

# **Knave of Spades: The Growing Pains of a Gardener**

Alan Titchmarsh



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In this warm, funny memoir, Alan Titchmarsh takes us from gardener's apprentice to favourite TV presenter.

When Alan left school at 15, little was expected of him. An 'O' level in art is not the most obvious passport to success, but in the ancient greenhouses of the local nursery, Mrs T's little lad found his spiritual home, learning his trade and the strange ways of human nature.

But the comfort and familiarity of his home in the Yorkshire Dales would soon be left behind as he journeyed south to college and then to Kew Gardens, where he encountered rare plants collected by Captain Cook and a varied assortment of eccentrics in the world's most famous garden.

Spells as a teacher and editor followed, until fate took a hand when he landed a job on the BBC's *Nationwide* as their gardening presenter. His childhood dream of inheriting the mantle of gardening god Percy Thrower was beginning to come true.

From the first faltering steps in radio and television, to a career in broadcasting and writing, *Knave of Spades* is a wonderfully warm and self-deprecatingly honest memoir. Alan Titchmarsh shows us just why he has become not only our favourite gardener, but a popular writer and broadcaster too.

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