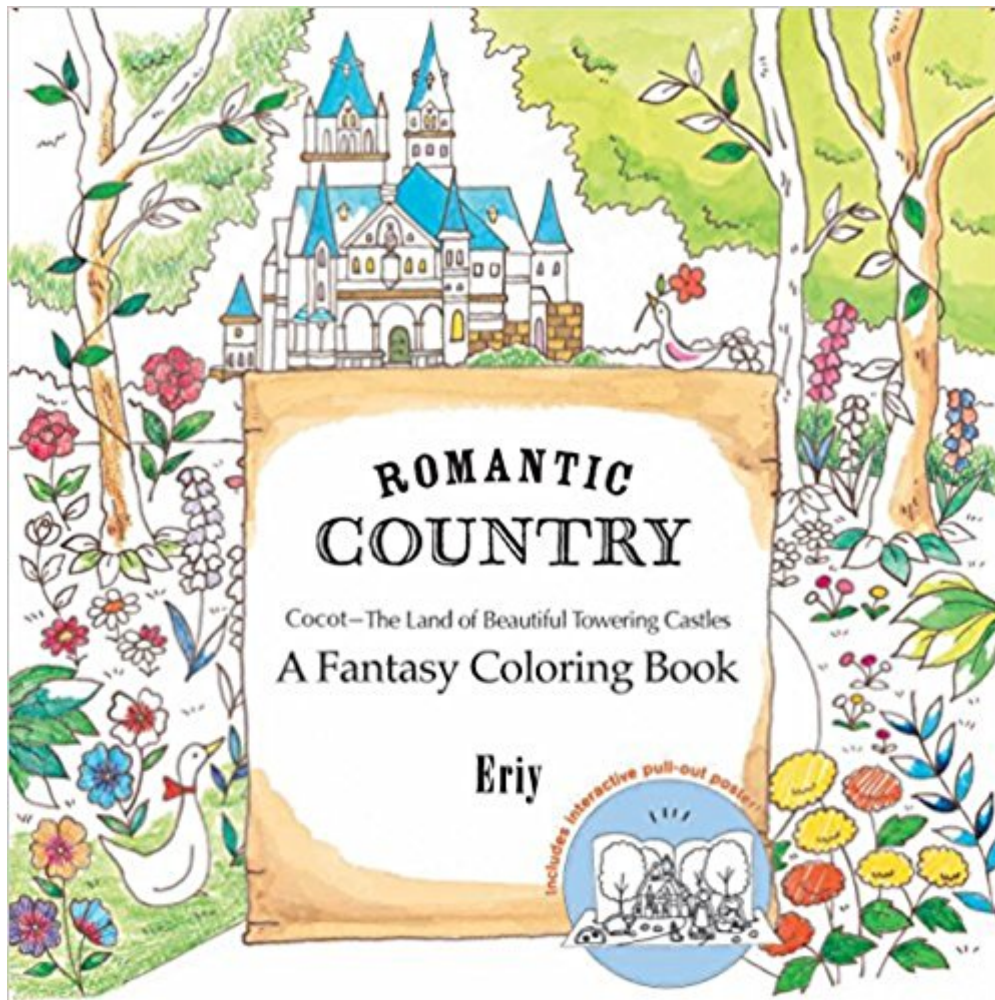




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Romantic Country: A Fantasy Coloring Book



Synopsis

Magnificent rural villages, prairies, forests, lakeside scenery and a beautiful towering castle await you and your colored pencils in *Romantic Country: A Coloring Book* by Japanese illustrator Eriy, who uses an ink-dipped toothpick to draw each intricate design. Inside are pages and pages of provincial delights for you to bring to life through coloring: delectable French pastries, magical forests filled with wildlife, charming town squares bustling with people-and so much more, sure to delight people of all ages. Perfect for fans of *Secret Garden* and *Enchanted Forest*, as well as those looking for a creative way to relax, *Romantic Country: A Coloring Book* will whisk you away to a black-and-white fantasy land that you can bring to colorful life.

Book Information

Paperback: 96 pages

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Customer Reviews

ERIY attended Musashino Art University in Tokyo and began working as an illustrator when in school. Now a freelance illustrator, Eriy uses a toothpick as her main drawing tool.

“Romantic Country” is the imaginary country that artist Eriy created in her childhood. Based on these designs, it is a charming and whimsical land to visit. The artist named this land Cocot. What is interesting about the designs is the back story on how the artist created them. Apparently, these were the first ink studies she had done and while she remembered to buy ink, she forgot to buy a pen! Being resourceful, she used what was on hand – a toothpick. Approximately 700 toothpicks were used to create the designs in the

book. The unusual drawing tool gives the lines in the book a faded appearance and provides lines that vary in thickness. These add to the charm of the designs rather than detract from them. The artist tells the story about the town at the front of the book and then follows up with a detailed description the subject matter of each design at the back of the book. The fantasy land (and the book) are separated by their areas. There are several maps and five chapters. In all, the story adds an event more delightful layer to the coloring book. It makes it a story book of coloring designs rather than simply a coloring book. The book has a removable dust cover. While there are no elements to color on the inside of the dust cover (a missed opportunity), there are areas to color on the actual brown cover which is attached to the book. The designs are printed on both sides of non-perforated cream colored paper. The ink tones seem almost sepia in nature but it may be because of the toothpick tool. The binding of the book is sewn rather than glued, so you can remove a few pages at a time by snipping a few threads. Eleven of the designs spread across two pages and, in my book, align very well. Fifty-eight designs are printed on one page. Many of the designs merge into the binding but if you remove pages by snipping threads, you should be able to remove them without loss of any of the design. I was able to get the book to lay flat by breaking the spine. There is a bonus fold-out poster included at the back of the book. My copy was fairly bent up. It appears to have been done in manufacturing as the cover of my book and the package it arrived in was pristine. I tested this coloring book with a wide range of coloring medium (though, I must admit, I did not try a toothpick!) Here are the results of my tests and a listing of the coloring medium I used in testing: All of my alcohol-based markers bled through the page immediately. My water-based markers and my India ink artist pens left shadows of color on the backside of the page. My gel pens did not bleed through but required a little extra drying time than ordinary. My coloring pencils worked exceptionally well with this paper. The soft lead pencils went on thick and creamy with little effort. They blended exceptionally well. My hard lead pencils went on distinctly and did not leave indents on the back of the page. I plan to use primarily coloring pencils and some gel pens with this coloring book. If you use any form of ink, be sure to use a blotter page below the page you are working on. The ink will certainly mar the design on the back of the page but the blotter page will keep the ink from seeping further into the book. These are the coloring medium that I use for testing. If there is something else you feel I should be testing, please let me know and I will see if I can add it to my growing pile: Markers: 1) alcohol-based *Sharpies* (brush and fine point), *Copic Sketch*, *Prismacolor* double ended markers (brush and fine point), *Sharpies* (fine and ultra-fine) *Bic Mark-its* (fine and ultra-fine) and 2) water-based *Tombows* dual end markers (brush and fine point), *Stabilo 88*, and *Staedler triplus fineliners* India Ink: *Faber-Castell PITT* artist pens (brush tip) Gel Pens: *Sakura*,

Fiskars, Uni-ball Signo in the following sizes - 0.28/0.38/0.5/1.0 and Tekwriter Coloring Pencils: Prismacolor Premier Soft Core, Derwent Colorsoft, Prismacolor Verithins, Caran D'Ache Pablo Colored Pencils and Faber-Castell Polychromos

A new favorite! The paper is amazing, a nice cream colour and thick so no bleed through from pens. Such a dreamy fairy tale land! And I can't believe she did all of these illustrations with a toothpick!!! Check out my full review video on Colouring by Kourtney (Facebook)[...]

Oh, if only Cocot was a real place! I'd love to live there. It makes me think of small villages in Europe. The pages are off-white and feel rather thick. I plan to use colored pencils, so I haven't tried any other medium. There is a removable dust jacket plus a poster you can pull out and color. There is an index at the back of the book which explains each "scene". There is also a town history at the beginning of the book. It's amazing that this author used toothpicks for her artwork! This coloring book is absolutely beautiful, and I hope to see more by this artist.

This adult coloring book is the work of Eriy, an artist who works with ink and toothpicks, to create a charming fantasy world named Cocot, "a land of beautiful towering castles," windmills, forests and lakes, shops, genial people, and ducks (lots of ducks since they are the symbol of friendship and peace as well as a free and leisurely lifestyle). The book has about 90 pages centered on this quaint land and lifestyle, and if I could slip into any of the shops in this collection, I would in a moment. The illustrations are detailed and the paper is a lovely off-white or cream color and very heavy, also. There is even an extra pull-out poster to color and cut for anyone who wants to create a pop-up scene. While I do not use liquid blenders on the pages because I do not want anything to bleed through to the other side, I have used my Prismacolor, Verithin, and Marco Raffine colored pencils as well as gel pens without any problems. When I color in this book, I feel like I am creating a personalized picture book for my family. I can hardly wait until Eriy's second Romantic Country book is released in December 2016.

This is my favorite coloring book, over Johanna Basford's and Daria Song's books. The artist's style of drawing with variable ink intensity and width (she uses a toothpick to draw), not overrun with too much details so that you can add your own, and the smoothness of pages to color/blend all contribute to making this the best illustrations to color. I hope they publish the other 2 books by the same illustrator soon in the U.S. - they're already out in Japan.

I've always liked coloring books but nowadays it's becoming a little bit way too overwhelming. With the famous secret garden to all the ones out in the market, I'm getting tired (even a little sick) of it. Then this book reconstructed my faith. Instead of a lot of the really detailed and sometimes dizzy-causing patterns, this book truly feels like the type of the coloring I loved growing up.

I adore this book. The pictures are so lovely and cute. The paper quality is nice- you can do many layers of Prismacolors. The ink is a little lighter than black and you can color on it a tiny bit. The story at the beginning is charming. Glad I got this.

What a really nice coloring book! I like this book as well as all my Basford Books and in fact the paper is superior in quality. Publisher did a great job binding this book. Images are cute, adorable, darling and sweet! And you get LOTS of pages. The price here at is awesome, easily 5 to 6 dollars cheaper than in the stores. Am pre-ordering the next edition. Hopes this artist makes many more. Really a great buy with fun creative images to color. Page sizes similar to the Basford Books. If you like Johanna Basford books, you will like this one!

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