



## Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair

By Marion Roach

Download now

Read Online 

**Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair** By Marion Roach

**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.

 [Download Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Powe ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Po ...pdf](#)

# Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair

*By Marion Roach*

**Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair** By Marion Roach

**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.

**Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair** By Marion Roach Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #900798 in Books
- Published on: 2005-07-07
- Released on: 2005-06-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.10" h x .4" w x 5.28" l, .85 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 256 pages

 [Download Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Powe ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Po ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online **Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair** By Marion Roach

---

### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A redhead herself, NPR commentator Roach has an odd chip on her shoulder about it, relating all sorts of travails and opinions connected to red hair that the average non-redhead may never have guessed existed. To get to the bottom of our perceptions and experience of red hair, she explores the ancient legends of Lilith and Set, the traditions that depict both Judas and Mary Magdalene as redheads, and an Eve in London's St. Paul's Cathedral that has blond hair before the Fall and red hair after it. She visits "witch camp" in Vermont, a high-end hair salon in Manhattan, and Emily Dickinson's house, where a carefully preserved lock of the poet's red hair transforms Roach's image of her. Along the way, Roach (*Another Name for Madness*) makes some poignant points about what it means to belong to the redheaded minority in Western society, making gently suggestive comparisons to more overt patterns of prejudice. Yet the author seems to accept preconceptions about the sexuality and vivacity associated with red hair, and her jumping between examples often reads more like breathless conjecture than fact and leaches energy from extended vignettes, such as her visit with the witches. Whether readers enjoy this book will have a lot to do with whether they like the narrator's self-conscious red-headed persona. And, of course, whether they are as fascinated as she is by red hair. *Agent, Kris Dahl. (July)*

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

### Review

"One of the most extensive serious inquiries to date on what it means to be a redhead." ?*Chicago Tribune*

"Richly salted with fascinating cultural lore, and an engaging read whether you're a carrot-top or not."  
? *Houston Chronicle*

"A strong recommendation for redheads." ?*Library Journal*

### About the Author

Marion Roach is the author of *Another Name for Madness*, a memoir of her family's struggle with her mother's Alzheimer's disease, and the coauthor of *Dead Reckoning: The New Science of Catching Killers*. A commentator on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*, she has been published in the *New York Times Magazine*, *Prevention*, *Vogue*, *Newsday*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Discover*, and *American Health*. She lives with her family in upstate New York and teaches a memoir course at the Arts Center of the Capital Region.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

#### David Nester:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice

simply by surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a guide your ability to survive increase then having chance to stand than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading the book, we give you this kind of Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair book as beginner and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

### **Ruth Santiago:**

This Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair tend to be reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The main reason of this Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair can be among the great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple studying food but feed you with information that probably will shock your prior knowledge. This book is handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions at e-book and printed ones. Beside that this Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair forcing you to have an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day action. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

### **Christopher Hartwick:**

The actual book Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair will bring that you the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to learn, this book very appropriate to you. The book Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

### **Catherine Gates:**

That publication can make you to feel relax. This book Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair was bright colored and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair has many kinds or category. Start from kids until young adults. For example Naruto or Private eye Conan you can read and feel that you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book are make you bored, any it offers up you feel happy, fun and chill out. Try to choose the best book in your case and try to like reading in which.

**Download and Read Online Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair By Marion Roach #EV1QZIRDJT9**

## **Read Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair By Marion Roach for online ebook**

Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair By Marion Roach Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair By Marion Roach books to read online.

### **Online Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair By Marion Roach ebook PDF download**

#### **Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair By Marion Roach Doc**

**Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair By Marion Roach Mobipocket**

**Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair By Marion Roach EPub**

**EV1QZIRDJT9: Roots of Desire: The Myth, Meaning and Sexual Power of Red Hair By Marion Roach**