

A Shakespearan Botanical

The Essence of Perfume

Essence and Alchemy

The Hundred Classics

An olfactory scientist and a perfume critic review more than 1,200 fragrances to identify preferred and less-recommended varieties, in a guide that introduces women's and men's fragrances and discusses the history and chemistry of perfumes.

'I've long wished perfumery to be taken seriously as an art, and for scent critics to be as fierce as opera critics, and for the wearers of certain "fragrances" to be hissed in public, while others are cheered. This year has brought Perfumes: The Guide by Luca Turin and Tania Sanchez, which I breathed in, rather than read, in one delighted gulp.' Hilary Mantel, Guardian Perfumes: The Guide is the culmination of Turin's lifelong obsession and rare scientific flair and Sanchez's stylish and devoted blogging about every scent that she's ever loved and loathed. Together they make a fine and utterly persuasive argument for the unrecognised craft of perfume-making. Perfume writing has certainly never been this honest, compelling or downright entertaining.