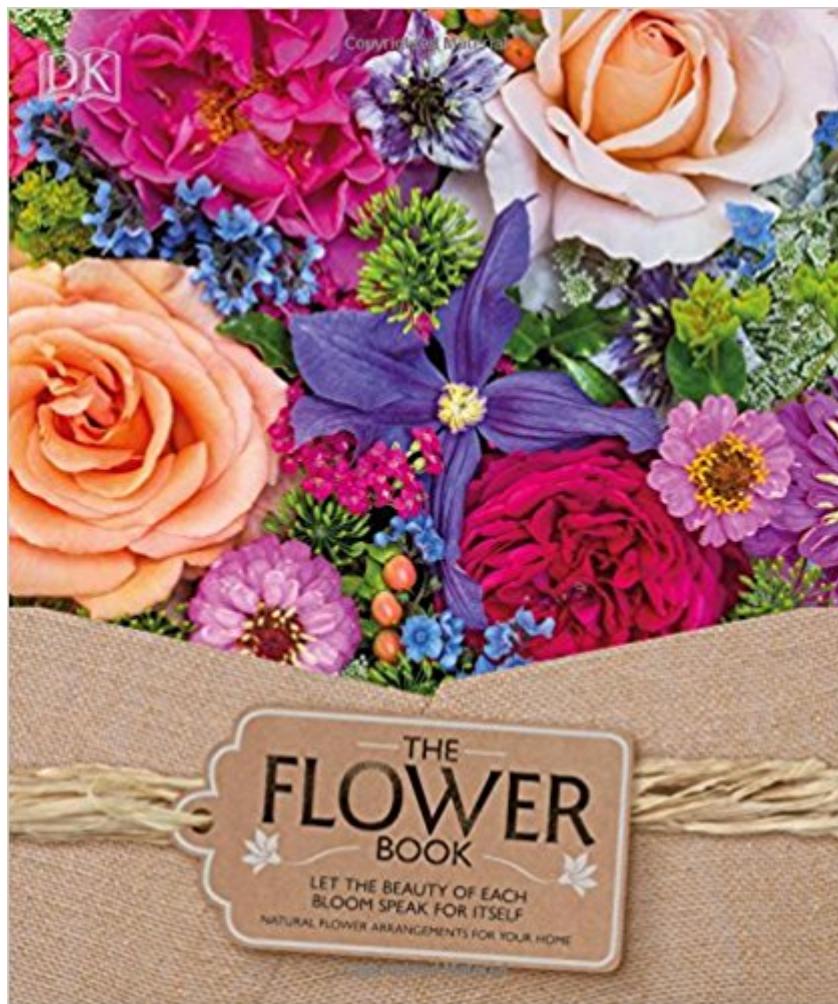


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The Flower Book



Synopsis

Explore 60 flowers, bloom by bloom, in stunning portraiture with lush macrophotography that showcases the details of each flower, and learn how to arrange flowers with different styles, tips, and techniques. Intimate portraits of each flower include quick-reference profiles with tips for choosing the best blooms, care for cut stems, arranging recommendations, colors, shapes, and even growing tips to transform the home, from yard to tabletop. Study a multitude of blooms, from the amaryllis in spring, snapdragon in summer, and dahlia in fall to tropical wonders such as orchids and African lilies. The Flower Book spotlights 30 sample floral arrangements that show how to design and build custom floral arrangements using featured blooms. Plus, a step-by-step techniques section walks beginners through the basics of foliage and fillers, bouquets, and arrangements to make this book as practical as it is beautiful. A perfect gift for anyone who loves flowers, The Flower Book celebrates all the wonderful qualities of flowers—their sheer beauty, infinite variety, and power to evoke admiration—bloom by exquisite bloom.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Orchid The diamonds of the cut-flower world, these exotic beauties are often reserved for special events. [View larger](#)

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Anemone Anemones; bold color and shape lend themselves perfectly to a simple, single-flower-type arrangement. They also have a

good amount of their own green in the form of a fetching 'ruff', which frames their faces. **Cherry Blossom** In Japan, the cherry blossom is revered, symbolizing the transience of life. This is due to the all-too-fleeting nature of its breathtaking beauty—it is not long before the pink and white petals fall to the ground like confetti. **Snapdragon** When squeezed, snapdragon's flowers appear to open and close like a mouth—hence its common name. However, its botanical name means 'nose-like' in Greek.

Snowberry Snowberry was used by Native Americans as an antibiotic skin wash. [View larger](#)

[View larger](#) [View larger](#) [View larger](#) **A Bucketful of Sunshine** I have fully embraced sunflowers; attention-seeking character by using two different varieties and making them the focal point of the arrangement. Their sunny color is reflected by the other plants in the arrangement. **Collection of Color** The clashing colors of zinnias work well mixed together with greens in varying shades and textures. To display as many colors and varieties as possible, I used a cluster of simple, cut-glass vases. **Red Heads** Although the soft green color of the vase works really well for this arrangement, the narrow neck proved difficult with the stiff pincushion stems. To create some width, I used arching eucalyptus and bishop's weed stems.

Picotee Petals The raised bowl is an invitation for a wide, asymmetrically shaped arrangement—perfect for a centerpiece. [View larger](#)

Rachel Siegfried set up her flower farm Green & Gorgeous in 2008 and has been running it ever since. Located in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside, Green & Gorgeous provides a local, seasonal, and natural alternative to more commercial suppliers. There she and her partner Ashley grow seasonal flowers that she arranges for weddings and special events. They also run floristry and gardening courses for enthusiasts and professionals. Rachel imparts her distinctive, natural style on all of her arrangements, and considers her work an expression of her love for flowers.

I love this book because it organically shows steps from flower to container & reads well for the avid gardener or grocery shopper who picks up cut flowers. The book is divided into seasons, which is nice to plan a garden. Also has comprehensive index to easily locate care on a flower you just bought. Where it really excels is, every floral description tells not only the care but how to prepare the flower for its longer container life & what it's compatible with. Did you know some flowers will

detriment the life of others when sharing a vase? My favorite part is most of the pages on individual flowers give their language, such as love, purity or strength. It's a nice touch. The book does start with a tutorial on how to choose a container, filler & placement for design. As well other floral design ideas like making bridal party bouquets. It teaches you how to think like a florist. On a final note the author is a self taught English gardener who learned while working at a manor as a horticulturist so she applies her real life experience. I think this translates as easily understandable to a novice yet educational to an experienced gardener. I am a plant designer & found new information & ideas. The detail is wonderful, even covers tropical flowers. The pictures are in natural beauty. Reminds me of an astrology book with personality, compatibility & strengths, only flowers. Hope this helps.

I can't decide whether I want this book on my coffee table or on my greenhouse cutting table. What I really love about this book is that it's personal. The author writes from the first person perspective and it makes me feel like she really knows what she's talking about (which she does -- she and her beautiful family run a flower farm growing very unique flowers -- hard to do!). This book takes you from soil to table. It's not a comprehensive reference bible of flowers, you can find those anywhere. Instead she has chosen sixty of the most beautiful and unique flowers to demonstrate how to grow, cultivate, and then how to cut them properly to display in your home -- and then how to keep them looking beautiful. I for example, normally put flowers in just any ol' vase I have, but she explains which kinds of vase will really bring out the beauty in a bloom. I don't know that this book is for people who love to garden, let me explain. My husband is the gardener in the family. He loves to go out and tend to his herbs, his three banana trees, his cacti terrariums and a few dozen more green plants. He found this book a bit too "much" for him, perhaps too advanced. I on the other hand, love cut flowers, the more hard-to-find, the better. I love every inch of this book because I'm willing to put in the time to try and grow these beauties instead of having to pay a one-eight-hundred number through the nose for them. Then again, my sister loves gardening flowers and I can clearly see her loving this book, too. I've just contradicted myself so I think I've proven that anyone can love it! A gorgeous book, extremely informative and well-researched, and especially well-written. Easy to understand for gardeners of any level.

My wife and I are both avid amateur photographers, with her specialty being plants and wildlife. This book promised to be informative on many levels, from photographic and botanic, but also to decorating and generally beautifying. It really delivers on all levels. First of all, the book is just gorgeous. It is a generous size chock full of photos of flowers and flower arrangements, all printed in

very high quality, bright, bold color. The macro photos are expertly executed, displaying the minute beauty of the flowers that is often missed when we are stopping to smell the roses. With more than sixty different flowers highlighted, there is something here for every flower lover. One of the bonuses is the arrangements, which inspired my wife to purchase some cut flowers and try some of the suggestions out. Together with that, there's also plenty of "how to" information, from stem cutting to watering and everything in between. Just playing around with some of the ideas in this book had a noticeable impact on our interior, as multiple stunning arrangements began appearing. Then again, even if you don't rush out and buy a bunch of posies and carnations, you can always just leave this book open on a coffee table (see photos of some options) for you and your guests to enjoy at your leisure. As for the photographic aspects, there are plenty of original ideas, interesting angles, eccentric lighting effects and the aforementioned macro photos, which may or may not encourage budding photographers to rush out and purchase macro lenses and adapters and such. (We've been talking about adding macro lens to our gear for a long time, so this is sort of pushing us in that direction.) For someone like me, who barely knows his peonies from his posies, it is quite eye-opening, but even for a flower lover like my wife, it also provides plenty of inspiration and motivation to look at plants a little differently. This multi-dimensional book delivers a lot of satisfaction and, of course, beauty, on many different levels. My wife has flipped through it virtually every day since it arrived on our doorstep, and I'm sure she will be keeping it handy for the foreseeable future, especially with spring having just started and summer right around the corner. She would give it twenty stars if she could, so of course I give it the five it deserves.

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