PETAL & CIPHER

AN ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY

The Secret Language of Flowers

60 HISTORICAL MEANINGS

20 FLOWER COMBINATIONS

Find your way through the book.

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How the meanings, images and modern notes fit together.

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Start with what you want to say.

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The full set of 60 historical entries and reflections.

Twenty flower combinations · 67

Pair the meanings and add a personal message.

Sources and artwork credits · 77

Find the historical text and reference records for each drawing.

A historical dictionary. A personal message.

Read the historical meaning

The wording beneath each flower name follows the matching entry in Kate Greenaway's *Language of Flowers* (1884). Other books and traditions may give the same flower a different meaning.

Look at the plant pictured

Each entry has a stylized botanical drawing and a link to a source image. Some historical names are broad or ambiguous. The drawings interpret plant forms and sometimes simplify or omit diagnostic details. The species caption identifies the linked reference. It does not certify the drawing or establish which species Greenaway meant.

Make the message your own

The reflection is modern editorial writing. Pick a meaning that fits, then add one detail only the recipient would recognize: a place, an act of care, a shared joke or a memory.

Put two meanings together

The combinations near the back are ideas for notes and illustrated keepsakes. They are symbolic pairings; a florist can help choose suitable real stems if you want a fresh arrangement.

Agrimony

Reference species: *Agrimonia eupatoria*



View source photograph or plate

HISTORICAL MEANING

Thankfulness. Gratitude.

A MODERN REFLECTION

Gratitude becomes more personal when it names the act. Mention the ride, the call, or the quiet help that stayed with you.

The source names agrimony without a scientific species; this plate shows common agrimony.

Almond (Flowering)

Reference species: *Prunus dulcis*



View source photograph or plate

HISTORICAL MEANING

Hope.

A MODERN REFLECTION

A hopeful message can be modest. Write about the next small thing you are looking forward to together.

Representative plant pictured; the historical wording does not specify this exact specimen.

Alyssum (Sweet)

Reference species: *Lobularia maritima*



View source photograph or plate

HISTORICAL MEANING

Worth beyond beauty.

A MODERN REFLECTION

Use this entry to praise a quality that is easy to overlook: patience, reliability, or the ability to make someone feel included.

Representative plant pictured; the historical wording does not specify this exact specimen.

Amaranth (Globe)

Reference species: *Gomphrena globosa*



View source photograph or plate

HISTORICAL MEANING

Immortality. Unfading love.

A MODERN REFLECTION

The enduring affection in this entry suits a keepsake. Add a date or a shared memory to give the symbol a personal anchor.

Representative plant pictured; the historical wording does not specify this exact specimen.