# 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

o hara presents the first general history of britons relationship with the surrounding oceans from 1600 to the present day this all encompassing account covers individual seafarers ship borne migration warfare and the maritime economy as well as the british people s maritime ideas and self perception throughout the centuries

in the late 1630s andrea stuart s earliest known maternal ancestor set sail from england lured by the promise of the new world to settle in barbados where he fell by chance into the lucrative life of a sugar plantation owner with george ashby s first crop the cane revolution was underway and would go on to transform the caribbean into an archipelago of riches establishing a thriving worldwide

industry that bound together ambitious white entrepreneurs and enslaved black workers as it grew this sweet colonial trade fuelled the enlightenment and financed the industrial revolution but it also had more direct less palatable consequences for the individuals caught up in it consequences that still haunt the author s past in this unique personal history andrea stuart follows the thread of her own family s involvement with sugar through successive generations telling a story of insatiable greed and forbidden love of abuse and liberation

sex and drugs before the rock n rollis a fascinating volume that presents an engaging overview of what it was like to be young and male in the dutch golden age here well known cohorts of rembrandt are examined for the ways in which they expressed themselves by defying conservative values and norms this study reveals how these young men rebelled breaking from previous generations letting their hair grow long wearing colorful clothing drinking excessively challenging city guards being promiscuous smoking and singing lewd songs cogently argued this study paints a compelling portrait of the youth culture of the dutch golden age at a time when the rising popularity of print made dissemination of new cultural ideas possible while rising incomes and liberal attitudes created a generation of men behaving badly

a rich complex history deeply engaging and witty los angeles times long before columbus arrived in the new word 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

from the author of a brief history of the smile a complete index of the digit in this collision between art and science history and pop culture the acclaimed art historian angus trumble examines the finger from every possible angle his inquiries into its representation in art take us from buddhist statues in kyoto to the ceiling of the sistine chapel from cave art to picasso s guernica from van dyck s and rubens s winning ways with gloves to the longstanding french taste for tapering digits but trumble also asks intriguing questions about the finger in general how do fingers work and why do most of us have five on each hand why do we bite our nails this witty odd and fascinating book is filled with diverse anecdotes about the silent language of gesture the game of love the spinning of balls superstitions relating to the severed fingers of thieves and systems of computation that were used on wharves and in shops markets granaries and warehouses throughout the ancient roman world side by side with historical discussions of rings and gloves and nail polish are meditations on the finger s essential role in writing speech sports crime law sex worhsip memory scratching politely at eighteenth century french doors instead of crudely knocking or merely satisfying an itch and of course in the eponymous show of contempt

covers 15 broad subject groupings social sciences generic psychology sociology social work social welfare politics government law finance accountancy taxation industries utilities business management education learning sport media communications information library sciences and tools for information professionals

spain 1493 europe s first smoker imprisioned by the inquisition england 1604 massive tax rise on tobacco in a bid to discourage smoking canada 1676 smoking is banned in the street united states 1899 anti smoking campaigners call for the eradication of tobacco germany 1944 smoking banned on public transport to protect workers from secondhand smoke in this revealing and meticulously

researched account of an untold story christopher snowdon traces the fortunes of those who have tried to stamp out tobacco through the ages velvet glove iron fist takes the reader on a journey from 15th century cuba to 21st century california via revolutionary france victorian britain prohibition era america and nazi germany along the way the author finds uncanny parallels between today s anti smoking activists and those of the past today as the same tactics begin to be used against those who enjoy alcohol chocolate fast food gambling and perfume velvet glove iron fist provides a timely reminder that once politicians start regulating private behaviour they find it very hard to quit

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down winding tunnels and across gritty subway platforms through her writing both gritty and raw kole introduces an unforgettable cast of characters in a world that millions pass through but few know well the chapters are informal intimate diary entries jotted down at midnight after long sessions underground

meanjin is a quarterly literary journal publishing the best new writing from established voices and emerging talents for over 70 years meanjin has articulated questions of national importance questions or art culture policy and identity as well as introducing some of the greatest literary names australia has ever produced

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