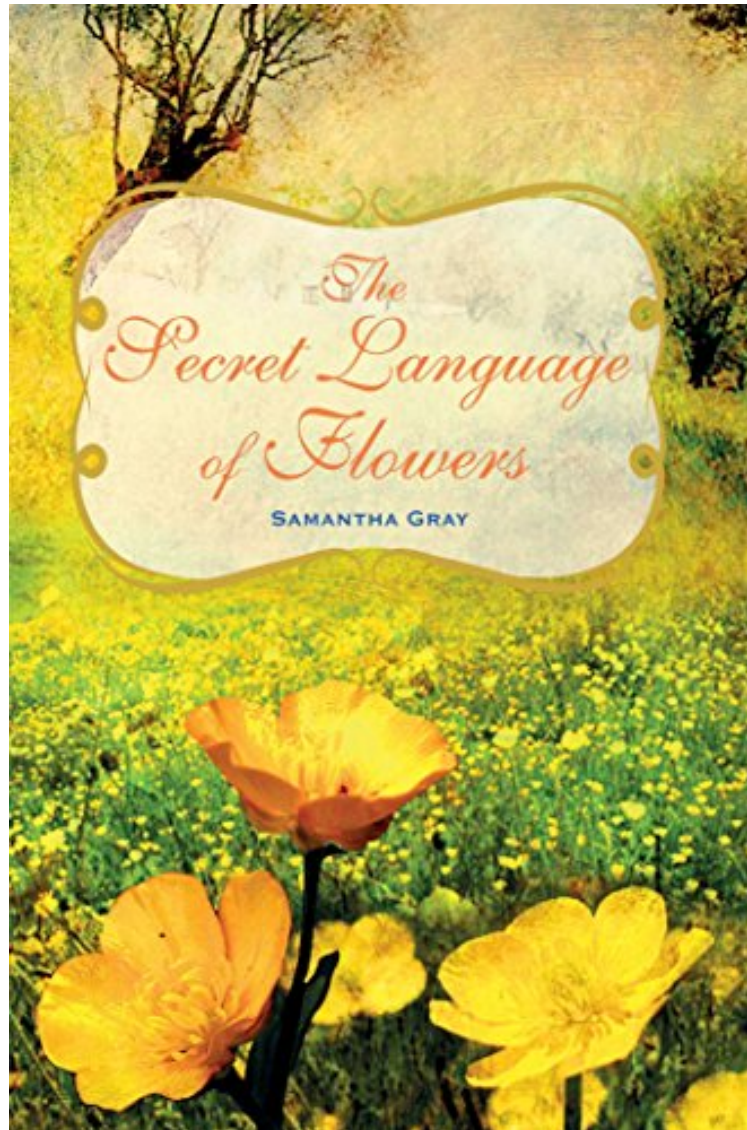


The Secret Language of Flowers

Samantha Gray

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Samantha Gray : The Secret Language of Flowers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Secret Language of Flowers:

35 of 35 people found the following review helpful. Nice Format, Lovely GiftBy Diana Faillace Von Behren"The Secret Language of Flowers" by Samantha Gray delivers just what is expected on the interesting but also rather ambiguous language of floral blooms.Unlike A Victorian Flower Dictionary: The Language of Flowers Companion by Mandy Kirby which is associated with Vanessa Diffenbaugh's novel The Language of Flowers: A Novel where the protagonist and narrator created her own mystical connotations for each of the plants in her life, Gray's volume is a

little more upbeat and romantic with colorful illustrations that invoke mood as well as depicting the actual flowers. This element endows this book with more of a standardized flavor where each of the images could grace a well-thought out greeting card while underscoring the historical meanings attributed to flowers throughout the ages rather than just appeal to the niche market that read the Diffenbaugh book. Gray's small volume comes equipped with a handy satin bookmark which conveniently holds the reader's place as he/she thumbs through the book to verify the sentiment attached to a flower or bouquet. She divides the book into four sections which can be a little vexing only because each of the flowers highlighted in each of the partitions follow their own alphabetic order. This reviewer would have preferred a strict listing of each flower no matter the category, although I guess this grouping could be helpful if one is putting together a bouquet of many blooms all of which would warrant a similar sentiment. The four parts are: Courtship, Love Affection, Beauty and Friendship. Each contains plus or minus twelve flowers as the entire book exemplifies the meanings of fifty flowers. Insofar as some flowers' significance changes with the color and the amount received, Gray showcases this within a special box within appropriate pages. In the case of the 'rose', she distinguishes between red, pink, yellow and other colors of these magnificent blooms while explaining that receiving one rose expresses the sentiment that the recipient is "the one". Receiving fifty roses would suggest that the taker is loved unconditionally. If there is a flaw in this little book, it would be that Gray does not emphasize the negative. In Kirkby's book, because of the depressed nature of the Diffenbaugh character who rejects her own ability to mother a child, the plants include thistle which suggests 'misanthropy,' moss which represents "maternal love," marigold which signifies "grief (why then all the marigolds that are always part of a Hindu wedding celebration?), lavender for 'mistrust' and hazel for 'reconciliation.' Most of these plants are not included in Gray's book or have other more benign significances. Bottom line: Samantha Gray's little tome, 'The Secret Language of Flowers' contains over fifty beautifully illustrated blooms and their meanings as derived from historical florist's tradition. Recommended for those who need a lovely gift for a gardening friend or just to glean personal knowledge of this Victorian pastime. Diana Faillace Von Behren"reneofc"21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. PerfectBy tech360I bought this book after reading a novel that talked about the language of flowers. I was intrigued at the idea of each flower having and meaning and wanted to learn them. This book is great for this. There are four chapters. Courtship, Love and Affection, Beauty, and Friendship. Then there are 10-12 flowers in each section. Each flower has a two page spread. One page is a beautiful illustration of the flower the other page is a one of two paragraph entry about the flower, its' meaning and background, it even tells about different color variations. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. lovely giftBy rosieBought this book for myself and loved it. So I bought another for my sister and she loves it. Beautiful illustrations compact, and clearly written, an easy read. Great gift for any woman or anyone who loves flowers.

Did you know the type of flowers you give can speak volumes? 'The Secret Language of Flowers' is a fascinating insight into the Victorian tradition of using flowers to convey secret messages, in a society where feelings often had to be suppressed. Samantha Gray reveals how flowers came by their meanings in folklore and how flowers became the language of courtship, love, friendship, beauty, and more. Discover the meanings of over 50 flowers: how lily of the valley symbolizes the return of happiness, how bluebells stand for constancy and everlasting love, and how daffodils represent high regard and chivalry. With stunning illustrations by artist Sarah Perkins that capture all of the beauty of flowers, this is an exceptionally lovely and fascinating gift book.

About the Author Samantha Gray is the author of a number of books for children and adults, including 'The Faerie Book' (also published by CICO Books, 978-1-906094-92-8). She is also a contributor to the 'Flower Fairy Friends' series and has worked on titles ranging from 'Magical Moonlight Feast' to 'Primroses Woodland Adventure'. The author is based between Hammersmith, London and County Cork, Ireland.