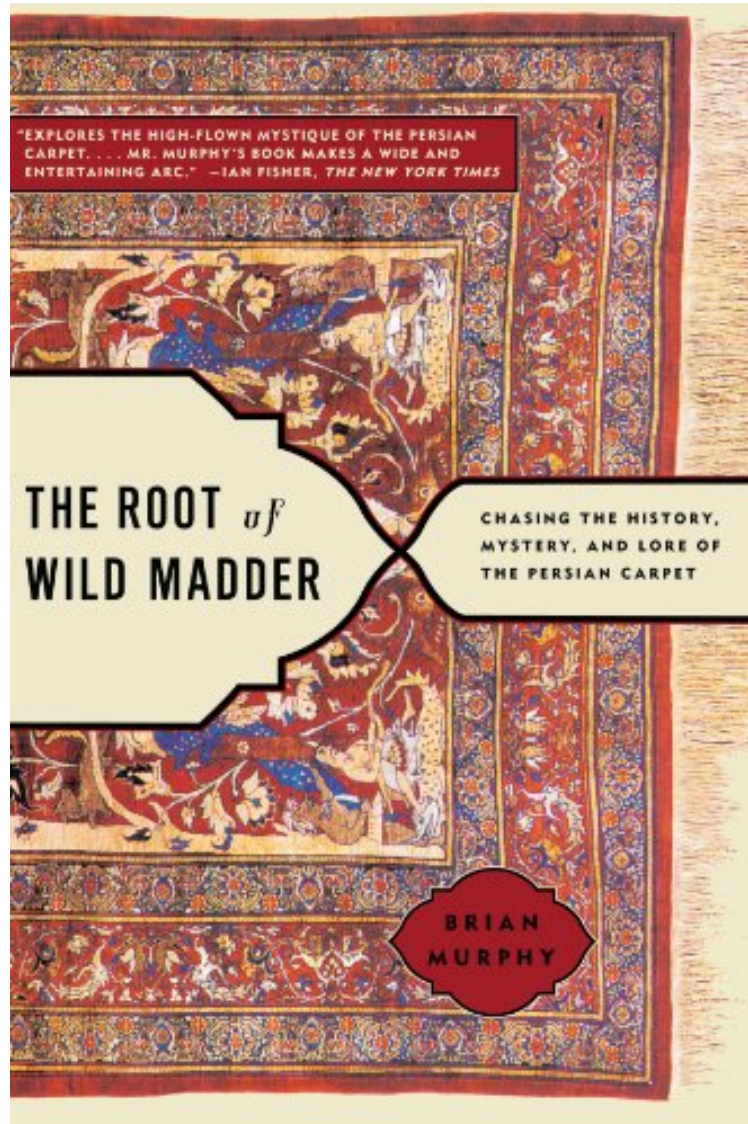


(Download pdf) The Root of Wild Madder: Chasing the History, Mystery, and Lore of the Persian Carpet

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

Brian Murphy

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#965614 in Books Simon n Schuster 2006-08-04 2006-08-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 1.00 x 6.121, .80 #File Name: 0743264215328 pages | File size: 71.Mb

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.

Every Persian carpet has a story to tell -- from the remote villages of Afghanistan and Iran, down the ancient trade routes traveled for centuries, to the bazaars of Tehran and the markets of the Western world. Carpet-making is one of this tumultuous region's few constants, an art form that transcends religious and political turmoil. Part travelogue and part exploration into the meaning and worth of these mystical artifacts, *The Root of Wild Madder* presents practical information about carpets while exploring the artistic, religious, and cultural complexities of these enigmatic lands.

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
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