

Mandy Aftel Essence and Alchemy: A Book of Perfume



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Mandy Aftel tracks scent through the boudoir and the bath and into the sanctums of worship, providing insights on the relationship of scent to sex, solitude, and the soul. For centuries, folks have taken what seems to be an instinctive pleasure in rubbing scents to their pores and skin. Essence and Alchemy resurrects the sociable and metaphysical legacy that is entwined with the evolution of perfumery, from the dramas of the spice trade to the quests of the alchemists to whom today's perfumers owe a philosophical as well as a practical debt. And as long as there's been perfume, there have been perfumers, or rather the priests, shamans, and apothecaries who have been their predecessors. Yet, in many ways, perfumery is usually a lost artwork, its creative and sensual possibilities eclipsed by the artificial ingredients of which contemporary perfumes are composed, which have non-e of the subtlety and complexity of essences produced from natural chemicals, nor their lush histories. Perfume offers helped them to pray, to heal, and to have sex. An artisan perfumer reveals a shed art and its mysterious, sensual history. Along the way, she imparts instruction in the art of perfume compositions, filled with recipes, guiding the reader in a process of transformation of materials that continues to check out the alchemical dictum resolve et coagula (dissolve and combine) and is usually itself aesthetically and spiritually transforming.



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Essence and Alchemy In order to properly review colognes and perfumes, I had to literally educate myself regarding important oils, Best tones, Mid tones, and Bass tones. I have read and studied many books about the annals of perfumery and elements one needs merely to START! Start up cost would be somewhere close to \$300 for various important natural oils, herbal fragrances, citrus fragrances, merely to name several. The book is simple to read, hard to grasp sometimes, aesthetically pleasing. Pages 60-64 explain exactly how to get to know each of your essences at the deepest level so that you can begin to observe what blending the natural oils can lead to. I've been attempting to make some vibrational sprays for my clients & You will get a delightful background of perfumeryand the author includes beautiful illustrations. Ms. Aftel can be well-known available of fabricating custom scents, and incredibly well-versed in her craft. I would not say she is a great author, but, neither am I. Some might find her writing style inspirational because of her frequent use of metaphor and grandiosity. I would recommend.? There is no doubting Mandy Aftel's nose. Great Book Great Read. Sorry, that's way too harsh. I loved this reserve and I'm going to read it again, and return often to passages i highlighted the first time through. But I'm pleased I slogged to the parts where she's really talking about what she really does. It's one artisans personal and practical philosophy on the artistry of perfume making with some perfume history and practical details to end up being gleaned by the eager or tolerant and patient reader. This knowledge will need to have taken her years to acquire and its very generous of her to share it. This is where the writer explains how perfumes were created then gives short descriptions of the usual ingredients used. This book is approximately perfumery and how exactly to blend perfumes from traditional "natural" materials (essential oils, absolutes, concretes, natural fixatives and animal products predominantly) for beginning perfumers. The result will be to allow you to make innovative decisions on your own.. Please upgrade this in the next printing. Wonderfully written and informative. Some reviewers seem to have wanted a recipe publication. Recommend it for perfume fans?. You'll receive basic how to information, but more importantly you'll obtain context to comprehend why and how scents function. I do need to complain about the grade of the printing. When Mandy waxes lyrical about perfume in general she will go all airy-fairy and loses me. Offers good information for beginners but could be a difficult read It is worth purchasing and reading for the start organic, artistry perfumer or kitchen witch but most likely not going to end up being an easy browse for empirically minded chemistry types. That is a book by Mandy Aftel, the artist and professional perfumer.. This is not an alchemy or research based perfumery text. She gives a lot of hard-won information about the workings of every fragrance notice, and how each one complements the others. The book begins with the annals of perfume that is OK, Perhaps, but that isn't my interest. There are several tables of useful info that clearly outline which oil combinations are historically harmonious or that she discovers harmonious and will be offering some basic formulas, harmonies and accords for the start perfumer to start with - although you will require at least \$200-\$300 worth of materials which you might already mainly have. Even some of the jumbo-jumbo stuff about alchemy can be kind of interesting. It seems like most of the materials in this publication is aggregated from various other historical sources but again I don't believe one can reveal steps to make perfumes without going into the historical blending of perfumery; it looks like every reserve I've read up to now about them does a similar thing including the more science based books. If you are wanting to learn more about the technology of perfumery from a modern or even more empirical perspective filled up with complex information then that is definitely NOT the proper book for you. types of essences such as floral, fruity, woody, animal, earthy, resinous, balsamic, green, edible for Base notes; As an artist I acquired a lot from it on a

materials based and intuitive procedure kind of way. As an empirical leaning, research based beginning perfumer I was annoyed by the meanderings, hyperbole & Inspired me to get to know my important oils in the deepest level I'm a practicing aromatherapist for 20 years who is certainly self-taught generally. Then later on in the book, she speaks in detail of the guidelines to creating a blend as well as giving recipes for blends such as for example how to make a high, middle and bottom chord mix, sensual blends, blends for meditation & She writes some philosophically based opinions into the text as though they are fact so be familiar with guru-ism. It is very clear that the writer feels a strong connection with perfumery's historic alchemical, guild structured and apothecary roots and her insight comes from her practical knowledge and encounter as both a professional and artist. In case you are wanting to start creating your personal fragrances, this is a very good book for the beginner. Despite what I came across to be mainly fluff I believe the writer does a fairly good job of bringing the materials down to a human being level and makes perfumery approachable plenty of to start blending for many people. In the event you can't tell I'm not keen on her writing style and am of the opinion that her composing design (or lack thereof) tends to cloud a few of the value this book offers in the way of useful information. I'm sure she is a wonderful perfumer but a article writer she is not. The alchemical aspect is not readily apparent aside from the authors usage of some "alchemical" terminology, exaggerations and hyping up the mysterious aspects of historical processes of perfumery, existence and biology for impact. My wife reads archaic alchemy texts and couldn't get half way through this book. It seems that the alchemical reference is definitely even more for effect and marketing chaff just as jazz bands prefer to over utilize it.. Instead it comes across as another advertising piece for the Aftel franchise method of doing things. lack of organization. Readers will definitely study from this book. customers, but didn't really know how to BLEND essential oils to get the outcome I needed. Apparently the only method you can find out about actual/accurate perfume making would be to take classes or attend a perfume school, and of course those price an arm and a leg. But overall a huge waste of my time and will provide you with stupid. In case you are seeking an "inspirational", emotive stuffed how-to from the perspective of a professional artisan in order to get the feet wet then you will be able to glean useful information, everything depends on your leanings and/or tenacity - I missed it that inspiring personally, the 3 levels of the scent over time; essences that always go collectively well; how to develop a blend for a person, and much more. She gives a list of best, middle and base notice essential oils to begin with and what to increase your collection as you complement. So, when you can transformation your mindset easily, it is a delightful publication. The author originates from her personal encounter and philosophy as a specialist perfumer and relates her experience in a way that makes it appear to be her religious beliefs. bath, etc. Lots of information, recommended books, and assets for supplies. Very useful and the historical narratives are very interesting. This book gives a vast amount of practical information about how perfumery works: best, middle and bottom notes; I'm sure she actually is well meaning and I'm sure she knows a lot about the annals and contemplative process of alchemy, especially as it pertains to her craft but it doesn't really run into in a way that is specifically related to alchemy in general for you personally practical or laboratory alchemy types.. Bought this based from a few reviews here and on another discussion board and they couldn't end up being farther from the reality. In case you are buying this to obtain concrete ideas on how best to create essential oil perfume, you're wasting your time. If you are just a beginner and know Nothing at all about perfume making, that is a marginally good read. But overall a huge waste of my time and will offer you stupid simple beginner dishes for a small number of generic scents/smells. It was

essentially hit or miss. Therefore my dream of learning to be a hobby perfume maker is not any more. So very much wasted amount of time in this book about background of perfume making and notes used, etc. So boring and a real snoozer. Really good Just about a how-to-do-it-book, however luxurious and compelling. The ink is grayer than black and the pages seem like they were laser printed instead of offset printed... The author seems to go in one at the mercy of another in the blink of an eyesight... It really is about her personal "alchemy" since it relates to the artwork of perfumery as she views it. and a reference book! A good summary of perfume. This publication is indeed much more. I read within a tri fix alongside Secret of Scent and AN IDEAL Scent (also great reads) Very entertaining and educational read -- I learned a ton! I read within a tri fix alongside Top secret of Scent and AN IDEAL Scent (also great reads). Its her composing that's open to question... Five Stars This is a divinely sensuous debate of real perfume ingredients. Everything you need to learn about combining essential natural oils. Five Stars An extremely good book on the subject of perfume and its own history. Regardless of the authors extensive use of hyperbole and insufficient clear organization of a few of the material there is a lot to be gleaned from this book for beginners who aren't prepared to dive head 1st into expensive or difficult to find archaic perfumery texts or chemistry tomes. The next section of the book is the real goldmine of this book. It'll save amateur perfumers a lot of costly mistakes. blending perfumes which comes out with the dosage suggestions and suggested blends. The writer has obvious and deep experience mixing & As the book is fairly short, this book has potential to have that serendipitous suggestion you were looking for as an amateur perfumer.



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