

Say It with Flowers

This elegant volume features a visual glossary of popular flower types and their Victorian meanings, followed by simple step-by-step instructions for twenty-five beautiful arrangements. Combine laurel (meaning “success”) and sage (meaning “virtue”) to wish a friend success in a new endeavor, or Carolina jasmine (“separation”) with zinnia (“thoughts of you”) to say a simple “I Miss You.” From Celebration to Luck, Happiness, and even Forgiveness, each of the bespoke bouquets suits an important occasion or recipient. Overflowing with photographs and watercolors of gorgeous blooms, *Meaningful Bouquets* brings a truly personal touch to flower arranging.



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OKIES &
McGUINNESS
Meaningful Bouquets
CHRONICLE BOOKS

Meaningful Bouquets

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CREATE SPECIAL
MESSAGES with
FLOWERS



25 BEAUTIFUL
ARRANGEMENTS

LEIGH OKIES &
LISA McGUINNESS

photographs by
ANNABELLE BREakey

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FLOWER
GLOSSARIES



BY FLOWER NAME



ACACIA
chaste love, secret love

ACACIA (PINK)
elegance

ALLIUM
Prosperity

ALMOND BLOSSOM
hope

ALSTROEMERIA
devotion

ALYSSUM
esteem, worth beyond beauty

AMARANTH (GLOBE) 20
unchangeable

AMARYLLIS 7
pride

AMBROSIA
love returned

AMETHYST (BROWALLIA
HYBRIDS)
admiration

ANEMONE
forsaken, truth

ANGELICA
inspiration

APPLE, APPLE BLOSSOM
temptation, preference

ASTER
patience

AZALEA
fragility, temperance, passion

BABY'S BREATH
love everlasting

BACHELOR BUTTON
(CORNFLOWER) 45
blessedness

BALM
sympathy

BEE BALM
sympathy, comfort

BEECH TREE
prosperity

BELLS OF IRELAND 51
good luck

BIRD-OF-PARADISE
magnificence

BLACK-EYED SUSAN
justice

BLACK POPLAR
courage

BLUEBELL
constancy

BOUGAINVILLEA
passion

BROOM
humility

CABBAGE
profit

CALLA LILY
modesty

CAMELLIA
my destiny is in your hands

CAMPANULA (BELL FLOWER)
gratitude, thankfulness

CANARY GRASS
perseverance

CAPE JASMINE
joys to come

CARNATION
boldness, admiration

CARNATION (PINK) **8**
remembrance, I will never forget you

CARNATION (PINK STRIPED)
I cannot be with you, let me go

CARNATION (WHITE)
sweetness, loveliness

CELANDINE
joys to come

CHAMOMILE **28**
resilience, energy in adversity

CHERRY BLOSSOM
impermanence

CHERVIL (GARDEN)
sincerity

CHESTNUT
justice

CHRYSANTHEMUM **22**
truth

CHRYSANTHEMUM (RED)
love at first sight

CLEMATIS **53**
mental beauty

CLOVE
secret love (I have loved you and you have not known it)

CLOVER (WHITE)
think of me

COCK'S COMB
affectation

COLUMBINE **6**
folly

COLUMBINE (PURPLE)
resolution, resolve to win

CONEFLOWER (PURPLE)
strength

COREOPSIS
cheerful

COREOPSIS (PLAINS;
COREOPSIS TINCTORIA)
love at first sight

CORIANDER
hidden worth

CORN
riches

COSMOS **27 33**
joy in love and life

CRANBERRY
cure of heartache

CROCUS (SPRING)
youthful gladness

CROCUS (SAFFRON)
mirth, beware of success

CUCKOOPINT
(ARUM MACULATUM)
admiration



BY FLOWER MEANING

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ABUNDANCE
grape and grapevine, nasturtium

ADMIRATION
amethyst, daffodil, carnation

ADORATION
dwarf sunflower, cuckoopint
(Arum maculatum)

AFFECTATION
cock's comb

AFFECTION
heliotrope (devoted affection),
mossy saxifrage, pear blossom,
sorrel

AMBITION
hollyhock

AMIABILITY
white jasmine

ANTICIPATION
forsythia

ATTACHMENT
Indian jasmine, gorse

AUDACITY
larch

BASHFULNESS
peony

BEAUTY
flower-of-an-hour (Hibiscus
trionum), French honeysuckle, rose
of Sharon, white hyacinth, hibiscus
(delicate beauty), orchid (refined
beauty), glory flower (glorious
beauty), stock (lasting beauty)

BE OF GOOD CHEER
poinsettia

BEWARE OF SUCCESS
saffron crocus

BLESSEDNESS
bachelor button

BLISSFUL PLEASURE
sweet pea

BOLDNESS
carnation

BONDS OF LOVE
honeysuckle

BRAVERY
French willow, oak leaf, peony

CALM
hydrangea

CAPRICIOUS LOVE
lady slipper

CHARMING
musk cluster rose, ranunculus
(radiant with charm)

CHEERFUL
coreopsis, gerbera daisy,
poinsettia (be of good cheer)

COMFORT
bee balm, scarlet geranium,
pear branches

COMPASSION
thrift, elder

CONCEALED LOVE
motherwort

CONFIDENCE
liverwort, hepatica

CONSTANCY
bluebell, blue hyacinth

COURAGE
black poplar, edelweiss, mullein
(take courage), protea

CURE OF HEARTACHE
cranberry

DANGEROUS PLEASURE
tuberose

DECLARATION OF LOVE
tulip

DELICATE BEAUTY
hibiscus

DELICATE PLEASURE
sweet pea

DESTINY
camellia (my destiny is in
your hands)

DEVOTION
alstroemeria, heliotrope, Peruvian
heliotrope, honeysuckle

DIFFIDENCE
cyclamen

DIGNITY
dahlia, laurel-leaved magnolia,
elm, magnolia

DISPASSION
hydrangea

DURABILITY
dogwood

ELEGANCE
locust tree, pomegranate blossom,
pink acacia, yellow jasmine

ENCHANTMENT
purple rose, lavender rose

ENCOURAGEMENT
goldenrod, 'John Hopper' rose

ENERGY IN ADVERSITY
chamomile

ESTEEM
garden sage, spiderwort, alyssum

EXTRAVAGANCE
poppy

FAITHFULNESS
violet, passionflower

FANTASTIC EXTRAVAGANCE
poppy (blush colored)

FANTASY
Queen Anne's lace

FASCINATION
orange rose

FIDELITY
garden sage, spiderwort,
strawberry tree, plum tree,
veronica, ivy

FIDELITY IN LOVE
lemon blossom

FILLED WITH LOVE
purple violet

FOLLY
columbine

FORESIGHT
strawberry

FORGIVENESS
nemophila (baby blue eyes),
blue scilla, purple hyacinth

FORSAKEN
anemone

FRAGILITY
azalea

FRIENDSHIP
ivy, oak leaf geranium,
peppermint, blue periwinkle,
freesia (lasting friendship)

GALLANTRY
sweet William

GENEROSITY
orange blossom

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THE
ARRANGEMENTS



CELEBRATION

Times of joyful celebration are one of life's true pleasures. The combination of the exuberant orange and pink poppies—"fantastic extravagance"—and elegant white cosmos—"joy in love and life"—makes this a vibrant bouquet that will encourage the recipient to celebrate. Create it for a job well done, to recognize an important achievement, or even to say "Happy Birthday." The oak leaf geranium's meaningful "friendship" is tucked in to remind us that celebrations are even more satisfying when shared with those we love.



1

To build this handheld bouquet, begin by holding several poppy stems in your hand. Then add the flowers one stem at a time, creating a slight spiral so there is airy space between the blossoms.

2

As you go along, mix in cosmos as is visually pleasing. Add the oak leaf geranium leaves around the edges for color and texture.

3

Trim the stems to a uniform length and place in a glass vase or jar.

TIP: Poppies will last longer if you seal the ends of the stems by quickly passing them through an open flame.

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FORGIVENESS

If you need to ask someone for forgiveness or open yourself up to forgiving a hurt done to you, this delicate bouquet holds the ingredients you need. The focus flower for “forgiveness,” purple hyacinth, expresses mercy and pardon, while raspberry vines, flowers, and buds acknowledge the necessary emotion of “remorse” that comes with mistakes made. If possible, add white hyacinth, meaning “beauty” to symbolize the beauty in both forgiving and being forgiven.



1

First, strip off the raspberry stem thorns with the edge of a sharp knife or thorn stripper.

2

Remove any leaves from the hyacinth stems and if necessary rinse any dirt off the blooms.

3

Begin to build the bouquet by gathering the raspberry stems. Add the hyacinth stems around the raspberry stems.

4

Wrap the stems with a small amount of floral tape to steady them. Trim the stems to a uniform length and then tie a ribbon around the stems to cover the tape and add a bit of flourish, or place them in a small vase.



CHARM

Charm means “the power of pleasing or attracting,” which makes this bouquet the perfect gift for someone who has charmed you. Or create it for yourself to invite some charm into your life. The magnetic combination of characteristics that creates the quality of charm in a person is mirrored in the flower meanings entwined here. The focus flower of this arrangement—ranunculus—means “radiant with charms.” The “worthiness” of the white roses is included to express the depth of character that makes one truly charming. The individual blooms of lily of the Nile—meaning “magical love”—are a unique way to include visual complexity and a sense of enchantment to the arrangement. Adding poppies—“fantastic extravagance”—makes a dazzling symbol of charm.

white rose
WORTHINESS

ranunculus
RADIANT WITH CHARM

lily of the Nile
MAGICAL LOVE

poppy
FANTASTIC EXTRAVAGANCE

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1

To create the main structure, begin by taking several stems of ranunculus in your hand. When you are pleased with the way the ranunculus grouping looks, tape the stems together with floral tape so they stay in position.

3

Pluck several small groupings of flowers from one to two stems of lily of the Nile and tuck them into the bouquet to add variety of color and texture while still maintaining an organic shape.

2

Next, tape together the white roses in several groupings of two to three (depending on how many stems you have) and then add these groupings to the ranunculus grouping.

4

Finally, wrap the stems of the entire bouquet with floral tape to hold them in place. Trim the stems to a uniform length and wrap with ribbon.

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PEACE



This beautiful wreath of olive branches is the quintessential peace offering.

Give this wreath as a symbol of peace simply for beauty's sake or hang it on a front door to show that your home is a place of tranquility for all those who enter. Historically, evergreen wreaths have represented the forthcoming rebirth of spring when hung during the darkest days of winter. Peaceful olive branch wreaths can be adorned with colorful berries, fruit, flowers, or other foliage to bring color and a sense of festivity.



1

Begin with a wreath frame (available at craft stores) in the circumference size you want for the inner circle of your wreath.

2

Next gather several thin olive branches. Separate out the sprigs that have olives on them, so they can be evenly distributed once the wreath is constructed. To create the wreath, begin by making a garland of the leafy olive branches (see garland instructions, page 88) as long as needed to cover the wreath frame.

3

Then, beginning at what will be the top of the wreath, set the garland on the frame and wrap with floral wire in a spiral around both the garland and the frame, being careful to avoid the leaves so they don't get flattened.

4

Once the entire frame is covered in the olive branch garland, tuck in additional branches with olives and then attach them to the wreath frame using additional wire. If desired, tie a ribbon around the top of the wreath as a pretty hanger.



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