

# The Short Life of ISABELLA BEETON

Isabella Mayson was born March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1836 in London. Her father died in 1841 and in 1843 her mother remarried a wealthy businessman, providing Isabella a privileged lifestyle including study abroad. She mastered the piano, French, German and learned to cook. In 1855, she married successful publisher Samuel Orchart Beeton and began to write columns on cookery and fashion for his *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine*. Her columns became the basis for *The Book of Household Management*. Isabella Beeton's adult life was marred by personal tragedy. Her first child, a son named after his father, died at six months. A second son, also named after his father, lived only three years. Their third son survived well into his eighties.



Above: *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine*  
Right: Isabella Beeton



On January 29<sup>th</sup>, 1865, their fourth son was born. One week later Isabella succumbed to puerperal fever, due to an unhygienic birth, and died at the age of 28.

We suggest the following –  
*The Short Life and Long Times of Mrs. Beeton* by Kathryn Hughes (2005)  
*The Secret Life of Mrs. Beeton*, BBC television drama (2006) available on DVD