

Roses In The Fire Of Spring.

A Review

Like many I know in the world of roses, I have a bookcase or two full of rose books and treasure them all. That being said, it is always a delight when a new one comes my way and after reading it say to myself say, that was new and unexpected. Such was my reaction after reading *Roses In The Fire of Spring* by Viru and Girija Viraraghavan. While the book discusses and includes examples of their well known and extensive rose breeding program, it is much more than that. It's a book about a couple's long love affair with roses, everyone they know in that world and each other.

Viru began many years ago breeding roses for the warm climates of India. In the book he describes that roses from Europe and America did not adapt well to their climate. So he began working from scratch with species roses more native and acclimated to India. This is where the passion in the book really becomes evident. They write about treks into the mountains to find original stands of these native roses to truly get back to their origins. From there begins the odyssey of their breeding program which is intertwined with the journey of their life together. As Viru's career moved them around India, their breeding program adapted and grew based on the new climates and challenges they faced. But what did not change was the focus of their program. The book leaves no doubt about that and that is one of the delights in reading this book. I've always felt that laser focus is what makes a great rose breeder. Their program is evidence of that.

Later in the book they begin to discuss their rose journey's around the world. They are ever delightfully present at many rose events and conferences around the world. They discuss sharing and learning from so many new friends they make and old friends they re-encounter. I can personally attest they are a delight to be around and talk to. Both are very generous with their knowledge and experience.

You do not have to be into roses as much as some of us to enjoy this book. While it is about roses, it is also about the world of gardening. As I mentioned at the start, I don't often pick up a new rose book and read something fresh. With *Roses In The Fire Of Spring* I did. I highly recommend this book and know you will enjoy it as well.

To purchase a copy please email Girija directly at veerugij9517@gmail.com. She will be back in touch to send you a copy and of course they will be delighted to sign it for you.

— with Girija Viraraghavan.

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