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The Smoking Life

Ilene Barth

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#6049619 in Books Genesis Press 1997-12-01 1997-10-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.26 x .99 x 9.12l, #File Name: 1885478224268 pages | File size: 79.Mb

Ilene Barth : The Smoking Life before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Smoking Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Ken Good little book 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A book with both historical insight and humor. By 02mnb@williams.edu The Smoking life is a pleasure to read. It is more of a coffee-table gift book than anything else but I cannot remember learning and laughing as much from any other such book that I have seen. The book made me laugh but it is not fluff. Ilene Barth must have done an extraordinary amount of research on the history of tobacco use. She found everything from Sixteenth Century woodcuts to quotations and stills from our favorite classic movies. She has found a lot of wonderful art. All of these illustrate what is the extremely important social history of tobacco--a history that I had never considered. I don't smoke and I must say that I find the habit a bit foul, but I think anyone who is following the media stories about tobacco ought to read The Smoking Life. After all, we do need to put today's big story in to the context of our history and Ms. Barth shows the big role that smoking has had in that history. But most of all, we need a sense of humor about this all and The Smoking Life gives us just that.

The Smoking Life is an astute, funny and delightfully politically incorrect tour of tobacco customs, past and present.