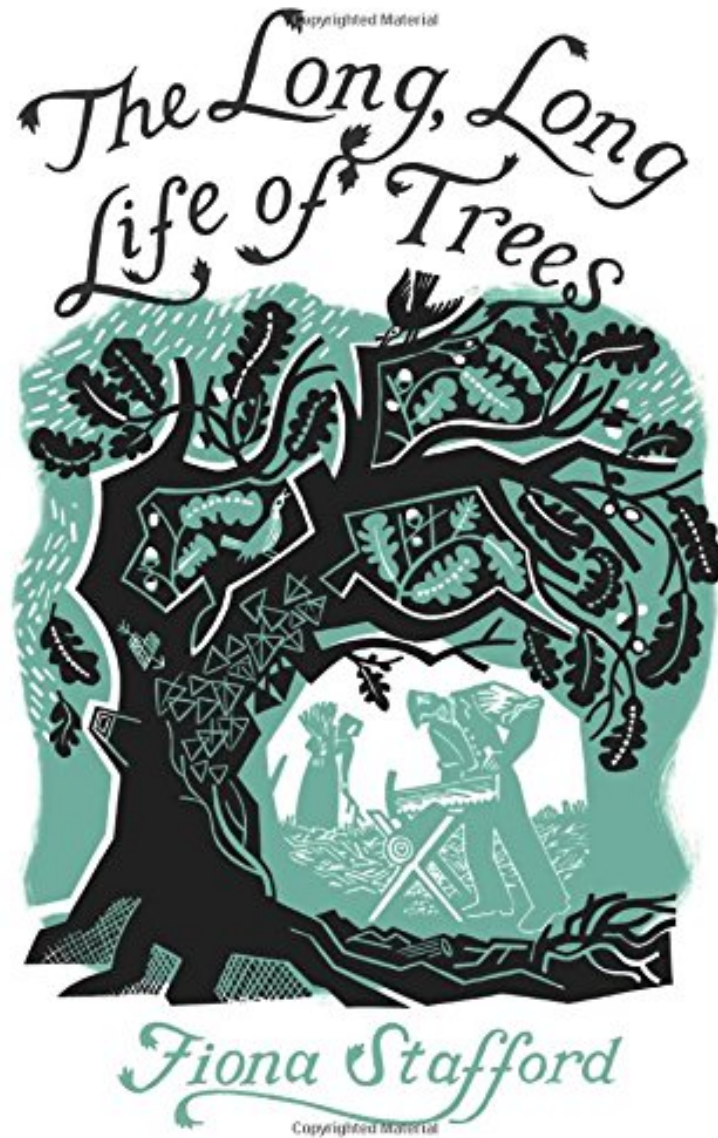


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The Long, Long Life of Trees

Fiona Stafford

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Fiona Stafford : The Long, Long Life of Trees before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Long, Long Life of Trees:

13 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Intreuguing without being sappyBy David WinebergThere are endless odes to trees. We continue to stumble onto their attributes and how they can provide for us in new ways. From David Harris horrifying The Last Stand: The War Between Wall Street and Main Street over California's Ancient

Redwoods, to Stefano Mancuso's remarkable *Brilliant Green: The Surprising History and Science of Plant Intelligence*, I devour the information we pick up. I appreciate total respect for trees. Fiona Stafford continues the tradition, adding historical, literary and mythical aspects to a selection of 17 trees found in England, including her own experience with them. It is a delight. There is often great respect for trees in the UK. In England, great old trees have their own names. They are locations, milestones, boundary references and above all, meeting places. Churches and halls were built at those tree meeting places, the natural place for them. English yews can easily be 2500 years old, oaks 1000. They are long-lived, dependable landmarks in addition to all their other gifts. In *The Long Long Life of Trees*, we learn not only their lifespans (30 years for apple, 3000 for yews), but what uses their wood is, what chemical compounds we make from their fruit, their sap or their bark, and how history and literature have treated them (badly for the willow, royally for the oak). It took 2000 oaks to make a warship. Holly trees date from the Cretaceous. Apples came from Kazakhstan, willows from China. Elms and horse chestnuts - museum pieces unfortunately. The book suffers from one thing images. There are lots of black and white etchings and woodcuts, far more artistic than informative, and I found it impossible to read the book without an internet search engine handy. Stafford goes to great lengths describing famous trees in various locales, but usually doesn't show them, and when she does, it's monochrome or grayscale. This is sinful. Trees with a circumference of 50 feet need to be seen if only to be believed. There's no point describing glorious blossoms if all you're going to show is a line drawing. It is well researched, and the passion shows on every page. *The Long Long Life of Trees* is a valued addition to the shelf. David Wineberg 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Annie great resource book 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By norma Very good

A lyrical tribute to the diversity of trees, their physical beauty, their special characteristics and uses, and their ever-evolving meanings. Since the beginnings of history trees have served humankind in countless useful ways, but our relationship with trees has many dimensions beyond mere practicality. Trees are so entwined with human experience that diverse species have inspired their own stories, myths, songs, poems, paintings, and spiritual meanings. Some have achieved status as religious, cultural, or national symbols. In this beautifully illustrated volume Fiona Stafford offers intimate, detailed explorations of seventeen common trees, from ash and apple to pine, oak, cypress, and willow. The author also pays homage to particular trees, such as the fabled Ankerwyke Yew, under which Henry VIII courted Anne Boleyn, and the spectacular cherry trees of Washington, D.C. Stafford discusses practical uses of wood past and present, tree diseases and environmental threats, and trees' potential contributions toward slowing global climate change. Brimming with unusual topics and intriguing facts, this book celebrates trees and their long, long lives as our inspiring and beloved natural companions.

"Everywhere [Stafford's] eye for detail brings the trees to life. . . . *The Long, Long Life of Trees* is elegant, engaging, impeccably written and packed with interest." John Carey, *Sunday Times*