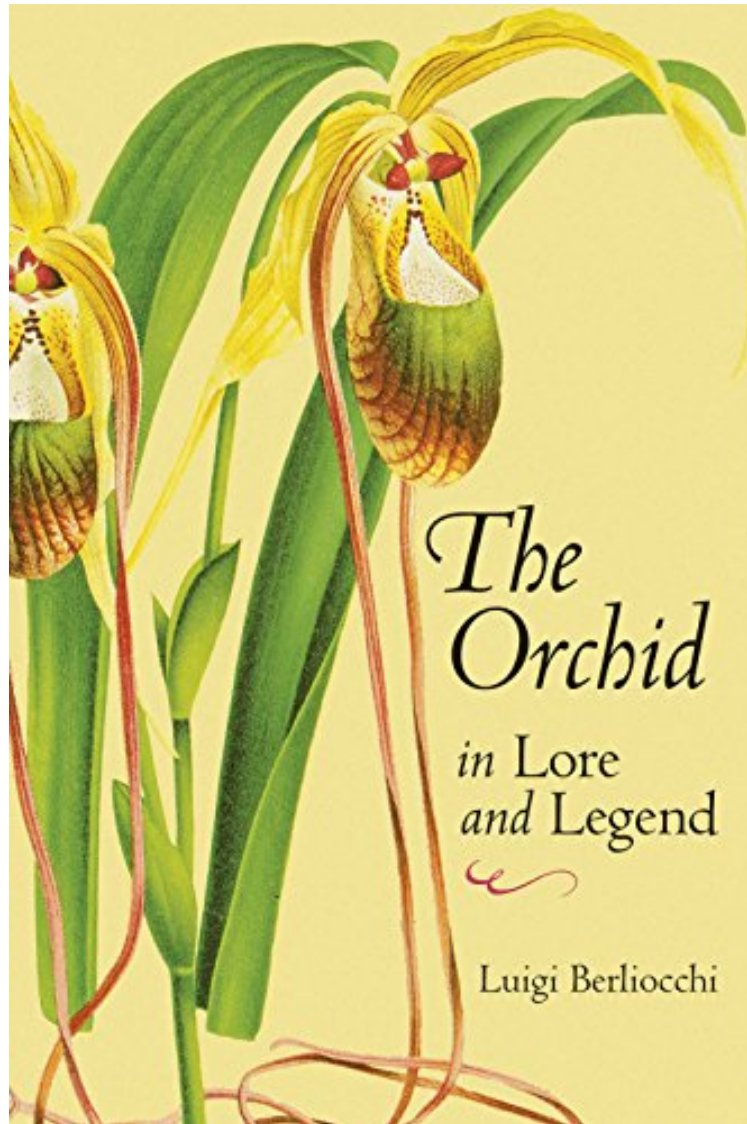


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Orchid in Lore and Legend

Luigi Berliocchi

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Luigi Berliocchi : Orchid in Lore and Legend before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Orchid in Lore and Legend:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great bookBy KaycartIf you love orchids you will love this book in the way that it is written. The historical accounts of the Orchid Hunters is extremely entertaining.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy ChuckI love reading about the history of orchids. This book along with The History of the Orchid by Merle Reinikka will give you a tremendous knowledge of the history of interest in orchids0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. OrchidsBy CustomerI received some orchids and wanted to learn more

about them and try to keep them alive. This book has been helpful.

The orchid is the most evocative of flowers, inspiring in some of its admirers a fanaticism akin to madness, as demonstrated in Susan Orlean's *The Orchid Thief*. This elegant survey of the orchid treats its place in legend and suggests the impact that these exotic plants---whose "exuberance and heavy, sensual beauty ... seemed to bear witness to some original sin"---had on the temperate European mind. Berliocchi chronicles the adventurers and scientists who introduced these marvels, discusses their place in the arts from literature and magic to cuisine and concludes with accounts of the most important genera and their cultivation. Splendidly illustrated with period engravings and botanical paintings, it is literate and delightful.

From Booklist A compelling and pleasurable translation makes accessible the late Berliocchi's amply researched cornucopia of orchid lore. Recounting ancient myths and tracing the tracks of plant explorers, Berliocchi investigates the spell cast by orchids. Moreover, this revelatory chronicle reaches back to prehistoric times to survey fossil remains, then goes forward to offer a detailed history of the flower's beguiling form and exotic beauty in art, literature, horticulture, and society. Elaborated upon by elegant color plates, the book also contains copious illustrations depicting botanical images and unforgettable individuals. Final chapters survey plant structure, genera, and cultural requirements. Berliocchi's perceptive and richly descriptive narrative is certain to please orchid lovers, and will most likely spark the interest of those who have yet to discover these fascinating flowers. Alice Joyce Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Period color plates, black-and-white illustrations, and woodcuts enhance this wonderfully entertaining book. Library Journal Berliocchi's perceptive and richly descriptive narrative is certain to please orchid lovers, and will most likely spark the interest of those who have yet to discover these fascinating flowers. Booklist Berliocchi's comprehensive handbook is both elegantly written and enriching. Publishers Weekly Exquisite botanical illustrations complement the definitive text. Country Living Gardener An authority on orchids. . . . provides nice thumbnail biographies of the major collectors and botanists who brought orchids from the tropics. Garden Gazette An utterly fascinating survey of orchids. Washington Daily News This is a very delightful, readable book. National Gardener This book, which spans every aspect of the plant from literary associations to care and cultivation, is a love letter to a genus from a man clearly passionately obsessed. Gardens Illustrated There has been no better book than this on the extraordinary story of the orchid. The Washington Post This is an amply researched and richly descriptive cornucopia of orchid lore. American Herb Association Quarterly Newsletter It is a quick, yet satisfying initiation, a brisk walk through a museum that leaves one acquainted, if a little breathless, with an amazing collection of lovely plants. Journal of the New England Garden History Society