

Flowers in the Blood: The Story of Opium

By Jeff Goldberg



Flowers in the Blood: The Story of Opium By Jeff Goldberg

The incredible and complex history of opium throughout the world.

Opium has played a dramatic and varied role in human history, inspiring religious veneration, scientific exploration, the bitterest rancor, and the most fanciful ecstasy. Now, authors Jeff Goldberg and Dean Latimer have provided a complete, insightful history of opium. *Flowers in the Blood* lifts the veil of mystery that has surrounded opium down through the ages. Inside, discover:

- Why a three-thousand-year-old statue of a Greek goddess was crowned with poppies
- The formulas for Hippocrates's ancient opium remedies
- Why the Islamic councils of the wise vilified hashish but venerated opium
- Why there was no opium problem in nineteenth-century England and America despite unprecedented and unrestricted consumption of opiates
- What really provoked the Opium Wars in China
- Why John Jacob Astor quit the opium trade
- The unique role played by Chinese opium in the birth of the American labor movement

Along the way, the authors provide details of the addictions of S. T. Coleridge, Thomas De Quincey, and other literary opium-eaters of the nineteenth century, as well as chronicling the progress of antidrug laws and the ongoing search for an addiction cure.

Originally published in 1981, this edition of *Flowers in the Blood* has been updated with a new preface by Goldberg. At times disconcerting—raising serious questions about attitudes and approaches toward powerful drugs and their control—Flowers in the Blood is an essential addition to the literature of opium, and a wide-awake look at the stuff that dreams (and nightmares) are made of.

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whose work might not otherwise find a home.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Jeff Goldberg is a freelance writer best known as an investigator of psychoactive drugs and how they work in the brain. Born in Philadelphia, Goldberg's articles on science and medicine have appeared in Life, Discover, Omni, and other magazines internationally. Dean Latimer is the former executive of High Life magazine. Born in Canton, New York, Latimer helped to originate the East Village Other as well as the National Lampoon. His articles have also appeared in Oui and Penthouse, amongst others. William Burroughs was an American writer and artist, and one of the most recognized figures of the beat generation. He is probably most well known for his novel Naked Lunch, a controversial work that was subject to one of the most recent obscenity trials for a book in the United States.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bradley Loy:

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