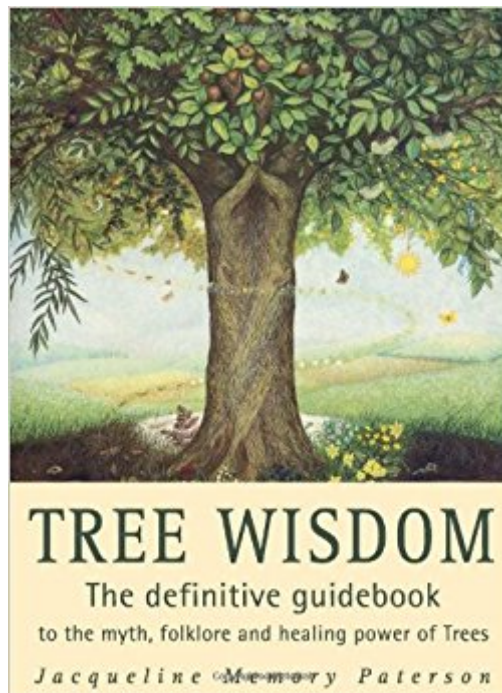




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Tree Wisdom: The Definitive Guidebook To The Myth, Folklore And Healing Power Of Trees



Synopsis

This beautiful illustrated book is the result of eight years exhaustive research into the myths, magic and healing power of trees. It has comprehensive information on all the main species of tree and is written in an easy to use and accessible style by an Arch-druidess. This book contains all the practical information you need to identify each tree as it changes throughout the year and includes: comprehensive physical descriptions and botanical information, the legends and myths surrounding each tree, the healing powers and magical properties of the individual tree.

Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Thorsons (April 8, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0722534086

ISBN-13: 978-0722534083

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Tree Wisdom explores the world of trees through the eyes of the ancients and our eyes of today. Trees existed long before humans and provide a unique holistic insight into our relationship with the land. In this time of increasing ecological awareness trees have become a symbol of our connection with Nature. Concentrating on the indigenous trees of Britain through the changing seasons of the year, Jacqueline Memory Paterson draws on years of extensive research to tell the story of each individual species of tree. This beautifully illustrated work covers every aspect of tree wisdom including comprehensive physical descriptions and botanical illustrations, the legends and myths surrounding each tree, its healing powers, both for ourselves and the planet, its artistic and practical uses, its specific inspirational qualities, its magical properties and how each features in the ancient tree alphabet.

Jacqueline Memory Paterson has lived most of her life in the West Country, developing her unique understanding through an intense relationship with Nature. She is deeply involved with alternative educative theatre, and as Archdruidess of Glastonbury she has campaigned for the right of people to worship at Stonehenge. She currently holds the Bardic Chair of Avebury.

I ordered this book after noticing it was used as a resource often in essays and books. I then read the reviews on and spent the money to add this book to my collection. The book is interesting and gives a lot of information on 17 trees that are also seen in the ogham (for those that view the ogham as a tree alphabet) and it is filled with mythological references. There are some things that she could have done better though. My biggest disappointment was the lack of references to researchers, translators, or citations of any sort. She seems to know what she is talking about but I am always wary of this especially after so many Llewellyn "experts" have been exposed as frauds or to have written about subjects that they clearly have little experience with (Tree Wisdom is a Thorsons/Harper Collins book). Like many other books on the subject there seems to be a lot of filler for certain trees. Some trees have very rich Celtic associations like the apple or hawthorn while others are a little less found in documents such as pine or ash. As is often the case the author talks about what every other culture thought of the tree - such as the Greeks or Norse and leaves a gaping hole when it comes to the Celts ("the druids burned fires of pine" and "pine is prolific in Britain" are all she says on pine for example). Other myths are interesting but consistency is always nice. I agree with the other review that speaks of runes as well. So many writers try to make a connection between the runes and the ogham but there are very few actual connections and they are just forced to fit. The "recommended reading" in the back seems to lack any reason and lists Carlos Castaneda, J.R.R. Tolkien and many other random books despite only being two pages long. The only relevant books are Tree Oracle, White Goddess, and a few books on mythology, a few on herbs and a couple on identifying trees but mostly irrelevant to the book itself and having read the books suggested I know much of the information came from somewhere else - not sure where. Good book but with a little extra attention to detail it could have been much much more.

Most of this I already know, still, a very good book for reference and also learning for beginners. Happy to have it and it will be around as my daughter needs it as well.

Great book

Too expensive compared to retail price. This is the first time I am being charged more than retail price.

If you like trees and you like folklore this book contains plenty to entertain and charm you. There is a chapter on seventeen trees indigenous to the British Isles, many of them common in Europe and elsewhere (you can see which ones by using the 'look inside' feature). Each chapter contains botanical information about the tree, sections on the legends they have inspired, the healing and magical properties traditionally associated with them, and the customary uses for their wood - from walking sticks to ships. The book's focus is on Anglo-Saxon and Celtic legends (although it does include references to Greek myth and others); the illustrations, although nice, are not sufficient to identify the trees if you don't know them already; this is not an encyclopaedia - if, indeed, such a thing could exist for this subject matter. It is full of beguiling stories and nuggets, however, for those who like the romance of the greenwood tree, and the whole charming effect is a bit like going for a stroll in the woods with a well-informed and chatty - some would say batty - friend.

The native Western European tree myth, lore, and healing practice distilled into one easy to use, eloquent little book! As someone who has apprenticed with Master Herbalists and traditional healers, I can attest that the information here presented is accurate, authentic, and very effective. Each chapter covers one species and moves through a series of information areas, including botanical, folkloric, healing, magical, inspiration, and physical attributes and uses. This is a healer and ritualist's book; it does not explore tree alphabets or Ogham script, but the way in which trees were seen by the ancestors and how they have served humanity in the past -- and may serve again in the present. The author takes us from the historical directly into practical philosophy, uses, and methods that are accessible even to those with no prior experience. Probably the most comprehensive book of its kind and a perfect complement to Hopman's herbals. Intelligently written and accessible; an indispensable guide for the beginning Druid, herbalist, healer, and folklorist and of continuing use to the experienced practitioner. A foundation text for any esoteric, spiritual, folkloric, shamanic, and traditional healing library!

Wonderful collection of facts about trees we all know (plus many we may not be familiar with but are around us) plus the legends and lore associated with them. The author pulls from a variety of cultures - greek, english/celtic, italian, and others. Really well written. I learned a lot about the trees themselves (types of leaves, their flowers etc) as well as their lore and symbolism. Neat book.

This book is one of the few books I wouldn't want to be without. I'm not tree hugger so I was a bit wary of this book, but instead I found it to be dense with information, inspiration & ideas. I believe there is more to be learnt in this book about paganism than most of the "learn paganism in a week" books, and it has enhanced my divination with ogham no end. I don't think anyone would be able to use this book to identify the trees, so you still need a decent tree book to go with it. However, in content I have yet to find another one book that covers the physiology, folklore, healing uses, magical applications, physical uses & inspirational qualities of trees in such detail, and in such an easy to read style.

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