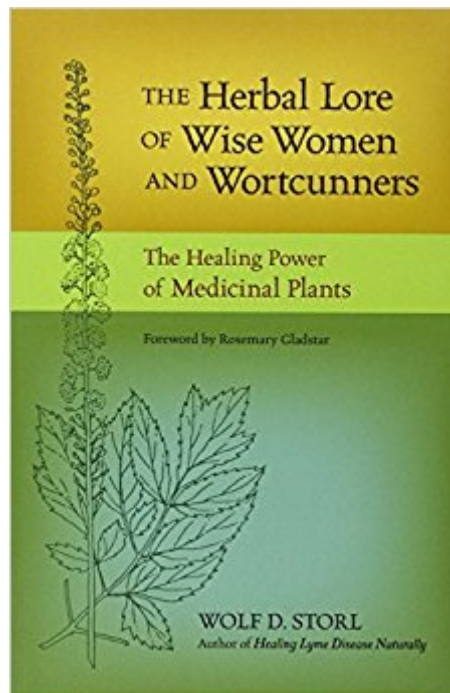


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The Herbal Lore Of Wise Women And Wortcunners: The Healing Power Of Medicinal Plants



Synopsis

Traditional herbalists or wise women were not only good botanists or pharmacologists; they were also shamanic practitioners and keepers of occult knowledge about the powerful properties of plants. Traveling back to the healing arts of the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, *The Herbal Lore of Wise Women and Wortcunners* takes readers deep into this world, through the leechcraft of heathen society and witches' herb bundles to the cloister gardens of the Middle Ages. It also examines herbal medicine today in the traditional Chinese apothecary, the Indian ayurvedic system, homeopathy, and Native American medicine. Balancing the mystical with the practical, author Wolf Storl explains how to become an herbalist, from collecting material to distilling and administering medicines. He includes authoritative advice on herb gardening, as well as a holistic inventory of plants used for purposes both benign and malign, from herbs for cooking, healing, beauty, and body care to psychedelic plants, witches' salves for opening alternative realities, and poisonous herbs that can induce madness or cause death. Storl also describes traditional women's plants and their uses: dyeing cloth, spinning and weaving, or whipping up love potions. *The Herbal Lore of Wise Women and Wortcunners* is written for professional and amateur herbalists as well as gardeners, urban homesteaders, and plantspeople interested in these rich ancient traditions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm always interested in books on herbology/herbalism. With this one I flipped to the "Celtic Roots"

section on a lark, and it was so full of historical mistakes that I cannot bring myself to read the rest of the book. In just the first 1 1/2 pages of that section, I counted 6 blatant falsehoods and 3 highly questionable statements. If the herbal information is as inaccurate as the "history", you would probably end up poisoned. Example: It says the honking of the sacred geese saved Rome from being pillaged by Celts in 390 BC. Nope, the city was *spectacularly* and famously pillaged and forced to pay tribute, and the fear of future "barbarian" incursions was part of what motivated Rome's expansionist policy into temperate Europe (as a result of which millions of Celts were killed or enslaved, if Caesar is to be believed). This is just one example of MANY. In my opinion, mistakes this elementary are completely inexcusable. As an anthropologist and archaeologist myself, I was horrified to see that the author is or claims to be an anthropologist and a professor! These are not things that only an expert on Celtic archaeology would know--they are basic, introductory-level European history/archaeology. Even Wikipedia could have set Storl right on some of these points. Maybe you're thinking, well, who cares if the author got all his historical details right? Isn't this supposed to be about herbalism? First, it shows that at least on some topics, the author has not done any research at all. If he's going to be this sloppy and careless about the history, how do I know he's put any more effort into any other part of the book? Second, in reading the other reviews, I saw how excited people were about the "history" of herbalism in this book.

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