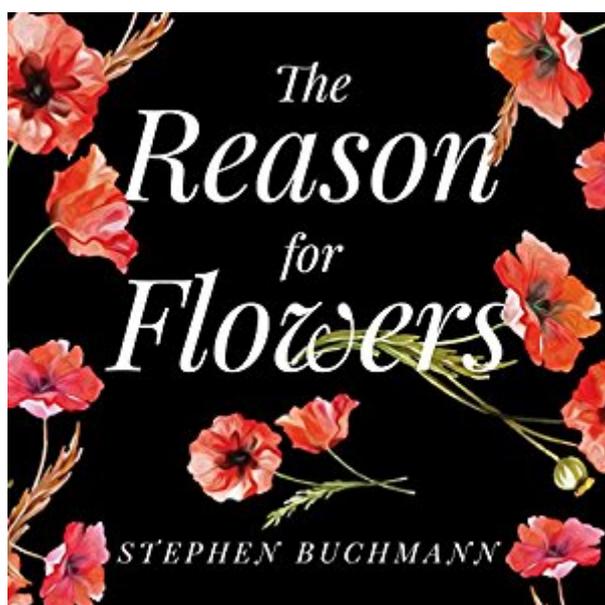


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# The Reason For Flowers: Their History, Culture, Biology, And How They Change Our Lives



## Synopsis

Flowers, and the fruits that follow, feed, clothe, sustain, and inspire all humanity. Flowers are used to celebrate all-important occasions, to express love, and are also the basis of global industries. Americans buy 10 million flowers a day, and perfumes are a worldwide industry worth \$30 billion annually. Stephen Buchmann takes us along on an exploratory journey of the roles flowers play in the production of our foods, spices, medicines, and 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. 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Many of us don't know much about flowers except that they smell good and they look aesthetically pleasing. Now, we have a book to help us acquire more knowledge, and a greater sense of appreciation for one of nature's most stunning and diverse wonders. Who doesn't like flowers? I've yet to meet a soul. However, not all of those who appreciate flowers can describe in detail the purpose that they serve: to the plant, to pollinators, and to people - beyond the aesthetics (think fruits and vegetables!) They are truly an invaluable and increasingly precious resource. Stephen

Buchmann outlines these things (and many more) in detail, while maintaining a writing style that will appease both the flower novice and pro. His photos are an awesome bonus to an already excellent book. Perhaps flowers are part of your livelihood, or maybe you simply have a passing interest in them. Either way, *The Reason For Flowers* will surely not disappoint.

*The Reason for Flowers: the reason for scientific knowledge enhancing your love of flowers* I 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!

In 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.

Flowers are pretty and some smell good and there is a lot 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.

*The Reason for Flowers* is a delightful read, making a unique contribution on the topic of flowers. As a Registered Dietitian, I highly recommend this book to anyone who appreciates the role of food and the marvels of nature in our lives. As Stephen Buchmann says, "Flowers sustain and feed us, enriching our lives." This literary book is comprehensive in scope, beginning with the evolution of flowers. Beautifully written.

Flowers are for sex. They are designed to attract pollinators to ensure their reproduction. But flowers are so much more. The very attributes that attract pollinators also attract our attention. Steve Buchmann guides us through the wonderful world of flowers and describes the many ways in which they touch and are important to our lives. This book is a great read.

This is a delightfully well written, well researched and well organized presentation on flowers and their role in our present and previous societies. It is rich in facts without being pedantic with a nice balance in science and sociological facts. Your time will be well spent!

Excellent book. It presents material that is appropriate for everyone from the beginner just interested in finding out about flowers and their role in history and culture to the professional who desires more detailed information. It is also an excellent book for students interested in the study of plant reproduction. I highly recommend it.

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