



Scent, the Mysterious and Essential Powers of Smell: The Mysterious and Essential Powers of Smell (Kodansha Globe)

By Annick Le Guerer

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"All my genius resides in my nostrils, " claimed Friedrich Nietzsche. Now comes a splendid new voice to bear him out - Annick Le Guerer. In this enchanting, erudite, and highly readable exploration of all things olfactory, she investigates the uses and properties of scent through the ages in relation to magic, myth, religion, sex, discrimination, philosophy, and medicine. From the perfumed rituals of ancient religions to the saintly "odor of sanctity"; from the aromatic cures of the Middle Ages to the black market for spiceladen mummies; from Proust's tea-dipped madeleine to our contemporary "odorphobia, " Le Guerer explains and documents the mysterious and essential powers of smell: to attract or repel; call up deep memory; induce lust, love, hunger, even trance. Recalling by turns Patrick Suskind's Perfume and Diane Ackerman's A Natural History of the Senses, Scent is an enchanting melange of storytelling and scholarship, a sensual journey across boundaries of time and culture that touches on universal myths and intimate desires.

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