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As each person is born to the planet there are only a couple of certainties about their future. Our forefathers used their understanding of the evolving world economy to mate taxes with death. Prophets have used our fear of the inevitable and the uncertain as leverage to consume our faith. In a book written by Seattleite, Tom Robbins, the inevitability of death is put on trial. By using our minds we can extend our likely lifespan by adding critical nutrients and removing deadly toxins from our diet and immediate environment. We can exercise our physiological systems as a means of diagnosis and maintenance. Robbins does more than prattle about proper diet and exercise. He sculpts a narrative out of the forests of ancient Bohemia and the mountains of Pakistan. In *Jitterbug Perfume* he emphasizes the importance of lightheartedness, in this world and the next.

With his comedic intuition and ability to captivate a reader's wanderlust, Robbins brings us into a mysterious world of ancient cave dwelling, hash smoking pranksters who, with great reluctance, share the secrets of immortality with our protagonist. Though the immortal are rumored to be gloom and ungrateful, it is a story of epic love, great hope, and timeless adventure. The character Alobar fights to teach the reader the dangers of a society unable to venture outside its intellect in pursuit of their greed. By being a nomad, Alobar gives Robbins the opportunity to share with the reader his views on the evolution of the early western world, theology and philosophies not native to Europe. Far eastern mysticism and magic come in the form of a wife for the deserter-king.

Along with the clear spiritual intentions of the book, it focuses on the suggestion that odor is critical in the evolution of man. Tom Robbins' books are known for their unwillingness to close or be set own. Aside from the entertainment value of this

novel, it asks the reader to expand his/her curiosity.

Spending time alive forces us to ponder death. In what may be his most famous and popular novel Tom Robbins sends our hearts flying as the book ends, far away on a breeze as pleasant as opium.