

# Morals from the Beastly World



WILLIAM GARNETT

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ILLUSTRATED BY  
ANGELICA GARNETT



RUPERT HART-DAVIS

SOHO SQUARE LONDON

1958

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RUPERT HART-DAVIS  
LONG SQUARE LONDON

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## *The Little Birds who Knew too Much*

THERE was once a garden in which everything grew and flourished, and the bounty of Nature overflowed. There were peas and beans and lettuce and spinach and sweet-corn and asparagus and, of course, gigantic vegetable marrows; but better than all these were the magnificent crops of fruit of every sort, which were the garden's chief glory and the boast of all who enjoyed its privileges. There was also a Man who pottered about in the garden all day long with a wheelbarrow and a spade or some other tool, who was always doing things to the ground, or cutting and picking things and taking them away. But his presence in the garden was tolerated; and it was felt, on the whole, that his influence upon the general scheme of things was beneficial rather than the reverse. The same, however, could not be said for the mangy tortoiseshell cat which was the constant companion of all his potterings.

As may be imagined, the birds who owned this garden were inclined to be rather chary of inviting their neighbours to come and share in their good fortune. Parties of linnets and goldfinches, it is true, would sometimes pay a fleeting visit from over the wall; but such light-hearted intrusions were thought to lend gaiety and colour to the scene, and as these birds seemed to interest themselves chiefly in the seeds of the few weeds that could be



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