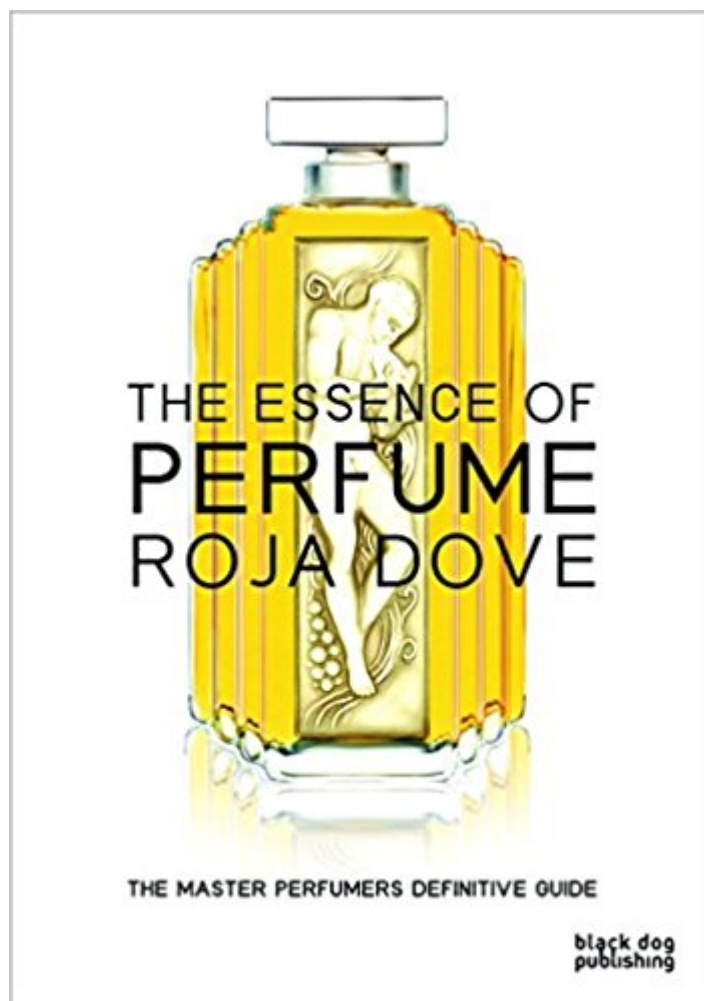


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The Essence Of Perfume



Synopsis

Roja Dove's passion for fragrance is contagious. As the world's leading perfume authority, Dove leads us on an extravagant journey through the world of scent, from Ancient Egypt, where myth has it that the fragrance Kypi induced mass surrender, through to the 1920s, when Jean Harlow's husband "maddened by his love and frustrated by his impotence" drenched himself in his wife's perfume before ending his life. We hear about the many episodes born from the bitter rivalry between Coco Chanel and "that Italian", Elsa Schiaparelli, and which of today's celebrity fragrances are the most offensive. The Essence of Perfume is the first book by the world's only Professeur de Parfums, and it is as captivating as it is informative. Beginning with a comprehensive discussion of the sense of smell and the materials of the master perfumer, The Essence of Perfume goes on to celebrate the great classics, the makers who brought them to life and the bottle makers who gave them shape. In an age where the methods and motivations of the original perfumers are all but forgotten, Roja Dove unfolds the gripping story of scent with all the passion and devotion of a true artist.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Fragrance fans will find heaven within the pages of this beautifully illustrated book |Delicious." Grazia "Professeur de parfums Roja Dove has siphoned his encyclopedic knowledge of all things perfume into a coffee table-worthy volume." Vogue USA --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Roja Dove's journey with perfume began at Guerlain, where he worked up to become Guerlain's Global Ambassador. He is now the leading international expert in perfume.

I had no idea I was getting such a magnificent volume. There is everything to love about "The Essence of Perfume." It can be a coffee table book to peruse casually. The photography of the classic bottles and advertising is a delight to the eye. Some of the short descriptions of fragrances make for quick reads. Or else you can dig into the "meat" of the book -- the history of the fragrance houses, the crafts persons that created the perfumes, the structure of the various scents, and the luminaries associated with the scent or the brand. Both an artistic and scholarly achievement. And it is all splendidly and elegantly presented. It's a "keeper," and I'm delighted to add it to my library.

Wow! This is probably the most visually gorgeous book I own (and I collect beautiful books on fragrance and perfume). Even though I dearly love my Kindles, I did order this as a hardback book, and I am so glad I did. The extravagant beauty of the art and photography and the feel of the pages create an experience that is alone well worth the price of the book. That said, "The Essence of Perfume" is also a fabulous read. I highly recommend this to anyone who loves fragrance - buy the hardback. You won't regret it!

Roja Dove's splendid take on perfumery, its methods, history and mystery, is as precious to me as the perfumes I own, now that scent has become a passion second only to the novels I write. The book is equally resplendent with information to feed a perfumista's/o's mind and glorious photos for our eyes to feast upon. It begins with an explanation of smell itself, goes on to describe how perfume notes are extracted from flower, citrus, resin, etc., includes a sumptuous glossary of raw materials and explains the key aspects of perfumery. Then the history starts of great perfumes and their perfumers--stories from the birth of modern perfumery up to today--and ends with the ones Roja Dove personally created (please, God, may I have a bottle of Roja before I die?). It ends with his thoughts about the future. This book has become a prized possession. Should an emergency arise, I might well be found running from the house with my purse, a sack of fragrances, and The Essence of Perfume. Time permitting, I'll have on shoes. I can't recommend this book more highly.

If you're looking for a book to give you an in depth history of perfume, how it's made and how it works on our sense of smell, this is not that book. Instead, this book is a kind of wonderful "sampler"

that gives a bit of information on a variety of aspects of perfumery. Dove touches on not only the perfumes, but also a bit of information about the houses that created them and the eras in which the perfumes were conceived. The book opens with a full-color glossary of images and descriptions of raw materials that are used to create the "notes" in perfumes as well as examples of perfume pyramids that diagram how those notes fit into a perfume's structure. Like I said before, it's not in depth, but it is written in such a way that it makes sense to anyone who is just starting to want to understand how perfumes are structured. Next it moves on to explain the various perfume categories or "families", like florals, orientals, chypres, etc. After that he moves into information on some of the ground-breaking classic perfumes by Coty, Guerlain and others, followed by descriptions of eras (the 1920's, 1930's, etc.) and the perfumes that were introduced in those time frames as well as some background information on the people like Christian Dior or Estee Lauder who brought you those scents. The book closes with unbelievably gorgeous examples of vintage perfume bottles from a time when the bottle was as important as the scent that it held. This book is a visual treat and a nice addition to the collection of anyone who studies and collects scents or perfume bottles.

Absolutely beautiful full color coffee table book packed with insider info. Printed on heavy paper, this effort is exactly what I would expect from a consummate professional nose like Mr Dove. Very informative sections on natural ingredients, the classic perfumes and the people behind them. Top notch.

This is THE BEST book on perfumes. I know the rest, I've read them all (well, almost all of them) in various shapes, sizes and formats:) But this one, THIS one, is second to none. As the previous reviewers have already noted, it's magnificent, splendid, gorgeous, and lavishly illustrated. And even that is an understatement. This book is ALIVE. It literally talks to you, takes you by the hand and carries you away on an amazing and incredible journey into the world of the fine art of scent. Even more than that, this book is a piece of art itself.

All that it was promised. A comprehensive and beautiful look at the history of fragrance. An excellent companion piece to Luca Turin's A to Z guide.

This book is a bible for fragrance addicts. It is beautiful to behold, thoughtfully written and full of delicious information.

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