

A Field Guide to the World's Smells

From Harold McGee, James Beard Award–winning author and leading expert on the science of food and cooking, comes an extensive exploration of the long-overlooked world of smell. In *Nose Dive*, McGee takes us on a sensory adventure, from the sulfurous nascent earth more than four billion years ago, to the fruit-filled Tian Shan mountain range north of the Himalayas, to the keyboard of your laptop, where trace notes of phenol and formaldehyde escape between the keys.

Through it all, McGee familiarizes us with the bits of matter that we breathe in—the molecules that trigger our perceptions, that prompt the citrusy smells of coriander and beer and the medicinal smells of daffodils and sea urchins. And like everything in the physical world, molecules have histories. Many of the molecules that we smell every day existed long before any creature was around to smell them—before there was even a planet for those creatures to live on. Beginning with the origins of those molecules in interstellar space, McGee moves onward through the smells of our planet, the air and the oceans, the forest and the city, all the way to the smells of incense, perfume, wine, and food.

A work of astounding scholarship and originality, *Nose Dive* distills the science behind the smells and translates it, as only McGee can, into an accessible and entertaining guide.

Read by Tim Fannon



HighBridge

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