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For the most part, "The Smell Culture Reader" is a very good volume, and one I'd recommend for anyone wanting to understand more about how this, for many decades the "black sheep" of our sensory family, has affected and been affected by our cultures, both Western and non-Western. It's not an in-depth study, but a generalized overview giving a sampling of what the sense of smell has been for us over the centuries, from our modern urges to do away with odors to the significance many religions place on incense and other fragrances. The only part of the book for which The Smell Culture Reader provides a much-needed overview of what is arguably the most elusive sense. From hygiene to aromatherapy, the fetid to the fragrant, smells are shown to be much more than just an adornment or a nuisance. Addressing this engaging sense in redolent detail, The Smell Culture Reader demonstrates how essential smell is to sexuality, social status, personal identity, and cultural tradition. From the sanitisation of 18th-century French streets, through oxygen bars in contemporary cities to digital scratch and virtual sniff, Jim Drobnick's The Smell Culture Reader provides a fascinating journey through the pleasures and pains of one of the most neglected senses in contemporary cultural studies. Indeed, this collection of essays provides more than enough evidence that smell, as well as being a biological sense, is "subtly involved in just about every aspect of culture, from the construction of personal identity and the defining of social status to the confirming of group a...Â Against such a backdrop, this is indeed a timely collection. The Smell Culture Reader. First Edition.