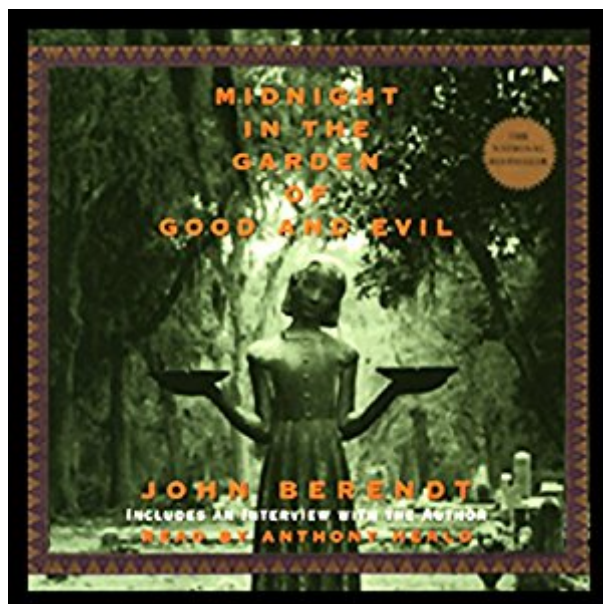


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# Midnight In The Garden Of Good And Evil



## Synopsis

Genteel society ladies who compare notes on their husbands' suicides. A hilariously foul-mouthed black drag queen. A voodoo priestess who works her roots in the graveyard at midnight. A prominent antiques dealer who hangs a Nazi flag from his window to disrupt the shooting of a movie. And a redneck gigolo whose conquests describe him as a "walking streak of sex". These are some of the real residents of Savannah, Georgia, a city whose eccentric mores are unerringly observed, and whose dirty linen is gleefully aired, in this utterly irresistible audio. At once a true-crime murder story and a hugely entertaining and deliciously perverse travelogue, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* is as bracing and intoxicating as half-a-dozen mint juleps.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 15 hours and 3 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House AudioBooks

Audible.com Release Date: December 1, 2005

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B000CNFAAK

Best Sellers Rank: #3 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Customs & Traditions #10 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > True Crime #32 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > United States & Canada

## Customer Reviews

I'm embarrassed to admit that I had this book on my bookshelf for over three years before finally picking it up. Better late than never, right?! Now that I've finally read it, I must say how truly wonderful and exciting it is. The characters are so eccentric and bizarre, I had to keep reminding myself that these are REAL people. And John Berendt did an excellent job recreating this true-crime story into something so readable, humorous and delicious. *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* is fabulous...I couldn't get enough of it! The main character in this novel is first and foremost, Savannah, Georgia. Such a glorious and mysterious backdrop for such an intriguing storyline -- and John Berendt fleshed it out so magnificently, that Savannah breathes and lives as easily as those who live there. Mostly this book is about a rich antique dealer, Jim Williams, who was accused of

murder. However, it is not an ordinary murder case -- all sorts of twists come out of the woodwork for this one, making this novel not only a true-crime story, but a mystery as well. Surrounding the murder aspect are the citizens of Savannah that the author comes in contact with: Luther Driggers, a former pesticide employee, who has a vial of poison potent enough to kill every one in the county; Chablis, the potty-mouthed drag queen and performer; Joe Odom, a modern vagrant who uses his home(s) as a tourist stop; and Minerva, the voodoo priestess who uses roots, herbs, and graveyard dirt to weave her magic spells. Excellent writing and amazing storytelling make *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* a must-have book. One of the better novels I have read this year. I watched the movie afterwards, but the book, by far, tells the story better.

This is one of those books, like Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays with Morrie*, that for some reason captures the attention of the book-buying public, as the hardcover version was on the bestseller lists for years. Most readers have given you their opinions here at , 325 at last count, and so I figured I would put in my two cents as well. (Please note this review is resubmitted to correct technical errors in the previous version). Berendt seems to be the perfect example of a writer being in the right place at the right time - he appears in Savannah as a features writer to cover a lavish holiday party hosted by the extravagant antiques dealer Jim Williams, at the famed Mercer House, and is swept up in a murder and ensuing trial. There is no great mystery associated with the murder itself, everyone knows ... pulled the trigger, and yet Berendt manages to write a colorful, suspenseful page-turner that captivated the imagination of the public like few other non-fiction novels ever have. In *Cold Blood* by Capote comes to mind, but trust me this story is infinitely more entertaining. Ultimately, the book works on many levels. It is an effective chronicle of a series of high-profile trials, an extended travelogue in which the colorful city of Savannah stands out as perhaps the star of the book, and a profile of Savannah's aristocracy, in which the reader understands Williams' sense of wanting to belong despite considerable obstacles. (Williams was not "old money", and therefore not really accepted in the city's highest circles, and as the trial revealed he was gay). Most of all, the book is a smorgasbord of colorful characters (none more compelling than the Lady Chablis) and bizarre situations that create a timeless sense of Savannah as a mysterious, alluring city.

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