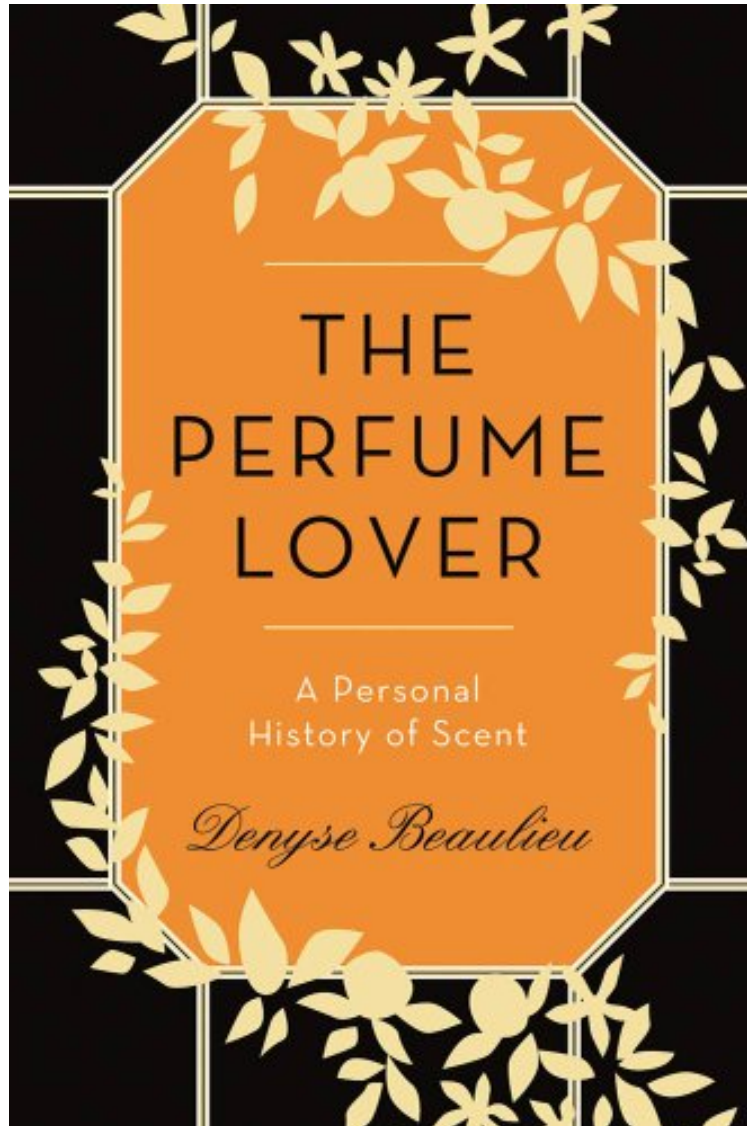


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The Perfume Lover: A Personal History of Scent

Denyse Beaulieu

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Denyse Beaulieu : The Perfume Lover: A Personal History of Scent before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Perfume Lover: A Personal History of Scent:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.) is Denysersquo;s hot and steamy account of a single nightrsquo;s love affair in the Spanish capital of lsquo;nerolirsquo; (bitter orange)By Sarah ColtonThe Perfume Lover is a story within a story of life becoming art, in which Denyse Beaulieu, a Paris-based perfume critic of renown, recounts her personal adventures as lsquo;musersquo; for perfumer Bertrand Duchaufour in the creation of lsquo;Seville agrave; Lrsquo;Aubersquo; for Lrsquo;Artisan Parfumeur. Turns out, the inspiration of the fragrance (and the book!) is Denysersquo;s hot and steamy account of a single nightrsquo;s love affair in the Spanish capital of lsquo;nerolirsquo;

(bitter orange). As *The Perfume Lover* develops, however, it becomes much more than a fascinating and page turning story, as Denyse's brilliant prose educates the reader in fine details of perfume manufacturing, raw materials, procedures and the people that make it all happen. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Well.....By MsdxieI usually wait to to read the reviews until after I've read a book myself, and this book was no exception. I have been a perfume crazed scent slut all of my life--- I remember the magical world of my grandma's vanity table and all her little fascinating bottles. And my very own first bottle of Blue Waltz, then Love's Baby Soft, Charlie, etc,etc. for me, perfume has always conjured up experiences, moods, people I've known, and places I've been. And I have and wear many different ones. I've never had a "signature scent". So I was really excited to learn more about some of the scientific aspects of perfumery and the history, and how fragrances are created and blended to evoke moods and feelings. And I did find those parts of the book fascinating--- the history--- the discussion of chemicals--- all of that-- give me more. But, Gawd! The author was so self absorbed I nearly couldn't slog through the book. I get that she's a writer, hence the vastly flowery and verbose style....and this IS her personal story....but I found myself so annoyed by her I was skipping over sections to get to what I thought of as " the good stuff". And all I kept hearing in my mind was " Wah wah.....Wah Wah Wah" Like Charlie Brown's teacher.....So, take it for what it's worth. I do recommend the book for its interesting factual material-- but be advised, you're going to want to fight off that unbearable urge to fling the book across the room. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read! By PotterI thoroughly enjoyed this book, and the fragrance on which it is based. Catnip for fragheads.

The Perfume Lover is a candid personal account of the process of composing a fragrance, filled with sensual scent descriptions, sexy tidbits, and historical vignettes. What if the most beautiful night in your life inspired a perfume? When Denyse Beaulieu was growing up near Montreal, perfume was forbidden in her house, spurring a childhood curiosity that became an intellectual and sensual passion. It is this passion she pursued all the way to Paris, where she now lives, and which led her to become a respected fragrance writer. But little did she know that it would also lead her to achieve a perfume lover's wildest dream: When Denyse tells famous perfumer Bertrand Duchaufour at L'Artisan Parfumeur of a sensual night spent in Seville under a blossoming orange tree, wrapped in the arms of a beautiful man, the story stirs his imagination and together they create a scent that captures the essence of that night. As their unique creative collaboration unfolds, the perfume-in-progress conjures intimate memories, leading Beaulieu to make sense of her life through scents. Throughout the book, she weaves the evocative history of perfumery into her personal journey, in an intensely passionate voice: the masters and the masterpieces, the myths and the myth-busting, down to the molecular mysteries that weld our flesh to flowers. Now, just to set your nostrils a quiver: Seacute;ville agrave; l'aube is an orange blossom oriental with zesty, green and balsamic effects, with notes of petitgrain, petitgrain citronnier, orange blossom, beeswax, incense, and lavender, and is now available at fragrance outlets in the U.S.

From BooklistPerfume seduces, and it is so much a part of dressing to please that it's often taken for granted. It will be difficult, though, to think of scent in such an uncomplicated fashion after reading this tantalizing mix of history, contemporary events, and autobiography. The author opens her narrative with Bertrand Duchaufour, head of L'Artisan Parfumeur, an organization that creates many of today's celebrated and favorite odors. He agreed to whip up a scent capturing the essence of her years-ago fling in Seville. Interspersed with Duchaufour's trials in arriving at the right scent are personal tales of the author's divorce from Tomcat; her liaisons with Monsieur; her upbringing in Montreal, complete with allergies and Catholic private schooling; and her intense desire to be a Parisian. Integrated in her elegant yet dense prose are definitions (such as perfume is but an aesthetic, cultural, and emotional elaboration of the raw materials provided by nature); acknowledgments of the great figures and great moments in the industry (for instance, the 1982 Dior launch of Poison); and a hint of the science and art that go into the making of a perfume. --Barbara Jacobs "So deftly does Beaulieu mix the evocatively sensual with the intellectual and literary, it's as though the pages themselves were scented." - National Post "The Perfume Lover is a gorgeous romp through the history of perfume and a personal exploration of its role in Beaulieu's life as a woman and world class sensualist. In lush prose that is as evocative as its subject, Beaulieu describes the alchemy of perfume: its intriguing manufacture, its delicious seductions, and the potent mnemonic rhapsodies ignited by the mystery of olfaction. A thoroughly delectable and passionately intelligent read." - Debra Ollivier, author of the national bestseller *What French Women Know* About the Author Denyse Beaulieu was born in Winnipeg, grew up in Montreal, and now lives in Paris, where she works as a translator. She is the author of *Sex Game Book: A Cultural History of Sexuality*. She is also the perfume editor for Citizen K and now devotes herself to smelling, analyzing, and reviewing perfumes for her bilingual blog, Grain de Musc.