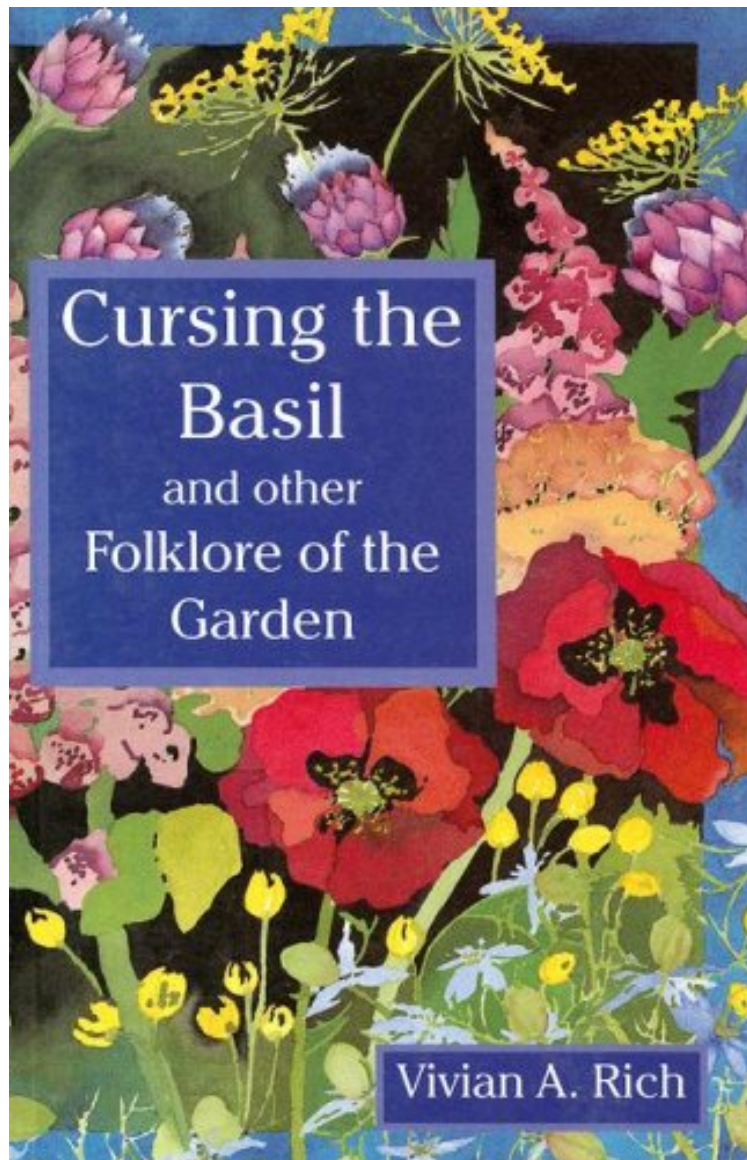


Cursing the Basil and other Folklore of the Garden

Vivian A Rich

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Vivian A Rich : Cursing the Basil and other Folklore of the Garden before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cursing the Basil and other Folklore of the Garden:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By J. L. Willman Great product, wonderful service. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not just spells for finding your true love By Valerie Fletcher Adolph Cursing the Basil and other Folklore of the Garden. Vivian A. Rich At last! Something useful to do with the anger and frustration of rush hour! Go into your garden and curse the basil - it will help it to grow better. The author

has done a great deal of research into the history of plants and their uses. Concerned, as many of us are, that the technology of the modern age will crowd out the long rich history of plants, she sets out to preserve the memories of the symbolism and significance of plants to people of earlier times. This book is a gift to anyone interested in ethnobotany. It takes a thorough look at how our ancestors have used plants since the earliest days. The author has divided the book into four parts, featuring spells and rituals, traditional foods, hygiene and medicine, mythology religion and superstition, and trade and politics. There are end notes and an extensive bibliography. The section about trade and politics surprised me at first but there is much to learn about the commerce of plants, from the ancient trade with Asia for spices through to tulipmania and its present day offspring the huge flower auction at Aalsmeer in Holland which covers over 333 acres. Nor did I know that an official Herb Woman attended British Coronations until 1821. By the time the following coronation rolled around the position had been eliminated due to budget restrictions. A few more illustrations might have been nice, but all in all, you can't beat *Cursing the Basil* for its wealth of information and straightforward approach to a vast topic.

The fascination of everyday flowers, herbs and spices. Traditional spells and rituals for finding one's true love (red roses meant a handsome husband); the significance in myths of bay leaves, thyme and sage; the mania for tulip bulbs that caused stock markets to crash in Holland; the symbolism of royal wedding bouquets, and much more, are all described in this exploration into the strange history of many familiar plants. An entertaining and often funny book, it casts light on time-honoured uses and popular beliefs-such as that basil would only grow well if cursed and insulted by the gardener.