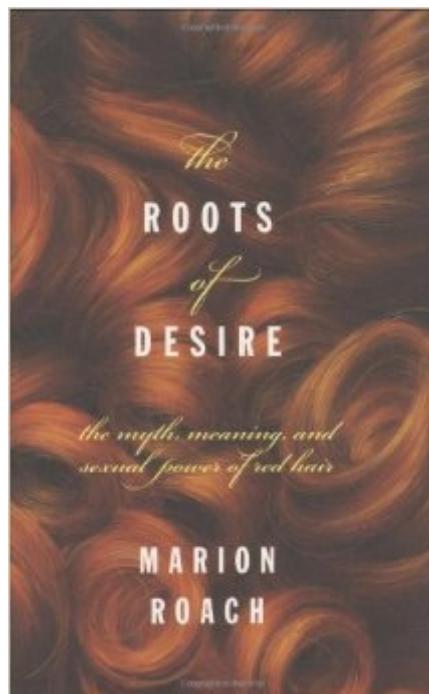


The book was found

# Roots Of Desire: The Myth, Meaning And Sexual Power Of Red Hair



## Synopsis

Part history, part cultural commentary, part memoir, *The Roots of Desire* is a witty and entertaining investigation into what it means to be a redhead. A redhead rarely goes unnoticed in a crowded room. From Judas Iscariot to Botticelli's Venus to Julianne Moore, redheads have been worshipped, idealized, fetishized, feared, and condemned, leaving their mark on us and our culture. Such is the power of what is actually a genetic mutation, and in *The Roots of Desire*, Marion Roach takes a fascinating look at the science behind hair color and the roles redheads have played over time. She discovers that in Greek mythology, redheads become vampires after they die; Hitler banned intermarriage with redheads for fear of producing "deviant offspring"; women with red hair were burned as witches during the Inquisition; in Hollywood, female redheads are considered sexy while male redheads are considered a hard sell; and in the nineteenth century, it was popular belief that redheads were the strongest scented of all women, smelling of amber and violets. Redheads have been stereotyped, marginalized, sought after, and made to function as everything from a political statement to a symbol of human carnality. A redhead herself, Roach brings candor and brilliant insight to the complicated and revealing history of redheads, making this a stand-out narrative and an essential tool in understanding the mechanics and phenomenon of red hair.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA (July 7, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1582343446

ISBN-13: 978-1582343440

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 1.1 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (44 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,070,377 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Beauty, Grooming, & Style > Hair #11585 in Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources

## Customer Reviews

If I had it to do again, I wouldn't waste my money or my time on this book. I wish I'd read the negative reviews because they're all correct: Roach is all over the place in this sketchy tome riddled with unnecessarily complicated run-on sentences and inflated narcissism. She goes to witch camp

to find out about redheads, but never completes the inquiry. She goes on and on about her visit to Darwin's house, which gives no insight except the one that she misses: Red hair is hardly a characteristic of the fittest because it's most often accompanied by fair skin prone to sunburn, making redheads more vulnerable in many parts of the globe. It's lost on her that, following Darwin's theory, it should have died out long ago, overtaken by "fitter" characteristics let alone eliminated because it was seen as a sign of sin during certain periods. Red-heads, as she points out, are most prevalent where the sun is weakest, in often-grey places like England, Ireland and Scotland. Her lengthy attempts at explaining the genetics of red hair are redundant and vacuous, leaving the reader with nothing. Her again-lengthy explanations about why some of history's most infamous characters like Lilith and Eve are portrayed in the arts as red-heads completely neglect what is most obvious: Their hair color is anyone's guess and they are portrayed long after their existence by artists using red for its visceral affect on the viewer. A more "extensive serious inquiry" as the Chicago Tribune review on the back cover says, might have delved into the psychology of color - why red is perceived as a power color, while blue is perceived as soothing, yellow uplifting; then to abstract that into why red-heads are met with such strong reaction, be it love, lust, fear, or hate.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair Hair: Hair Loss: Learn About Hair Loss Prevention Methods and Regrowth Treatment: Hair Loss Cure: Hair Loss (Men's Health, Hair Loss Treatment, Regrow ... Loss Treatment for Woman, Hair Loss Cure) Hair Loss Prevention: #1 Hair Loss Prevention And Reversal Techniques, Methods, Treatments And Remedies (Hair Loss, Hair Loss Cure, Hair Loss In Women, ... Protocol, Hair Loss Black book, Baldness) The Comprehensive Hair Loss Guide: Hair Loss Treatment and Cure for Men and Women (Hair Loss Treatment for Women, Hair Loss Treatment for Men, Hair Loss ... Loss Remedies, Hair Loss Cure, Alopecia) The Ayurveda Hair Loss Cure: Preventing Hair Loss and Reversing Healthy Hair Growth For Life Through Proven Ayurvedic Remedies (Ayurveda Medicine, Hair ... Diet, Hair Loss Diet, Hair Loss Sollutions) Hair Loss Cure & Treatment: Prevention & Effective Natural Regrowth Methods (Hair Loss Prevention, Hair Loss Treatment, Hair Loss Cure, Hair Loss For Men, Hair Regrowth, Self Help) Hair Loss and the Big Pharma - The Ultimate Guide on Avoiding Frauds, Disinformation and Bad Medicine (Hair Loss Cure, Hair Loss Nutrition, Hair Loss Solutions, Hair Loss Alopecia, Alopecia Areata) Hair Loss: How it Happens and How to Fix It (Hair Loss, beauty and fashion, hair, loss, aging parents, hair growth, healthy hair) How to Cure Baldness and Prevent Male Hair Loss (Mens Hair Loss, Propecia, Minoxidil, Receding Hair Line, Hair Regrowth, male pattern baldness, mens hair) Hair Loss Cure: Everything You Need to Know About Hair Loss, Hair Loss Prevention,

Hair Re-growth and Hair Loss Treatments (Hairloss treatment) The Men's Hair Book: A Male's Guide To Hair Care, Hair Styles, Hair Grooming, Hair Products and Rocking It All Without The Baloney NATURAL HAIR SCALP REGENERATION - STOP hair loss and regrow hair very FAST GUARANTEED: YOUR LAST CHANCE TO REGROW YOUR HAIR NATURALLY Red Smoothies: 2 Manuscripts - Red Smoothie Detox Factor (Vol.1) + Red Smoothie Detox Factor (Vol. 2 - Superfoods Red Smoothies) Hair Loss Solutions: Understand, Prevent and Regrow your Hair-Keep Yourself Looking Younger for Longer(Hair Loss Treatment and Prevention) Hair Loss: The Ultimate Resource of Tried and Tested Solutions for Hair Loss and the Maintenance of Healthy Hair How To Stop Hair Loss Naturally: Learn various ways to stop your hair loss and regrow your hair without the use of expensive and harmful drugs Back On Track - Fighting Hair Loss At Home, How To Prevent And Cure Hair Loss Using Home Remedies, Grow Your Hair Thicker Naturally! Grow African American Hair Long - 7 Days To Faster Growing Hair: Grow Hair Fast Methods and Natural Treatments for Balding Hair Loss Cure: A Revolutionary Hair Loss Treatment You Can Use at Home to Grow Your Hair Back little book on hair loss restoration that really works..: unassuming hair regrowth method actually grows hair back

[Dmca](#)