

Otherwise Normal People: Inside the Thorny World of Competitive Rose Gardening

By Aurelia C. Scott

Close to many rosarians heart comes, *Otherwise Normal People: Inside the Thorny World of Competitive Rose Gardening*. Whether you actively participate in the world of exhibiting roses or not, you'll be enveloped in roses after reading just a few pages. What makes people get involved in exhibiting their flowers? How does it start? And to what lengths will they go to satisfy their passion? You'll get to peek into the homes, gardens and minds of some world-renowned exhibitors as well as some you may never have heard of. Whether you exhibit roses or not, you can't help but get caught up in the excitement, fervor, and near panic of some of the participants as they made ready for their "battle." Scott captures the essence of this well when she describes our quest for excellence - "that while we honor equality, we also long to reach beyond the norm and achieve something, be it inventing the wheel, hand-knitting argyle socks or growing and grooming an exquisite hybrid tea. We identify a skill, take courage by the hand, and try our best."

An excerpt from a review from *The American Gardener* says, "Curious about what makes rose competition participants tick, author Aurelia Scott discovered that it often starts innocently enough, say with a neglected rose bush that produces an unexpectedly exquisite bloom, and end up as a life-changing compulsion to collect and show every kind of rose imaginable. Among the stories of the rose maniacs she encounters, Scott interweaves intriguing pieces of rose history and other fascinating bits of trivia."

Author Aurelia Scott lives in Portland, Maine with her husband and three bypass pruners. She grows roses and other flowering plants and writes for *Cottage Living*, *Garden Design*, *Fine Gardening*, *Down East*, and the New York Times among other publications.

Review by Nanette Londeree, Master Rosarian