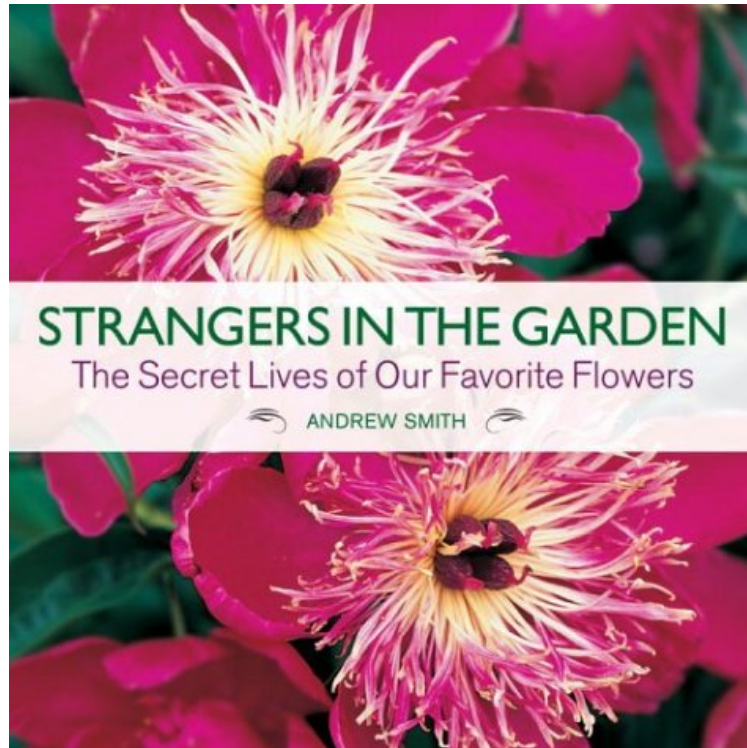


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Strangers in the Garden: The Secret Lives of Our Favorite Flowers

Andrew Smith

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We all gardeners or not appreciate the beauty of familiar garden flowers. But how well do we really know these everyday plants? When do we stop to consider a flowers personality, or to discover the dramatic events that have contributed to its particular identity? What adventures took place as these plants, now part of our daily lives, were transported often by explorers or botanists who were quirky characters themselves from their birthplaces in Asia, Africa, or the Americas?Strangers in the Garden, illustrated with over a hundred stunning photographs, prints, and drawings, reveals the characters and personal histories of ten popular flowers the chrysanthemum, the clematis, the crocus, the dahlia, the geranium, the iris, the lilac, the peony, the rhododendron, and the tulip by tracking their fascinating journeys from misty peaks, arid valleys, and exotic hillsides to our gardens, decks, and patios.

Strangers in the Garden is a brilliant piece of work a joy for non-gardeners as well as for those of us who grub away in

the soil. Pierre Berton This book is a delight to the eye and just as enchanting to read. Marjorie Harris, Editor-in-Chief, Gardening Life magazine and Globe and Mail columnist

From the Inside Flap We all ? gardeners or not ? appreciate the beauty of familiar garden flowers. But how well do we really know these everyday plants? When do we stop to consider a flower's personality, or to discover the dramatic events that have contributed to its particular identity? What adventures took place as these plants, now part of our daily lives, were transported ? often by explorers or botanists who were quirky characters themselves ? from their birthplaces in Asia, Africa, or the Americas?

Strangers in the Garden, illustrated with over a hundred stunning photographs, prints, and drawings, reveals the characters and personal histories of ten popular flowers ? the chrysanthemum, the clematis, the crocus, the dahlia, the geranium, the iris, the lilac, the peony, the rhododendron, and the tulip ? by tracking their fascinating journeys from misty peaks, arid valleys, and exotic hillsides to our gardens, decks, and patios.

About the Author Andrew Smith is a writer and book designer who lives and gardens in Toronto. He has won a Western Magazine Award for travel writing, and in 2000 was a finalist for the Journey Prize, a national award for new and developing writers of distinction.