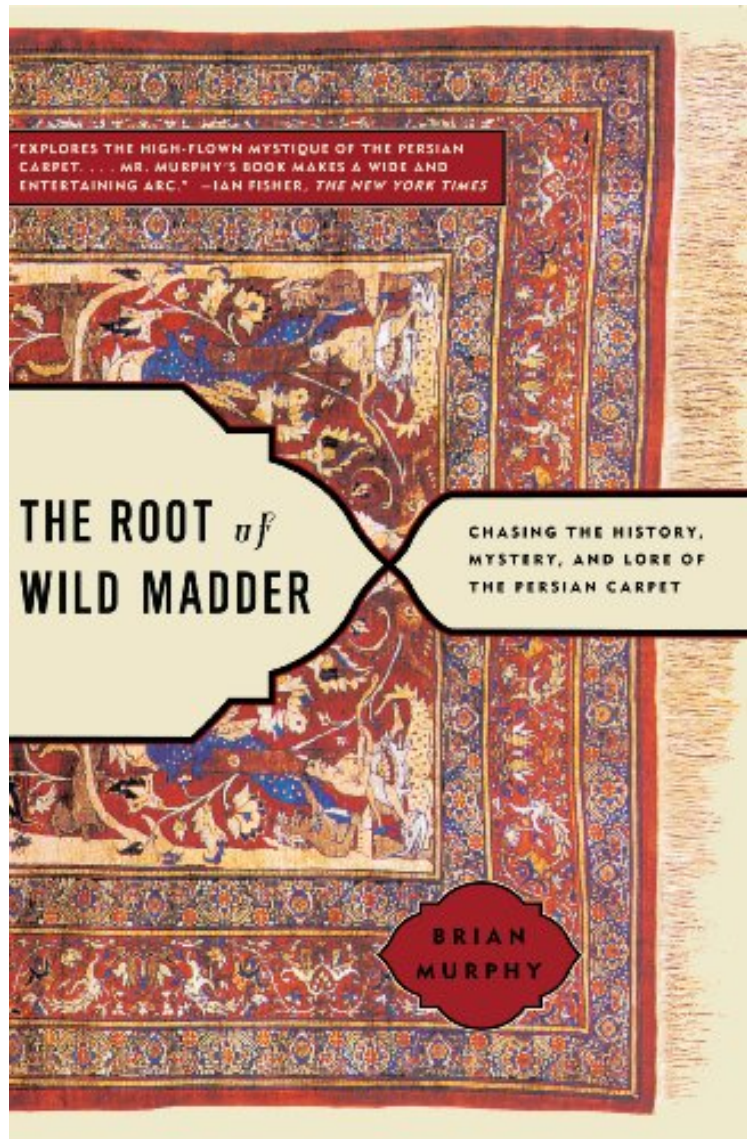


(Mobile book) The Root of Wild Madder: Chasing the History, Mystery, and Lore of the Persian Carpet

# The Root of Wild Madder: Chasing the History, Mystery, and Lore of the Persian Carpet

Brian Murphy

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**Brian Murphy : The Root of Wild Madder: Chasing the History, Mystery, and Lore of the Persian Carpet** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Root of Wild Madder: Chasing the History, Mystery, and Lore of the Persian Carpet:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. UnbelievableBy Sure EnoughEasy read with enough story and mystery to keep the reader engaged. However, the most valuable portions to me were the statements about history,

facts, and forces affecting all aspects of oriental carpets. The analysis included such variables as geography, politics, climate, and macroeconomy. Fun read with great documentation. Loved the photographs as well. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful  
By Kenza Saadi  
A wonderful book filled with precious details about the author's trip to find Wild Madder (the source of the special shade of red in Persian Carpets) in Iran and part of Afghanistan. It all starts with a gift: a book of Hafez given to him by a charming carpet seller in the Bazar in Teheran. The author is a great story teller as he adroitly intertwines history with poetry, politics and in a most poignant way, humanity. It is for lovers of history, poetry and travel. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful read. Informative. If you love oriental rugs- which this author surely does - you will enjoy this book.  
By Michael H. Kaplan  
Wonderful read. Informative. If you love oriental rugs- which this author surely does - you will enjoy this book. Author incorporates much practical carpet information amid a story about a search for a rug he is obsessed with seeing and maybe owning. I was quite surprised at how much I liked this book. I own close to 100 books on oriental carpets and yet this had information in it that was new to me.

Wisdom of a Turkmen proverb. The Root of Wild Madder opens with an invitation that flows from the same ancient inspiration. "A carpet is poetry itself," an Iranian carpet merchant declares to author Brian Murphy. "You just have to learn to read them." So begins a journey. It follows Persian carpets from the remote villages of Afghanistan and Iran where they are woven -- often by young girls -- and on to the bazaars where they are traded, to the Sufis and mystic poets who find grace and magic in their timeless designs, and, finally and unexpectedly, to a carpet showroom in New York. Told in exquisite prose befitting one of the world's loveliest art forms, *The Root of Wild Madder* eloquently chronicles how carpets embody humanity's endless striving for unattainable perfection. Here are stories of the weavers and their dreams, the "mules" who move the carpets from place to place, the tradesmen who sell them in the bazaars, and the refugee compelled to trade a carpet he believes contains the soul of his grandmother -- because his family must eat. The madder plant has fed the carpets' red brilliance since the earliest weavings. But the power of its palette, like the dyers' traditions, threatens to pass from memory. It would be a profound loss. It's part of a world as rich as any sublime carpet: steeped in spirituality, culture, allegory, and, above all, mystery. Nearly all the carpet masterworks are anonymous art for the ages, and Murphy seeks out their glorious hidden narratives. As he observes, "Every carpet carries its own distinctive voice. Suddenly I wanted to hear them."