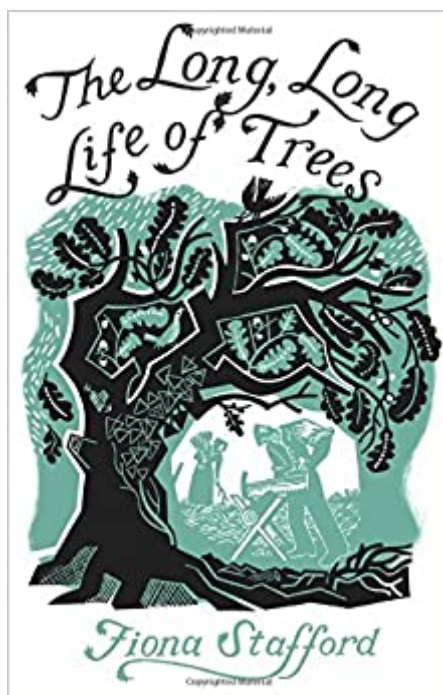


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The Long, Long Life Of Trees



Synopsis

A lyrical tribute to the diversity of trees, their physical beauty, their special characteristics and uses, and their ever-evolving meanings. Since the beginnings of history trees have served humankind in countless useful ways, but our relationship with trees has many dimensions beyond mere practicality. Trees are so entwined with human experience that diverse species have inspired their own stories, myths, songs, poems, paintings, and spiritual meanings. Some have achieved status as religious, cultural, or national symbols. In this beautifully illustrated volume Fiona Stafford offers intimate, detailed explorations of seventeen common trees, from ash and apple to pine, oak, cypress, and willow. The author also pays homage to particular trees, such as the fabled Ankerwyke Yew, under which Henry VIII courted Anne Boleyn, and the spectacular cherry trees of Washington, D.C. Stafford discusses practical uses of wood past and present, tree diseases and environmental threats, and trees' potential contributions toward slowing global climate change. Brimming with unusual topics and intriguing facts, this book celebrates trees and their long, long lives as our inspiring and beloved natural companions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Everywhere [Stafford's] eye for detail brings the trees to life. . . The Long, Long Life of Trees is elegant, engaging, impeccably written and packed with interest." —John Carey, Sunday Times "Nature Book of the Year." —Sunday Times "Beautifully produced, and each chapter describes a different species, from the dark yew to the friendly apple. . . A chapter a

day of this calming book will keep panic away." •Margaret Drabble, The Guardian "Books of the Year 2016" "To describe a book as enchanting is usually to condescend it. Not this time. Fiona Stafford's enchanting study is also stoutly built, plainly and stylishly written, admirably achieved as to both artistry and pedagogy, and as gripping as a good thriller, replete with plots and character." •Fred Inglis, Times Higher Education Supplement "A leisurely, lyrical reflection on 17 different species, from apple to yew, with special emphasis on the role that each has played in art and literature, myth and legend, medicine and technology. . . . Readers intrigued by the nexus between the cultural and the arboreal will enjoy her book." •Gerard Helferich, The Wall Street Journal "For her book in celebration of trees, Fiona Stafford has done a prodigious amount of research . . . this is a very rich mixture of a great arboreal gallimaufry." •Derwent May, Times Literary Supplement "[Stafford] is a gifted writer." •Thomas Pakenham, New York Review of Books "Beautifully written. . . . It is evident that Stafford had fun writing this book, and this makes it fun to read." •G. D. Dreyer, Connecticut College, Choice "The Long, Long Life of Trees is a combination of personal commentary on Fiona Stafford's love and appreciation of trees, coupled with a wealth of well-researched and fascinating examples of how trees have featured in history, art, commerce, culture and folklore. The book really helps to underline the importance of trees of past and present and their continuing contribution as a force for good despite the many competing forces pitched against them over the centuries." •The Woodland Trust

Throughout history trees have served humankind in countless practical ways, but they also are sources of great inspiration. In this lyrical tribute to the rich diversity of trees, the author explores seventeen specific species that have inspired stories, myths, songs, poems, paintings, religious and patriotic devotion, and much more. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

There are endless odes to trees. We continue to stumble onto their attributes and how they can provide for us in new ways. From David Harris's horrifying The Last Stand: The War Between Wall Street and Main Street over California's Ancient Redwoods, to Stefano Mancuso's remarkable Brilliant Green: The Surprising History and Science of Plant Intelligence, I devour the information we pick up. I appreciate total respect for trees. Fiona Stafford continues the tradition, adding historical, literary and mythical aspects to a selection of 17 trees found in England, including her own experience with them. It is a delight. There is often great respect for trees in the UK. In England, great old trees have their own names. They are locations,

milestones, boundary references and above all, meeting places. Churches and halls were built at those tree meeting places, the natural place for them. English yews can easily be 2500 years old, oaks 1000. They are long-lived, dependable landmarks in addition to all their other gifts. In *The Long Long Life of Trees*, we learn not only their lifespans (30 years for apple, 3000 for yews), but what uses their wood is, what chemical compounds we make from their fruit, their sap or their bark, and how history and literature have treated them (badly for the willow, royally for the oak). It took 2000 oaks to make a warship. Holly trees date from the Cretaceous. Apples came from Kazakhstan, willows from China. Elms and horse chestnuts - museum pieces unfortunately. The book suffers from one thing - it's not very artistic. There are lots of black and white etchings and woodcuts, far more artistic than informative, and I found it impossible to read the book without an internet search engine handy. Stafford goes to great lengths describing famous trees in various locales, but usually doesn't show them, and when she does, it's in monochrome or grayscale. This is sinful. Trees with a circumference of 50 feet need to be seen if only to be believed. There's no point describing glorious blossoms if all you're going to show is a line drawing. It is well researched, and the passion shows on every page. *The Long Long Life of Trees* is a valued addition to the shelf. David Wineberg

This is a nicely written overview about the history, folklore, and nature of 17 varieties of trees. It is a good introduction, but not particularly eloquent or insightful or personal as Thomas Parkenham's "Meetings with Remarkable Trees" or the works of Roger Deakin or Nancy Hugo "Seeing Trees" or Archie Miles "The Trees that made Britain".

great resource book

Very good

To see and also observe; to hear and to also listen is to find this lovely book.

tales one to a new view of trees.

I particularly liked each chapter's venerable trees, and how they seemed to unify communities.

another christmas gift for my husband. He couldn't put it down.

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