

Sara Sass, 2021.
There Are Some Secrets
(Austin, TX: Atmosphere Press)

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The publication by Sara Sass, *There Are Some Secrets*, with an enticing cover designed by Josep Lledo, is a laconic pocket book introducing us to the different shades of the life of E. V. Lucas, the publisher of A. A. Milne's *Winnie the Pooh* books and a close friend of famous J. M. Barrie.

Richly illustrated with black-and-white photos and drawings of the Edwardian epoch, the book unveils the poignant and sometimes cryptic facts related to the artistic, literary and political echelons of Edwardian society against which the life of Lucas is presented. In other words, it shows intricate connections between Lucas' life and the world in the wake of the new century.

The book is divided into twelve mini-chapters (each 1.5 to 6 pages long), with the exception of Chapter III, which comprises 26 pages. Each little part touches upon different aspects and/or stages of Lucas' biography, for example, his marital life, his friendship with Barrie, or his attitude towards children (not only his own). The longest chapter is generally devoted to the literary ambitions of Lucas. Nevertheless, apart from presenting Lucas' struggle to become a part of the London upper class educated elite, the chapter also informs the reader of his marriage to Florence Elizabeth Gertrude Griffin, the daughter of a colonel commissioned in the US army, mentions Lucas' own offspring and sheds light on his personality.

The closing part connects Lucas with the present times through his daughter Audrey. It briefs us on her literary career, her co-operation with the BBC radio, pointing out at the same time her belittled position within the British literary world.

Though very short, the book is quite informative. Each page is a source of various facts and opinions on Lucas' life, both public and private. The briefness of the offered discussion, however, is quite tantalizing at places – we get but a glimpse of some issue, which is not followed by a further, more complex consideration. On the other hand, this sectional, looking-through-a-keyhole

type of perspective can be also attractive since it complements the secrecy mentioned in the title; it arouses the interest in the reader to learn more about E. V. Lucas and his world and, as a consequence, may serve as a springboard for further research. Additionally, at the end of the book, Sass offers a list of a variety of interesting sources (many of them accessible on-line) one may consult in their own pursuit to untangle the secrets of the lives of the people whose names fill the pages of the publication.