



# **The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created**

*Tatiana Holway*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created

Tatiana Holway

## **The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created** Tatiana Holway

In 1837, while charting the Amazonian country of Guiana for Great Britain, German naturalist Robert Schomburgk discovered an astounding "vegetable wonder"--a huge water lily whose leaves were five or six feet across and whose flowers were dazzlingly white. In England, a horticultural nation with a mania for gardens and flowers, news of the discovery sparked a race to bring a live specimen back, and to bring it to bloom. In this extraordinary plant, named *Victoria regia* for the newly crowned queen, the flower-obsessed British had found their beau ideal.

In *The Flower of Empire*, Tatiana Holway tells the story of this magnificent lily, revealing how it touched nearly every aspect of Victorian life, art, and culture. Holway's colorful narrative captures the sensation stirred by *Victoria regia* in England, particularly the intense race among prominent Britons to be the first to coax the flower to bloom. We meet the great botanists of the age, from the legendary Sir Joseph Banks, to Sir William Jackson Hooker, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, to the extravagant flower collector the Duke of Devonshire. Perhaps most important was the Duke's remarkable gardener, Joseph Paxton, who rose from garden boy to knight, and whose design of a series of ever-more astonishing glass-houses--one, the Big Stove, had a footprint the size of Grand Central Station--culminated in his design of the architectural wonder of the age, the Crystal Palace. Fittingly, Paxton based his design on a glass-house he had recently built to house *Victoria regia*. Indeed, the natural ribbing of the lily's leaf inspired the pattern of girders supporting the massive iron-and-glass building.

From alligator-laden jungle ponds to the heights of Victorian society, *The Flower of Empire* unfolds the marvelous odyssey of this wonder of nature in a revealing work of cultural history.

 [Download The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, T ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created Tatiana Holway**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Eileen Smith:**

Here thing why this The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created are different and dependable to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good but it really depends in the content of the usb ports which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no reserve that similar with The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created. It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your current eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is perhaps can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your technique home by train. In case you are having difficulties in bringing the paper book maybe the form of The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created in e-book can be your alternative.

#### **Glen Thomas:**

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also get a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with training books but if you want feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created is kind of publication which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

#### **Arthur Haynes:**

Is it you actually who having spare time and then spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something new? This The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created can be the solution, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this brand new era is common not a geek activity. So what these books have than the others?

#### **Helen Widner:**

Some individuals said that they feel weary when they reading a guide. They are directly felt it when they get a half areas of the book. You can choose the book The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created to make your personal reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading ability is developing when you including reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the impression about book and reading through especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to start a book and study it. Beside that the reserve The Flower of Empire: An

Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created can to be your brand new friend when you're really feel alone and confuse using what must you're doing of their time.

**Download and Read Online The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created Tatiana Holway #N20QP359WGX**

## **Read The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created by Tatiana Holway for online ebook**

The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created by Tatiana Holway 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 The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created by Tatiana Holway books to read online.

### **Online The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created by Tatiana Holway ebook PDF download**

**The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created by Tatiana Holway Doc**

**The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created by Tatiana Holway Mobipocket**

**The Flower of Empire: An Amazonian Water Lily, The Quest to Make it Bloom, and the World it Created by Tatiana Holway EPub**