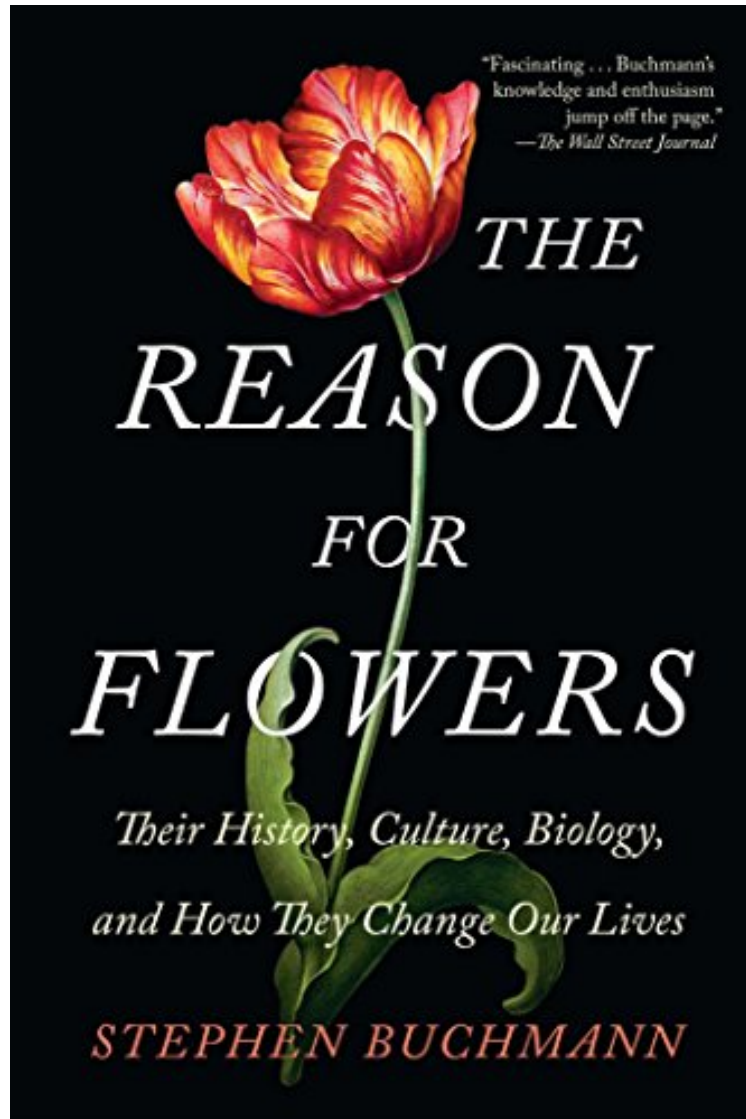


(Mobile book) The Reason for Flowers: Their History, Culture, Biology, and How They Change Our Lives

The Reason for Flowers: Their History, Culture, Biology, and How They Change Our Lives

Stephen Buchmann

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Stephen Buchmann : The Reason for Flowers: Their History, Culture, Biology, and How They Change Our Lives before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Reason for Flowers: Their History, Culture, Biology, and How They Change Our Lives:

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flowers I bought this after hearing Stephen interviewed ...By silverstarThe Reason for Flowers: the reason for scientific knowledge enhancing your love of flowersI bought this after hearing Stephen interviewed on NPR. I was not disappointed. His research trips around the world are most engaging reading and lend a human touch what might otherwise seem like a botany text. Not a bit like a text! This is a charming book and his enthusiasm for flowers shines on every page. I had to read my copy first of course but I will give another as a gift to a gardening enthusiast who has so far shown less enthusiasm for the science than for the sheer beauty of flowers. After she reads this book, she will find her delight considerably increased. You get both, not one at the expense of the other viewpoint. Win:win!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended.By John AlcockIn this book, Buchmann provides information about flowers that is not usually presented, showing just how important flowers are culturally and economically, among other things, while at the same time telling his readers about the scientific pleasures associated with studying flowery puzzles, some of which involves describing his own research. And he does so with a wry sense of humor that makes his writing extremely enjoyable. I found The Reason for Flowers to be a treat from start to finish as do most other readers. Highly recommended.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Natural History of FlowersBy Bayard H. BrattstromFlowers are pretty and some smell good and there is alot about that in this enjoyable book, but also what colors pollinators see, the cut flower and perfume industry, the role of pollinators in sustaining the fruits and vegetables that the world depends on, flowers in art and poetry, cooking with flowers, floral teas and spice, and how flowers affected scientists from Darwin and Mendel to modern crime forensics. It is a wonderful book on the natural history, economics, and beauty of flowers.

A fascinating (The Wall Street Journal), engaging, and expert account of the botany, ecology, history, culture, and meaning of flowers, written by a passionately devoted scientist, photographer, and writer, and illustrated with his stunning photographs.Flowers, and the fruits that follow, feed, clothe, sustain, and inspire all humanity. They have done so since before recorded history. Flowers are used to celebrate all-important occasions, to express love, and are also the basis of global industries. Americans buy ten million flowers a day and perfumes are a worldwide industry worth \$30 billion dollars annually. Yet, we know little about flowers, their origins, bizarre sex lives, or how humans relate and depend upon them. Stephen Buchmann takes us along on an exploratory journey of the roles flowers play in the production of our foods, spices, medicines, perfumes, while simultaneously bringing joy and health. Flowering plants continue to serve as inspiration in our myths and legends, in the fine and decorative arts, and in literary works of prose and poetry. Flowers seduce us and animals, too, through their myriad shapes, colors, textures, and scents. And because of our extraordinary appetite for more unusual and beautiful super flowers, plant breeders have created such unnatural blooms as blue roses and black petunias to cater to the human world of haute couture fashion. In so doing, the nectar and pollen vital to the bees, butterflies, and bats of the world, are being reduced. Buchmann explains the unfortunate consequences, and explores how to counter them by growing the right flowers. Here, he integrates fascinating stories about the many colorful personalities who populate the world of flowers, and the flowers and pollinators themselves, with a research-based narrative that illuminates just why there is, indeed, a Reason for Flowers.

The Reason for Flowers is an extraordinarily good book. It covers the subject with thoroughness and scientific accuracy, working it (as flowers deserve) into history and culture, and written with poetic sensitivity. (Edward O. Wilson, University Professor Emeritus, Harvard University)Do flowers need a reason? In The Reason for Flowers, Stephen Buchmann reminds us that flowers exist for more than just beauty and fragrance. They are miniature chemical factories, wireless signal stations, inspiration for artists, and of course sustenance for the most important creatures living on the planet. In short, flowers run the world. Stephen Buchmann is a gifted storyteller and an inquisitive scientist who is intrigued by the dazzling and intricate world of flowers. Thanks to this delightful new book, you will be, too. (Amy Stewart, New York Times bestselling author of The Flower Confidential)"The Reason for Flowers is a riveting account of the science, history and culture surrounding blooms since the dawn of humankind." (Science News)"[Buchmann's] knowledge and enthusiasm jump off the page...fascinating." (Wall Street Journal)"Humans often use flowers as decorative accessories. But in this book, Stephen Buchmann, a professor of ecology at the University of Arizona, explains that they also serve other, more urgent purposes." (Time magazine)"Buchmann, a prolific and ardent pollination ecologist, peels back the petals to reveal fascinating aspects of floriculture....Intensely researched, well paced, intricately detailed, and delightfully accessible, Buchmann's exploration of this trove of living sensory delights is a boon to both casual and committed flower lovers." (Booklist)"With a subtitle that serves as a swift, sweet summary, [Stephen Buchmann] compresses the cultural and natural history of flowers into a few hundred graceful pages...A volume that is like a Eurail Pass that will carry you through gorgeous terrain you will want to explore in more depth." (Kirkus)Accessible well-researched. (Library Journal)"Buchmann, a biologist specializing in pollination ecology, uses his eighth book to enthuse about the importance that flowers have played in human civilization...his excitement is both palpable and contagious...fascinating...captivating." (Publishers Weekly)Stephen Buchmann is to plants and their pollinators as Jaques Cousteau, Sylvia Earle and Carl Safina have been to the oceans. He opens our eyes to wondrous worlds we have never seen before. This world-renowned explorer

of nature's inner workings will delight you while unobtrusively edifying you at the same time. (Gary Paul Nabhan, Kellogg Endowed Chair in Sustainable Food Systems, University of Arizona) *The Reason for Flowers* is a gardening book and more. Buchmann entertains with particulars of the patriotic gardens of Washington and Jefferson, and those of Asia and ancient Rome. We learn how our most beloved flowers came to be, along with new oddities like the black petunia. Every gardener and flower-lover will want this book. (Carrie Hulburd, President, Columbine Garden Club (GCA chapter) of Phoenix, AZ) Aesthetically, flowers enrich our lives and symbolize our emotions, but they are of even greater importance to us in their natural function in nature. In this attractive book, Steve Buchmann brings to life for the interested reader the many facets of their existence and their interplay with insects and other animals, informing us well about how they evolved and the roles that they play in our world. (Peter H. Raven, President Emeritus, Missouri Botanical Garden) From the Author Pollinators and flowers are my "day job" as a pollination ecologist. I know what colors, shapes, scents and floral rewards attract different suites of animal pollinators to various flowers. I'm a native bee specialist. Thus, although I've written about pollination and conserving pollinators before (In: *The Forgotten Pollinators* with Gary Paul Nabhan), and done books on honey bees, I'd never tackled such an ambitious project. Each of the fourteen chapters in "*The Reason for Flowers*" could easily have been a book on their own. So, my task while researching the book was to synthesize the most interesting facts and stories about flowers from earliest to modern cultures around the world, anything that people have used flowers for as food, spices, perfumes and inspirational themes in art and literature. I also introduce my readers to how flowers have served us in medicine and science. How flowers influenced Gregor Mendel and Charles Darwin are discussed along with examples of collaborative floral studies I've conducted with other scientists over my career. I hope that you will have a flower nearby, as your botanical muse, as together we embark upon this journey of floral discovery.