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The Meaning Of Flowers



Synopsis

Should you send a rose of crimson or of white to the one you love? What gift of flowers best expresses thanks to a dear friend? From ancient days, long before words complicated what we say to one another, flowers have been our messengers, invested with our most cherished feelings. Illustrated with luscious collages by acclaimed artist Ann Field, this enchanting tribute to the power and symbolism of flowers offers a contemporary introduction to an age-old tradition. The text draws on botanical, historical, and mythological sources worldwide, from ancient Rome to Victorian England, from Asia to the Americas, presenting portraits of almost 50 blossoms favored for all time. In Persia, for instance, the black medulla of the red tulip was said to represent the lover's heart, burnt to a coal by love's passion. To Victorians, lavender signified a broken trust, hollyhocks fertility, and nasturtiums a jest or whimsy. Blending fact, folktale, natural history, and original art, *The Meaning of Flowers* explores the language and lore of nature's most intimate and beautiful gifts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like books, some flowers are merely pretty to look at, while others are pure romance. *The Meaning of Flowers* presents flowers not only as messengers of our deepest feelings and desires, but as repositories of powerful myths and histories. Lilacs, for example, "express the beautiful sadness of love, the feeling--always available to the lover--of impending farewell.... Potently fragrant, the flower was once thought capable of warding off the Black Death itself." Ann Field's collages strike the perfect mood in this beautifully designed book, ideal for those who love flowers and symbolism.

Ann Field has work that includes distinctive collages and bright illustrations that have been featured in many books, magazines, and exhibitions around the world. Her artwork also appears in *Citrus*. Born in England, today she lives in Santa Monica, California. Gretchen Scoble is a designer whose elegant and lively books have received many awards. She lives in Bainbridge Island, Washington.

So I purchased this book, along with its sister book "The Meaning of Herbs," as I had come across it at a friend's home, and found it to be charming. The information it presents isn't necessarily for someone interested in learning about flower gardening. As the title mentions, it's more centered around myth and folk lore. I purchased it as a coffee table book for guests to peruse, and find cute little stories in connection with their favorite flower or herb. With that in mind, you may find it to be nice as well. Happy reading!

Not very helpful. Very few images of the flowers themselves which seems like an important addition to a book talking about flowers and their meaning. Very disappointing, but too cheap a purchase to consider returning.

I wish it had more substance. It only has about 50 flowers, and it doesn't go into the meaning of the color or in which instance one may give them to another person of variable importance.

The book was beautiful, but I was looking for something that contained more flowers and more information about their meanings.

loved the information

This book is really nice. It is visually appealing as well as full of some interesting information about the meanings behind certain flowers based on cultures or points in history. I found this really interesting and think it would make a great gift for someone who loves flowers, history or gardening!

Sixty-three meager, badly researched pages? What a rip-off!

It has taken a long long time to get this book & now I have a second hand one in very good condition. I am delighted! Thank you!

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