

La Diva Nicotina

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on october 12 1492 after an arduous voyage his crew near mutinous his provisions exhausted christopher columbus landed on a small island he believed to be part of china he was met by representatives of the local tribe who offered him gifts of beads fruit and dried leaves he threw the latter in the sea but columbus and his crew did not remain ignorant of these leaves powers or purpose for long la diva nicotina traces the history of our relationship with a plant whose only function is to stimulate from its beginnings amongst the ancient civilisations of south america to the present day from mayan gods to marlboro man from casanova to president clinton la diva nicotina examines the roles tobacco has played in its long association with men and women including its functions as spiritual messenger as sexual ambassador as a cure for cancer global currency and ultimately as an assassin ever since the arrival of christopher columbus in the americas tobacco has been central to western civilisation and in some cases has been the cause of revolutions and the birth of nations tracing its development from ritual refreshment to universal habit la diva nicotina is a fascinating

and witty dissection of this dangerously seductive plant

mrs p s journey is the enchanting story of phyllis pearsall born phyllis isobella gross her lifelong nickname was pig the artist daughter of a flamboyant hungarian jewish immigrant and an irish italian mother her bizarre and often traumatic childhood did not restrain her from becoming one of britain s most intriguing entrepreneurs and self made millionaires after an unsatisfactory marriage phyllis a thirty year old divorcee had to support herself and so became a portrait painter it is doing this job and trying to find her patron s houses that phyllis became increasingly frustrated at the lack of proper maps of london instead of just cursing the fact as many fellow londoners probably did phyllis decided to do something about it without hesitation she covered london s 23 000 streets on foot during the course of one year often leaving her horseferry road bedsit at dawn to do so to publish the map and in light of its enormous success she sets up her own company the geographer s trust which still publishes the london a z and that of every major british city mrs p s journey is the account of a strong independent woman who has left behind an enduring legacy

a rich complex history deeply engaging and witty los angeles times long before columbus arrived in the new world tobacco was cultivated and enjoyed by the indigenous inhabitants of the americas who used it for medicinal religious and social purposes but when europeans began to colonize the american continents it became something else entirely a cultural touchstone of pleasure and success and a coveted commodity that would transform the world economy forever iain gately s tobacco tells the epic story of an unusual plant and its unique relationship with the history of humanity from its obscure ancient beginnings through its rise to global prominence to its current embattled state today in a lively narrative gately makes the case for the tobacco trade being the driving force behind the growth of the american colonies the foundation of dutch trading empire the underpinning cause of the african slave trade and the financial basis for victory in the american revolution well researched and wide ranging tobacco is a vivid and provocative look at the surprising roles this plant has played in the culture of the world ambitious informative and perceptive gately is an amusing writer which is a blessing the washington post documents the resourcefulness with which human beings of every class religion race and continent have pursued the lethal leaf the new york times book review

attempts to explain the shift from egalitarian classical economic thought to the difference and hierarchy of post classical economic thinking

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a lo largo de la historia fumar ha sido considerado de muy diversas maneras como un acto mágico como una práctica saludable como algo placentero como una dependencia esclavizante como un vicio reprobable como un hábito dañino o como una peligrosa epidemia a erradicar por qué se le han otorgado sentidos tan distintos y opuestos adorado o rechazado beneficioso o perjudicial el tabaco nunca fue algo indiferente para el hombre si bien en nuestros días predomina el rechazo el hábito de fumar ocupa una parte importante de la vida de muchísimas personas no sólo son muchos los que viven fumando también son muchos los que viven dejando de fumar y muchos también los que viven intentando que otros no fumen qué misteriosa cualidad tiene el acto de fumar que lo vuelve tan importante para tantas personas para comprender por qué la gente fuma el autor ilumina un aspecto que ha pasado desapercibido la importancia que tiene el fuego y por extensión el humo en el complejo ritual del acto de fumar el camino recorrido le permite formular también una hipótesis para comprender lo que motiva más allá de las verdades que aduce la razón el rechazo afectivo hacia el fumador tan vigente en nuestros días con sus reflexiones gustavo chiozza hace una contribución invalorable acerca de un acto cotidiano presente entre nosotros desde hace miles de años pero también sobre los modos de pensar nuestra vida y nuestra salud acaso una forma de comprender el valor de la libertad para elegir

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a concise history of smoking in british popular culture from the early nineteenth century to the present day provides the historical backdrop to the current debates about the politics of tobacco and health demonstrating that both pro and anti smokers have consistently failed to understand the position of smoking within popular culture important themes explored include the importance of consumption to constructions of masculinity and femininity the role of the state in the official regulation of the minor vices the morality of consumption and the position of scientific knowledge within popular culture traces the production promotion and consumption of tobacco as well as outlining the arguments that have variously opposed this ever controversial drug genuinely interdisciplinary combining elements of social cultural and economic history whilst contributing to debates in sociology and cultural studies the anthropology of material culture design history medical history and public health policy

this text addresses the history of britain in the context of modernism from victorian debates about national character to exhibitions of artefacts such as the moving pavement that revolutionised the future appearance of cities

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