

The Orchid Thief A True Story Of Beauty And Obsession Susan Orlean

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The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession ...

The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession is a fascinating, yet oddly meandering, account of journalist Susan Orlean 's years-long investigation into the Florida covert orchid trade. The book began as an article published by Orlean in New Yorker magazine in 1995.

The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession by ...

The orchid thief in Susan Orlean's mesmerizing true story of beauty and obsession is John Laroche, a renegade plant dealer and sharply handsome guy, in spite of the fact that he is missing his front teeth and has the posture of al dente spaghetti.

The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession ...

The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession: Author: Susan Orlean: Edition: unabridged: Publisher: Random House Publishing Group, 2011: ISBN: 0307795292, 9780307795298: Length: 320 pages: Subjects

The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession ...

The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession by Orlean, Susan at AbeBooks.co.uk - ISBN 10: 009928958X - ISBN 13: 9780099289586 - Vintage - 2000 - Softcover

9780099289586: The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty ...

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The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession ...

Buy [(The Orchid Thief : A True Story of Beauty and Obsession)] [By (author) Susan Orlean] published on (May, 2000) by Susan Orlean (ISBN:) from Amazon's Book Store. Everyday low prices and free delivery on eligible orders.

[(The Orchid Thief : A True Story of Beauty and Obsession ...

Description. The Orchid Thief is based on Orlean's investigation of the 1994 arrest of John Laroche and a group of Seminoles in south Florida for poaching rare orchids in the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve. The book is based on an article that Orlean wrote for The New Yorker, published in the magazine's January 23, 1995, issue.

The Orchid Thief - Wikipedia

Laroche is a kindred spirit of those fellow orchid hunters of the 19th century who rescued fragile flowers in the midst of an erupting volcano in the Phillipines and a revolution in Columbia. An orchid from Burma was auctioned off in London “ still attached to the human skull on which it had been found. ” Southern Florida is an underlying theme.

The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession ...

The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession by Orlean, Susan [04 May 2000] 4.3 out of 5 stars 3. Paperback. CDN\$37.70. The Bullfighter Checks Her Makeup: My Encounters with Extraordinary People. Susan Orlean.

The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession ...

Adaptation. is a 2002 American comedy-drama film directed by Spike Jonze and written by Charlie Kaufman. It stars Nicolas Cage as Kaufman and his fictional twin brother Donald, Meryl Streep as Susan Orlean, and Chris Cooper as John Laroche, with Cara Seymour, Brian Cox, Tilda Swinton, Ron Livingston, and Maggie Gyllenhaal in supporting roles.. Kaufman based Adaptation on his struggles to adapt ...

Adaptation (film) - Wikipedia

The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession (Hardcover) Published December 12th 1999 by Wheeler Publishing. Large Print, Hardcover, 353 pages. Author (s): Susan Orlean (Goodreads Author) ISBN: 156895736X (ISBN13: 9781568957364) Edition language: English.

Editions of The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and ...

In 1994, Laroche and three Seminole Indians were arrested with rare orchids they had stolen from a wild swamp in south Florida that is filled with some of the world's most extraordinary plants and trees. Laroche had planned to clone the orchids and then sell them for a small fortune to impassioned collectors.

The Orchid Thief - Susan Orlean

It is the fundamental contradictoriness of the United States of America - the illogical but optimistic notion that you can create a union of individuals in which every man is king. " Susan Orlean, The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession. 7 likes. Like.

The Orchid Thief Quotes by Susan Orlean - Goodreads

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The orchid thief in Susan Orlean's mesmerizing true story of beauty and obsession is John Laroche, a renegade plant dealer and sharply handsome guy, in spite of the fact that he is missing his front teeth and has the posture of al dente spaghetti.

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK A modern classic of personal journalism, *The Orchid Thief* is Susan Orlean's wickedly funny, elegant, and captivating tale of an amazing obsession. Determined to clone an endangered flower—the rare ghost orchid *Polyparrhiza lindenii*—a deeply eccentric and oddly attractive man named John Laroche leads Orlean on an unforgettable tour of America's strange flower-selling subculture, through Florida's swamps and beyond, along with the Seminoles who help him and the forces of justice who fight him. In the end, Orlean—and the reader—will have more respect for underdog determination and a powerful new definition of passion. In this new edition, coming fifteen years after its initial publication and twenty years after she first met the “orchid thief,” Orlean revisits this unforgettable world, and the route by which it was brought to the screen in the film *Adaptation*, in a new retrospective essay. Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more. Praise for *The Orchid Thief* “Stylishly written, whimsical yet sophisticated, quirkily detailed and full of empathy . . . *The Orchid Thief* shows [Orlean's] gifts in full bloom.” —*The New York Times Book Review* “Fascinating . . . an engrossing journey [full] of theft, hatred, greed, jealousy, madness, and backstabbing.” —*Los Angeles Times* “Orlean's snapshot-vivid, pitch-perfect prose . . . is fast becoming one of our national treasures.” —*The Washington Post Book World* “Orlean's gifts [are] her ear for the self-skewing dialogue, her eye for the incongruous, convincing detail, and her Didion-like deftness in description.” —*Boston Sunday Globe* “A swashbuckling piece of reporting that celebrates some virtues that made America great.” —*The Wall Street Journal*

Susan Orlean first met John Laroche when visiting Florida to write for the *New Yorker* about his arrest for stealing rare ghost orchids from a nature reserve. Fascinated both by Laroche and the world she uncovered of orchid collectors and growers, she stayed on, to write this magical exploration of obsession and the strange world both of the orchid obsessives and of Florida, that haunting and weird 'debatable land' of swamps and condos, retirement communities and real-estate scams. The world of the orchid hunters, breeders and showmen, their rivalries, vendettas and crimes, smuggling, thefts and worse provide the backdrop to a fascinating exploration of one of the byways of human nature, the obsessive world of the collector, and the haunting beauty of the flowers themselves.

Set in the state of Florida, this book traces the history and detail of the enigmatic orchid through the tale of John Laroche, an orchid thief.

Here is a new edition of Orlean's first book, a quirky classic about Saturday night in America that launched the career of the author of "The Orchid Thief."

Susan Orlean's bestseller and New York Times Notable Book is “a sheer delight . . . as rich in insight and as varied as the treasures contained on the shelves in any local library” (*USA TODAY*)—a dazzling love letter to a beloved institution and an investigation into one of its greatest mysteries.

“Everybody who loves books should check out *The Library Book*” (*The Washington Post*). On the morning of April 28, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. The fire was disastrous: it reached two thousand degrees and burned for more than seven hours. By the time it was extinguished, it had consumed four hundred thousand books and damaged seven hundred thousand more. Investigators descended on the scene, but more than thirty years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library—and if so, who? Weaving her lifelong love of books and reading into an investigation of the fire, award-winning *New Yorker* reporter and New York Times bestselling author Susan Orlean delivers a “delightful . . . reflection on the past, present, and future of libraries in America” (*New York magazine*) that manages to tell the broader story of libraries and librarians in a way that has never been done before. In the “exquisitely written, consistently entertaining” (*The New York Times*) *The Library Book*, Orlean chronicles the LAPL fire and its aftermath to showcase the larger, crucial role that libraries play in our lives; delves into the evolution of libraries; brings each department of the library to vivid life; studies arson and attempts to burn a copy of a book herself; and reexamines the case of Harry Peak, the blond-haired actor long suspected of setting fire to the LAPL more than thirty years ago. “A book lover's dream . . . an ambitiously researched, elegantly written book that serves as a portal into a place of history, drama, culture, and stories” (*Star Tribune, Minneapolis*), Susan Orlean's thrilling journey through the stacks reveals how these beloved institutions provide much more than just books—and why they remain an essential part of the heart, mind, and soul of our country.

As heard on NPR's *This American Life* “Absorbing . . . Though it's non-fiction, *The Feather Thief* contains many of the elements of a classic thriller.” —Maureen Corrigan, NPR's *Fresh Air* “One of the most peculiar and memorable true-crime books ever.” —*Christian Science Monitor* A rollicking true-crime adventure and a captivating journey into an underground world of fanatical fly-tiers and plume peddlers, for readers of *The Stranger in the Woods*, *The Lost City of Z*, and *The Orchid Thief*. On a cool June evening in 2009, after performing a concert at London's Royal Academy of Music, twenty-year-old American flautist Edwin Rist boarded a train for a suburban outpost of the British Museum of Natural History. Home to one of the largest ornithological collections in the world, the Tring museum was full of rare bird specimens whose gorgeous feathers were worth staggering amounts of money to the men who shared Edwin's obsession: the Victorian art of salmon fly-tying. Once inside the museum, the champion fly-tier grabbed hundreds of bird

skins—some collected 150 years earlier by a contemporary of Darwin's, Alfred Russel Wallace, who'd risked everything to gather them—and escaped into the darkness. Two years later, Kirk Wallace Johnson was waist high in a river in northern New Mexico when his fly-fishing guide told him about the heist. He was soon consumed by the strange case of the feather thief. What would possess a person to steal dead birds? Had Edwin paid the price for his crime? What became of the missing skins? In his search for answers, Johnson was catapulted into a years-long, worldwide investigation. The gripping story of a bizarre and shocking crime, and one man's relentless pursuit of justice, *The Feather Thief* is also a fascinating exploration of obsession, and man's destructive instinct to harvest the beauty of nature.

Chronicles the rise of the iconic German shepherd character while sharing the stories of the real WWI dog and the canine performer in the 1950s television show, and explores Rin Tin Tin's relevance in the military and popular culture.

A “well-written, engaging detective story” (Kirkus Reviews, starred review) about a rogue who trades in rare birds and their eggs—and the wildlife detective determined to stop him. On May 3, 2010, an Irish national named Jeffrey Lendrum was apprehended at Britain's Birmingham International Airport with a suspicious parcel strapped to his stomach. Inside were fourteen rare peregrine falcon eggs snatched from a remote cliffside in Wales. So begins a “vivid tale of obsession and international derring-do” (Publishers Weekly), following the parallel lives of a globe-trotting smuggler who spent two decades capturing endangered raptors worth millions of dollars as race champions—and Detective Andy McWilliam of the United Kingdom's National Wildlife Crime Unit, who's hell bent on protecting the world's birds of prey. “Masterfully constructed” (The New York Times) and “entertaining and illuminating” (The Washington Post), *The Falcon Thief* will whisk you away from the volcanoes of Patagonia to Zimbabwe's Matobo National Park, and from the frigid tundra near the Arctic Circle to luxurious aviaries in the deserts of Dubai, all in pursuit of a man who is reckless, arrogant, and gripped by a destructive compulsion to make the most beautiful creatures in nature his own. It's a story that's part true-crime narrative, part epic adventure—and wholly unputdownable until the very last page.

The acclaimed author of *Motoring with Mohammed* brings us a compelling adventure into the remarkable world of the orchid and the impossibly bizarre array of international characters who dedicate their lives to it. The orchid is used for everything from medicine for elephants to an aphrodisiac ice cream. A Malaysian species can grow to weigh half a ton while a South American species fires miniature pollen darts at nectar-sucking bees. But the orchid is also the center of an illicit international business: one grower in Santa Barbara tends his plants while toting an Uzi, and a former collector has been in hiding for seven years after serving a jail sentence for smuggling thirty dollars worth of orchids into Britain. Deftly written and captivatingly researched, *Orchid Fever* is an endlessly enchanting and entertaining tour of an exotic world. “A wonderful book, I've been up all night reading it, laughing and crying out in horror and clucking at the vivid images of bureaucracy with the bit in its teeth.” —Annie Proulx “An extraordinary, well-told tale of botany, obsession and plant politics. Hansen's vivid descriptions of the complex techniques some orchids use to pollinate themselves will raise your eyebrows at nature's sexual ingenuity.” —USA Today

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • “The definitive biography for decades to come.” —Leo Jansen, curator, the Van Gogh Museum, and co-editor of *Vincent van Gogh: The Complete Letters* Steven Naifeh and Gregory White Smith, who galvanized readers with their Pulitzer Prize – winning biography of Jackson Pollock, have written another tour de force—an exquisitely detailed, compellingly readable portrait of Vincent van Gogh. Working with the full cooperation of the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, Naifeh and Smith have accessed a wealth of previously untapped materials to bring a crucial understanding to the larger-than-life mythology of this great artist: his early struggles to find his place in the world; his intense relationship with his brother Theo; and his move to Provence, where he painted some of the best-loved works in Western art. The authors also shed new light on many unexplored aspects of Van Gogh's inner world: his erratic and tumultuous romantic life; his bouts of depression and mental illness; and the cloudy circumstances surrounding his death at the age of thirty-seven. Though countless books have been written about Van Gogh, no serious, ambitious examination of his life has been attempted in more than seventy years. Naifeh and Smith have re-created Van Gogh's life with an astounding vividness and psychological acuity that bring a completely new and sympathetic understanding to this unique artistic genius. **NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY** The New York Times Book Review • The Washington Post • The Wall Street Journal • San Francisco Chronicle • NPR • The Economist • Newsday • BookReporter “In their magisterial new biography, *Van Gogh: The Life*, Steven Naifeh and Gregory White Smith provide a guided tour through the personal world and work of that Dutch painter, shining a bright light on the evolution of his art. . . . What [the authors] capture so powerfully is Van Gogh's extraordinary will to learn, to persevere against the odds.” —Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times “Brilliant . . . Steven Naifeh and Gregory White Smith are the big-game hunters of modern art history. . . . [Van Gogh] rushes along on a tide of research. . . . At once a model of scholarship and an emotive, pacy chunk of hagiography.” —Martin Herbert, The Daily Telegraph (London)

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