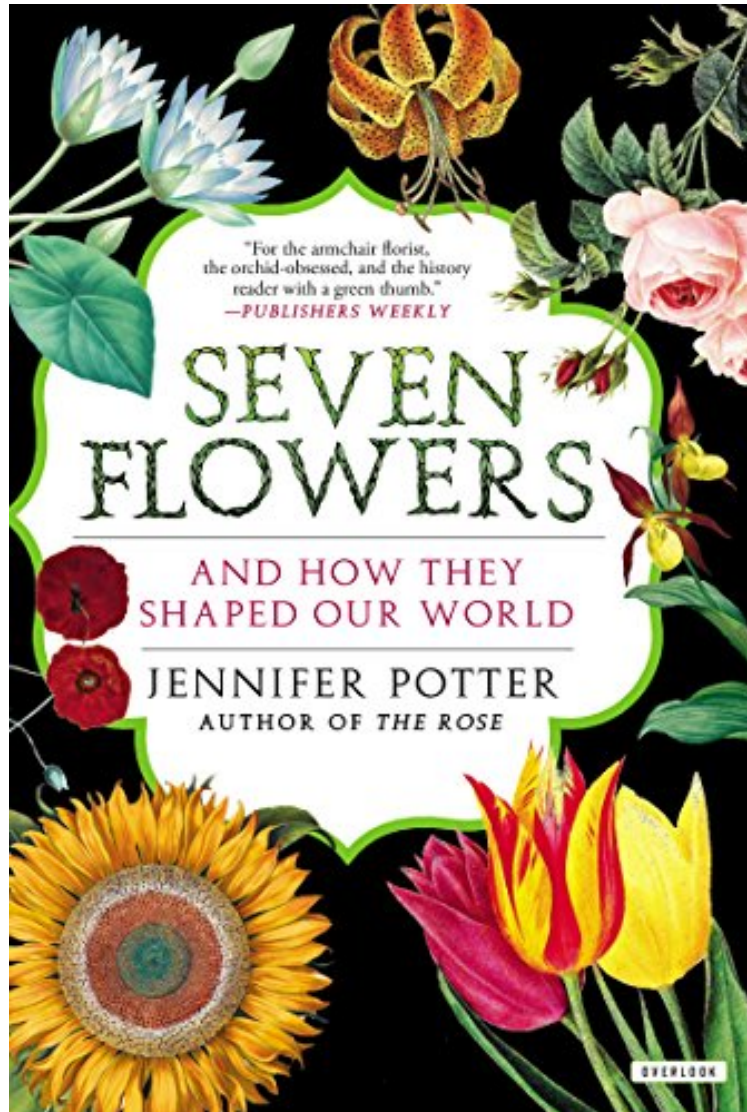


Seven Flowers: And How They Shaped Our World

Jennifer Potter

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Jennifer Potter : Seven Flowers: And How They Shaped Our World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Seven Flowers: And How They Shaped Our World:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Most of us have knowledge of Tulips and Poppies but ...By Martha Jones Most of us have knowledge of Tulips and Poppies but the other flowers in this book are an interesting surprise. An informative read for any gardener or for someone interested in world history. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Seven Flowers - a historical journey! By Blair Bowler This 288 page book details precisely the history of seven flowers, namely: the Lotus, Lily, Sunflower, Opium Poppy, Rose, Tulip and Orchid. Its a wonderful study

which takes the reader on a therapeutic journey through time, even documenting the associated biblical history of the Lily and the rose in particular. No doubt, every flower has its own profound true-life story. I can only agree with the author, whose exceptional research reveals that flowers are continually full of surprises, with compelling secrets and healing beauty, all of which affects the sensory perception of humans in a subtle and meaningful way. Indeed, these flowers do possess the enduring ability to trigger warm memories and to speak metaphorically of renewal and survival. I appreciate the extensive index, the illustrations, reference pages, and select bibliography contained in this lovely book: *Seven flowers, and how they shaped our world*. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One Star By Donna J. Russo Toooo technical, not an enjoyable read.....D/ Russo

The lotus. The lily. The sunflower. The opium poppy. The rose. The tulip. The orchid. Seven flowers, each with its own story full of surprises and secrets, each affecting the world around us in subtle but powerful ways. But what is the nature of their power and how did it develop? Why have these particular plants become the focus of gardens, literature, and even billion dollar industries? The answers to these questions and more are what drove journalist and author Jennifer Potter to write *Seven Flowers*. Drawing on sources both ancient and modern, and featuring lush full-color illustrations and gorgeous line art throughout, Potter examines our changing relationship with these potent plants and the effects they had on civilizations through the ages. The opium poppy, for example, returned to haunt its progenitors in the West, becoming the source of an enormously profitable drug trade in Asia. In the seventeenth century, the irrational exuberance of the Dutch for rare tulips led to a nationwide financial collapse. Potter also explores how different cultures came to view the same flowers in totally different lights. While Confucius saw virtue and modesty in his native orchids, the ancient Greeks saw only lust and sex. In the eye of each beholder, these are flowers of life and death; of purity and passion; of greed, envy and virtue; of hope and consolation; of the beauty that drives men wild. All seven demonstrate the enduring ability of flowers to speak metaphorically if we could only decode what they have to say.

Praise for "Strange Blooms" "A tour de force . . . We owe Potter a huge debt of gratitude for the tireless research and sifting of evidence that have allowed the Tradescants and their great legacy to emerge so clearly at last." --"Sunday Times" "Beautifully produced and meticulously researched." --"Observer" "Masterly . . . Jennifer Potter's achievement in "Strange Blooms" is to have breathed life back into the Tradescant name." --"Times Literary Supplement" "Anyone who has ever planted a seed or loved a flower can appreciate the author's knowledge and devotion." --"Kirkus s" "Potter's book is for the armchair florist, the orchid-obsessed, and the history reader with a green thumb. The flowers are an excuse to arrange a bouquet of interesting vignettes, such as the origins of the fleur-de-lis or the introduction of laudanum, made from opium poppies, in Western medicine. If Potter's source list is any indication, she has distilled a massive amount of information into an erudite book with an entertaining conceit." --"Publishers Weekly" "Anyone who has ever planted a seed or loved a flower can appreciate the author's knowledge and devotion." --"Kirkus s" About the Author Jennifer Potter writes about the history and culture of plants, gardeners and gardens. She reviews regularly for the Times Literary Supplement, and has been variously a Royal Literary Fund Fellow, a Hawthornden Fellow and an Honorary Teaching Fellow on the Warwick Writing Program.