



Chasing Rumi: A Fable About Finding the Heart's True Desire

By Roger Housden

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This enchanting story, set in the late 1950s, takes us from the hills and piazzas of Florence to the green domed mosques of Konya, Turkey. Upon discovering a poem by the thirteenth-century Sufi dervish Rumi, Georgiou, a young Greek icon painter, is compelled to travel to the land that this poet called home. Inspired by Rumi's magical words, Georgiou leaves his father and their small business in hopes of recapturing the transcendent power of an early childhood vision.

Through encounters with Christian and Islamic mystics, and guided by forces he cannot name, Georgiou gradually learns to follow his own heart. The closer he gets to Konya and to Rumi's tomb, the more in awe he becomes at the workings of fate. But it is only when Georgiou returns to Florence that his life changes forever in an experience that reveals the mystery of life and love.

In the tradition of *The Alchemist* and *Siddartha*, *Chasing Rumi* is a spellbinding and enduring story for all.

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- Rank: #1358811 in Books
- Published on: 2002-10-01
- Released on: 2002-10-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.38" h x .65" w x 4.88" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 144 pages



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Housden (*Ten Poems to Change Your Life*) adds a mystical twist to a young man's search for love in this spare, allegorical tale of a Greek icon painter living in 1950s Italy who makes a pilgrimage to the tomb of 13th-century Sufi poet Jelaluddin Rumi. Aesthete Georgiou loves art and beauty, but is frustrated by his inability to find a worthy love in his native Florence. Dazzled by a book of Rumi's poems, Georgiou hopes that a journey to the poet's tomb at Konya, Turkey, will teach him something about love. His meandering trip takes him to a monastery in Meteora, Greece; to the shrine of Delphi, where he has a vision of the Virgin Mary, who poses a riddle that holds the key to his quest; and to other sites in Greece and Turkey, where he meets Orthodox priests, mystics, sheikhs and dervishes who teach him that romance between a man and a woman is not the only kind of love there is, and that accumulating knowledge doesn't necessarily help one to experience or understand love. Housden is a graceful storyteller and he offers an offbeat look at the relationship between divine love and earthly romantic love. Unfortunately, he tends to slip into treacly, bland affirmations ("All is already well. Listen to what your heart tells you, and you cannot stray far"), and the tidy, happily-ever-after ending belies some of the complicated questions about spirituality and self-knowledge that are raised through Georgiou's quest.

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From Booklist

The best-selling author of *Ten Poems to Change Your Life* (2001) provides a fantastical account of one young man's intimate journey of discovery. Moved beyond all practical reason by a poem penned by Rumi, a thirteenth-century mystic, Georgiou, a Greek icon painter residing in Florence, is inspired to undertake a pilgrimage to Konya, Turkey, the city where the lines were written that touched his heart. During the course of his odyssey, Georgiou experiences visions, encounters a number of eccentric spiritual guides, and develops as both an artist and a human being. When Georgiou finally arrives in Konya, his soul is awakened by a deceptively simple discovery. His restless mind and inner being finally at peace, Georgiou is ready to accept the greatest gift life has to offer: unconditional love. Lyrically written, this surrealistic affirmation of life and love will! enthrall and inspire readers seeking spiritual nourishment. *Margaret Flanagan*

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Review

"Housden's prose is quietly elegant, sparse yet lyrical--perfect for this love letter to a master poet." (NAPRA ReView)

"A jewel of a book. Both delicious and simple, Chasing Rumi has all the makings of a classic." (Jack Kornfield, author of *A Path With Heart* and *After the Ecstasy, the Laundry*)

"Lyrically written, this surrealistic affirmation of life and love will enthrall and inspire readers seeking spiritual nourishment." (Booklist)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sandra Murray:

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William Phillips:

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