

Some flowers exude beauty attracting not only bees but poets and wanderers too. But beneath this beautiful allure lies a secret of toxicity making them nature's beautiful liars. Let's unveil the truth behind these elegant yet enigmatic flowers with *Shatakshi Agarwal*, AIS Vasundhara 1, XI D.

Oleander



Visage: A striking evergreen shrub with fragrant, trumpet-shaped blooms clustered in shades of white, pink, red, and even yellow.

Why never gift them: Each and every portion of the plant contains potent cardiac glycosides which could fatally disrupt heart function if ingested.

Enchanting lore: Tales warn of its peril where Napoleon's and Alexander the Great's soldiers were said to have died after using oleander branches as skewers over campfires.



Angel's trumpet

Visage: Large, pendulous, trumpet-shaped flowers in pink, yellow, red, white, and orange, releasing their sweetest fragrance at dusk.

Why never gift them: Rich in alkaloids that block acetylcholine, they can trigger severe hallucinations, seizures, and can even cause dangerous nervous-system disruptions.

Enchanting lore: South American legends believe that its nocturnal scent can induce a trance, summon spirits, and open a doorway to the world between the living and the dead.

Deadly nightshade

Visage: Bell-mould blooms of dusky purple with greenish bases, followed by glossy black berries.

Why never gift them: Every part, be it berries, leaves, or roots, is perilously toxic. It may even result in severe neurological and physiological symptoms in both humans and animals.

Enchanting lore: Locusta, Rome's infamous poisoner, was believed to have used deadly nightshade to assassinate Emperor Claudius, clearing the path for Nero's rise.



*Tooo
pretty
to be true*



Anemone

Visage: Poppy-like blooms with dark centers and sturdy stems, appearing in white, pink, red, violet, and blue across nearly 120 varieties.

Why never gift them: Japanese anemones containing protoanemonin can poison through ingestion or even skin contact, causing blistering inflammation. All parts of the plant are toxic.

Enchanting lore: According to Greek mythology anemones especially red ones sprang from the tears of Aphrodite (Venus) as she mourned the death of Adonis. The tears mixed with his blood, caused the flowers to bloom.

Lily of the valley

Visage: A delicate raceme of 5–10 bell-like, pale-white, or sometimes pink flowers aligned along one side of the stem, releasing a sweet, pervasive fragrance.

Why never gift them: Containing powerful saponins, they can cause vomiting, dizziness, and dangerous shifts in heart rate; even skin contact can result in irritation.

Enchanting lore: Christian tradition says Mary's tears at the crucifixion blossomed into these flowers, making them symbols of protection and good fortune.

