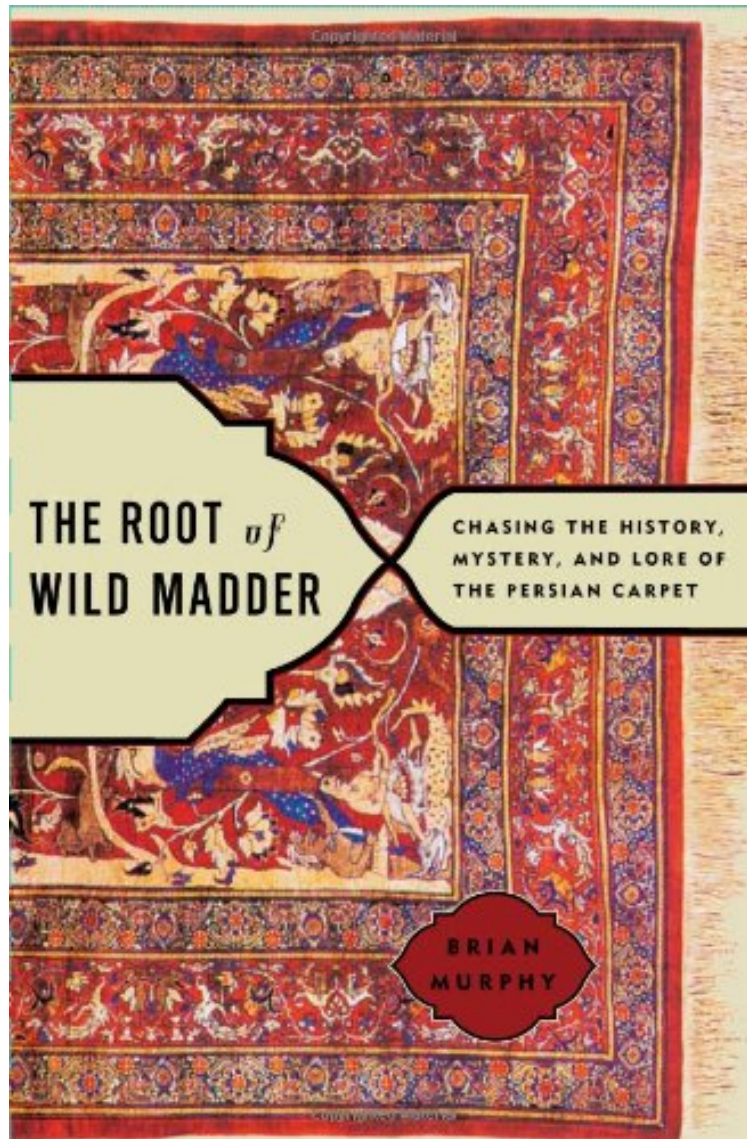


(Free read ebook) The Root of Wild Madder: Chasing the History, Mystery, and Lore of the Persian Carpet

The Root of Wild Madder: Chasing the History, Mystery, and Lore of the Persian Carpet

Brian Murphy

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Brian Murphy : The Root of Wild Madder: Chasing the History, Mystery, and Lore of the Persian Carpet before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Root of Wild Madder: Chasing the History, Mystery, and Lore of the Persian Carpet:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. UnbelievableBy Sure EnoughEasy read with enough story and

mystery to keep the reader engaged. However, the most valuable portions to me were the statements about history, facts, and forces affecting all aspects of oriental carpets. The analysis included such variables as geography, politics, climate, and macroeconomy. Fun read with great documentation. Loved the photographs as well. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful
By Kenza Saadi
A wonderful book filled with precious details about the author's trip to find Wild Madder (the source of the special shade of red in Persian Carpets) in Iran and part of Afghanistan. It all starts with a gift: a book of Hafez given to him by a charming carpet seller in the Bazar in Teheran. The author is a great story teller as he adroitly intertwines history with poetry, politics and in a most poignant way, humanity. It is for lovers of history, poetry and travel. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful read. Informative. If you love oriental rugs- which this author surely does - you will enjoy this book.
By Michael H. Kaplan
Wonderful read. Informative. If you love oriental rugs- which this author surely does - you will enjoy this book. Author incorporates much practical carpet information amid a story about a search for a rug he is obsessed with seeing and maybe owning. I was quite surprised at how much I liked this book. I own close to 100 books on oriental carpets and yet this had information in it that was new to me.

From the remote villages of Afghanistan and Iran, down the ancient trade routes travelled for centuries, to the bazaars of Tehran and the markets of the Western world, every Persian carpet has a story to tell. Coming from a region known for its instability, this art form is one of the few constants, transcending religious and political turmoil. Woven into Persian carpets are centuries-old mysteries of faith and humanity, whirled into colours, patterns and symbols that represent the key to understanding. Each carpet tells a story in its fibres and design and carries a deeper tale in its forgotten history and the anonymity of its maker. How can a man sell a carpet to feed his family when he believes the soul of his grandmother is borne up in its intricate knots? Carpets, as both art and commodity, represent basic survival as well as the search for human perfection. Told in exquisite prose befitting one of the world's loveliest art forms, *THE ROOT OF WILD MADDER* offers accessible explanations of the patterns, knots and origin of these carpets. From how to tell a quality carpet from a cheap copy to where the dyes come from (madder root provides red), the book presents practical information about carpets while exploring the artistic, religious and cultural complexities of this enigmatic region. Part travelogue and part exploration into the enduring mysteries of Persian carpets, *THE ROOT OF WILD MADDER* brings readers to far flung corners of the world that few Westerners will ever see in person.

From Publishers Weekly
Murphy, an AP religion reporter, presents his travels across the zone where Persian carpets are made in a diligent quest to understand them as both art and commodity. He immerses himself in carpet-making culture, accruing trade secrets and learning specialized vocabulary from Afghan and Iranian mentors. Murphy begins his journey in a Tehran bazaar stacked high with carpets before traveling to the ancient weaving center of Herat, in northwestern Afghanistan, arriving weeks after the fall of the Taliban. Visiting Shiraz, he's impressed by the untutored intellect of young illiterate girl weavers. At last he finds himself amid wild madder fields (madder is the source of Persian carpets' characteristic shade of red). Taking in dog fights, gruesome games of polo and disturbing scenes of child labor and poverty, Murphy tactfully emphasizes the warm hospitality, expertise and enterprise of his Iranian and Afghan hosts, providing extended biographies for some of them. His book exudes humility and respect for Islamic culture and a welcome eyewitness account of, and historical information about, a region much in the news. Nevertheless, the writing too often becomes pedestrian and unsatisfying in misguided efforts to be atmospheric. Map not seen by PW. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Booklist
Murphy clarifies that madder is a plant with a root that is dried and ground into red powder to dye carpets. The precise origin of carpets is not known, but few places have nurtured the craft and artistry of carpets more than Iran. The author, who made frequent trips to Iran and Afghanistan from 1999 to 2004 to research the book, explains the patterns, knots, and origins of carpets and the history of this remote region, describing its hunger, war, hopelessness, and poverty. He tells how the men herd and shear the sheep, the women spin the wool, the men dye the wool, the women weave the carpet, and, finally, the men market the product. Murphy also describes how child labor is used in making the carpets. With eight pages of color photographs, this book is an engaging account of these colorful rugs. George Cohen
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "It is refreshing to read a book full of passion and without gimmickry or formulas. Brian Murphy's excitement about rugs sweeps you away and makes you want to travel -- and also want rugs. I couldn't put this book down."-- Mark Kurlansky, author of "Salt: A World History" and "Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World"