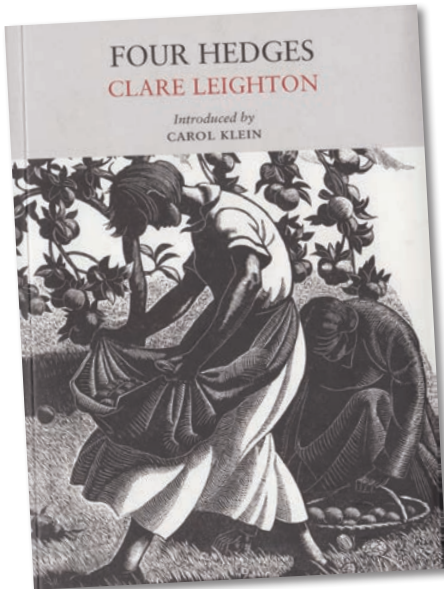


WHAT I'M READING

Tamara Bridge,
Tamara Bridge Garden Designs



TAMARA BRIDGE



Title Four Hedges
Author Clare Leighton
Publisher Little Toller Book

This book was given to me a few years ago by a friend of mine – it's a favourite of hers, and she thought I may like it too. It's a book about gardening, and the note she attached to it read, 'You will learn little from it, but dip into it during the appropriate month and it will hopefully remind you why you like to be outside and gardening' – and how right she

“WITH EACH PARAGRAPH YOU ARE REMINDED HOW TO SEE THE BEAUTY IN BOTH THE REMARKABLE AND UNREMARKABLE”

was, apart from on one point. I did learn something of huge value, to me at least, and that was to remember to look.

I find these days that everyone, myself included, is too busy with the hustle and bustle of life, and we are rather inclined to forget to enjoy the simple things that make life enjoyable.

COMFORT READING

After reading only the first few pages, I felt like I was sat around an old oak kitchen table, with a warm Aga and a fresh pot of tea. So comforting are the pages of this book that with each paragraph you are reminded how to see the beauty in both the remarkable and unremarkable. The author, Clare Leighton, was

a talented artist as well as a writer, and her engravings that illustrate this book add another reason, if you needed it, to turn the pages.

HEAR THE LARKS

An extract, which features on the back cover, reads: 'In the sky, above our meadow, larks sing. I feel a sudden rush of pride in the ownership of this untilled land; it is not that I value possession, but I am proud to be landlord to the lark who pays for his home with such boundless song'. I find that I want to rush outside and see if I can hear the lark (I still have never heard one), to make sure that I've always got a few small trees for the fledglings to learn to fly from, food out for the hedgehogs and to remember to walk round the garden at dusk.

For me, *Four Hedges* is a book written about the everyday things, but with such detail and artistry that it makes you fall in love with gardening all over again, and awakens you to things you never noticed before. So, although not a design-based bible, for me with its heart and soul in gardening, it is a little treasure on my bookshelf that I constantly dip in and out of, to remind me of the lovely things.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Twentieth-century engraver Clare Leighton records the growth of her garden in 'Four Hedges', after she moved to the countryside with her partner in the Thirties. The book tells the story of this Chiltern-based garden, describing the changes to the plants and other elements over a year with a clear passion for gardening from Clare and illustrations of 88 beautiful wood engravings by the author.



“FOUR HEDGES IS A BOOK WRITTEN ABOUT THE EVERYDAY THINGS, BUT WITH SUCH DETAIL AND ARTISTRY THAT IT MAKES YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH GARDENING ALL OVER AGAIN”

