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## Letting the Lotus Bloom, the Expression of Soul through Flowers

*Kevin Joel Kelly*

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#4804231 in Books 2013-12-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .50 x 5.50l, .57 #File Name: 1595264353200 pages | File size: 40.Mb

**Kevin Joel Kelly : Letting the Lotus Bloom, the Expression of Soul through Flowers** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Letting the Lotus Bloom, the Expression of Soul through Flowers:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. How Does a Blank Book Become a Beautiful Flower?By CustomerEvery now and then, a truly authentic book from the soul comes along; it's no wonder that Thomas Moore, the preeminent spiritual writer and author of the classic "Care of the Soul," chose to write a foreword to this one.

Kevin Joel Kelly, author of "Letting the Lotus Bloom," is much more than a florist; he writes about flowers as a vehicle to the soul and he has a preternatural talent at finding the blossom at every turn. While his words read as very clear prose, a poetic license lingers beneath--images, rhythms and textures that will inspire profound resonance in the reader. Per his own revelation, Kelly was a born lover of flowers, but not a natural technician, and he is unflinchingly honest about the mistakes he made in his twenty-five year career. Example: one day he spent hours weeding, only to discover he had diligently plucked out hundreds of Missouri primrose sprouts and left all the ragweed! But just as a lotus blossoms in the mud, so did Kelly, and he teaches us how to mine the mud of our lives into soil that nourishes the soul. The chapter on Eros leaves one begging for more. But in an era where small books reign, "Letting the Lotus Bloom" is a luminescent treasure.--Pamela Bloom, author, *The Power of Compassion: Stories that Open the Heart, Heal the Soul, and Change the World* Some memorable lines: "Flower arranging is a ritual that reminds us that something beautiful can come from the scattered fragments of our lives and that the cycle of life spins ever on from chaos to completion. The vitality of the Lotus is evidenced in its cycles and the vitality of our creative lives is seen likewise, as we complete works of art begun in the rawness of chaos." "The soul prods us to create through our imaginations. When we follow that prodding and enter the transcendent moment of art we stand in the presence of the sacred." "How does an empty vase become a display of summer's fire with golden sunflowers, fiery red celosia, hot pink dahlias, and purple cone flowers? By trusting the transcendent moment." *The Power of Compassion: Stories That Open the Heart, Heal the Soul, and Change the World* 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One Stem at a Time: An Enchanted Journey By Deborah Shouse This unique book is for those who delight in the fragrance and glory of nature and the intricate inner journey. Kevin takes us, stem by stem, into the architecture of flower arranging and encourages us to find the passion and center of our own lives. Rich with visual imagery and fascinating examples, *The Lotus* is an inspiring and textural story, full of ideas and possibilities. Deborah Shouse 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Celebrating LIFE with flowers* By MissDazey This book made me think about both the beauty of flowers and people. The author is a professional designer who shares his love of flowers and floral designing. He explains how people use flowers for all kinds of occasions and how to design bouquets to express feelings. This is an excellent, well-written book that is very helpful and informative.

Through an act of art one enters into the mystery of soul. As art is created, soul is birthed in the world. *Letting the Lotus Bloom* explores flower arranging in relationship to this mystery, and finds insights that are applicable to all. They are the bones of a truly creative, artful life. I never gave flowers a second thought, other than buying them every now and then and sometimes remembering to put an aspirin in the water. Then I read *Letting the Lotus Bloom*. I found it to be both strong and delicate, like the flowers it celebrates. I loved the voice and the stories. And, not surprisingly, it left me with a new respect for flowers and the people who work with them. What did surprise me, however, was how powerfully *Letting the Lotus Bloom* connected me with soul in general, my soul in particular, and the beauty of souls unfolding. I will read this book more than once, and I will give it to friends, with and without an accompanying bouquet. Victoria Moran, author of *Creating a Charmed Life* This book is a gift to all of us on a creative path! It reminds us that successes, setbacks, joy and tears are all a part of the process, but that, like the lotus, we will always bloom. It is how we are designed. Ardith Beveridge, AAF, AIFD, PFCI, CAFA, MSF, Founder and Director of the Koehler and Dramms Institute of Floristry

About the Author Kevin Joel Kelly has been a professional floral designer for more than thirty years. He has taught floral design in classrooms to aspiring professionals, one-on-one in flower shops, and in workshops. Kevin lives in Kansas City, MO, where he is a freelance floral designer and offers classes and workshops in flower arranging.