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# THE LEFT COAST NOSE

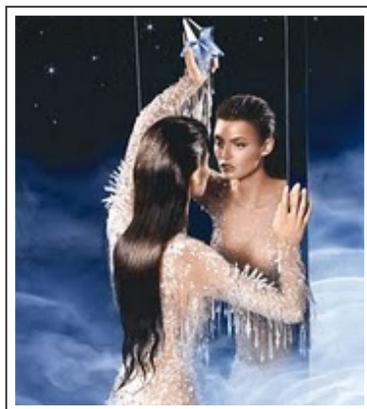
"EXPERIENCING SCENTS WITH A SAN FRANCISCO SENSIBILITY"

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009

## Thierry Mugler "Angel" 0 (No Stars)

A Story of Two No-Stars in  
Two Parts: Part II (Read Part I  
HERE)

I was talking about the  
difficulties in imparting useful  
information in perfume.



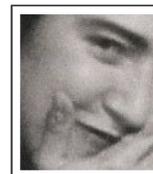
If esoteric flower and spice  
notes are out of reach for the amateur sniffer, it does seem  
to me that the one set of scent guidelines we can all agree on  
is food. After all, we all know food. We've all eaten it, we've  
all smelled it. Most of us won't know what "opptomax"  
smells like in our lifetimes, but at least we can agree on  
cinnamon.

But even when it comes to food scents (known as "gourmand"  
fragrances, which refers to candy, chocolate, nuts, flour and  
cereals, coffee, honey, booze, and so on), great noses, it  
seems can disagree, or come up with wildly different  
interpretations of the same perfume.

How about Thierry Mugler's "Angel," which  
theperfumedcourt.com explains thusly: "This sweet Oriental  
vanilla fragrance has top notes of fruits, dewberry, and  
honey; middles notes of chocolate, caramel, and coumarin  
[the smell of sweet hay]; and base notes of vanilla,  
sandalwood and patchouli."

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### ABOUT ME



SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

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### LEFTCOASTNOSE RATING SYSTEM

- \*\*\*\*\* Transcendent;  
extraordinary; a revelation
- \*\*\*\* Flawless at every stage;  
distinctive; an avatar
- \*\*\* Yummy; the right scent for a  
certain mood
- \*\* Kinda good (or) "weird but  
worth it"
- \* Eh
- 0 (No Stars) Handle bottle with  
tongs

### NOTES ABOUT LEFT COAST NOSE

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So is that what "Angel" smells like, an obvious gourmand fragrance, with chocolate, vanilla, fruits, candies, spices, woods? I suppose, in a sense, it does.

Here is how Chandler Burr, who adores "Angel," describes it in "The Perfect Scent":

"The secret of Angel's formula is a juxtaposition of two diabetic-shock-inducing sweet scents, marzipan... and cotton candy... Alone, this would be a tooth-rotting confection but Cresp [the perfumer] threw in a huge dose of natural patchouli, a grasslike plant grown principally in Indonesia, and its strange strong green/organic smell cuts through and freezes the sweetness (p. 159.)"

So this is how Burr would have you understand "Angel": cotton candy, almond paste, and patchouli. No chocolate, no fruits. And despite the slightly scary warning words, ("diabetic-shock inducing," "tooth-rotting,") not too sweet, and wonderful, simply wonderful.

However, when Yves de Chiris, a key artistic consultant for "Angel," talks about the patchouli element, he calls it "crushed ice in Grand Marnier." This makes it sound cool, refined, classy, citrusy, and above all, if it is a gourmandy scent, then a grown-up one, not defined by the smells of childhood excess.

Let me tell you what I smell when I smell "Angel." It is the scent of bees, of a swarm of tiny, little, sugar bees. But they are angry, because they've come back to their hive and found their hard-earned honey missing. It has been replaced with an artificially-flavored orange syrup. The bee-keeper is trying to calm them down for the mean trick he's played, swapping out nice honey for nasty sticky hell-paste. He wafts a smoke-pot over them—that's supposed to soothe them, but the smoke is incense laced with angel dust. (What's in a name?)

## LCN Glossary

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### List of Samples to Trade

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## THINGS I LIKE TO SMELL LIKE

cinnamon, amber, sandalwood, citrus rind, saffron, woods, musk, cardamom, clove, jasmine, orange blossom, vanilla, frankincense, truffles, beeswax, flour, figs, wisteria, smoke, powder, earth, osmanthus, ambergris, bergamot

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## THINGS I LIKE TO SMELL (BUT NOT WEAR)

fruit, roses, tea, coconut, chocolate, coffee, caramel, lavender, cucumber, basil, lemon, booze, mint

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## THINGS I DO NOT LIKE TO SMELL

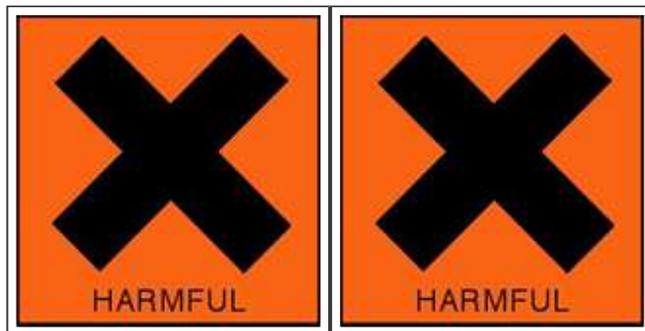
cotton candy, peony, narcissus, carnation, iris/orris butter, freesia, lily, anise, banana, detergent

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The bees grow even more agitated; they're having lurid, violent hallucinations. The bee-keeper can't control them, they are everywhere, swarming faster and faster- he reaches for a box of insecticide. But the nightmare is never ending—it's hot powdered sugar spiked with rabies he's sprinkling on them. The bees begin frothing at their tiny, rage-filled mouths.

"Angel" is the scent of powdered sugar, the inside of an aluminum orange soda can, patchouli, and raving rabid homicidal bee froth. It is the fragrance the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse would wear if the Four Horsemen were War, Pestilence, Death, and Tooth Decay. It is the scent of a terrible emergency, and no one should ever smell it.



Is there anything "right" you can say about perfume? "Angel" is one of the best-selling perfumes of all time.

**For more commentary on Thierry Mugler and image credits, click [HERE](#).**

POSTED BY THE LEFT COAST NOSE AT 6:47 AM   
 LABELS: ANGEL, CHANDLER BURR, THIERRY MUGLER

#### THINGS I LOVE/HATE IN PERFUME

oakmoss, patchouli, tuberose, gardenia, tobacco, leather, fruits, rose

#### LABELS

Parfums DelRae (12)  
 Tom Ford (11) CB I  
 Hate Perfume (10)  
 DelRae Roth (7) Michel  
 Roudnitska (7) Black March  
 (6) Chandler Burr (6) Black  
 Orchid (5) Bois de Paradis  
 (5) Hermès (4) Lovely (4) Noir  
 de Noir (4) Perfect Night (4) Tea  
 Rose (4) Unidentified Fragrance  
 Object (4) Amber Absolute (3)  
 Amoureuse (3) Angel (3) Bella  
 Bellissima (3) Big White Flower  
 Syndrome (3) Chanel (3) Coco (3)  
 David Yurman (3) Dzing (3) Eau  
 Illuminée (3) Eau d'Hermès (3)  
 Flowerbomb (3) Kenzo (3)  
 Luctor et Emergo (3) Memories  
 of Kindness (3) Ormonde Woman  
 (3) Sarah Jessica Parker (3)  
 Thierry Mugler (3) UFO (3)  
 Versace (3) Versace EDP (3) A  
 Quiet Morning (2) Amouage (2)  
 Apothia (2) Baudelaire (2) Diorella  
 (2) Diptyque (2) Début (2)  
 Emotionnelle (2) Gucci (2) If (2)  
 Justin Bond (2) Kiehl's "Original  
 Musk Oil" (2) L'Artisan (2) Michael  
 Kors (2) Michael Kors For Women (2)  
 Miller et Bertaux (2) Musk  
 Reinvention Absolute (2) Mythique  
 (2) Ormonde Jayne (2) People of

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the Labyrinths (2) PeredePierre (2) Private Blend Noir de Noir (2) Rush (2) Victor and Rolf (2) White-Whites (2) Yellow (2) burger (2) AbdesSalaam Attar (1) Acqua di Parma (1) All I Am-A Redhead (1) Ambra di Venezia (1) Andy Warhol (1) Antony Hegarty (1) Antony and the Johnsons (1) Avery Gilbert (1) B de Boucheron (1) BWFS (1) Beyonce (1) Bois Rouge (1) Boucheron (1) BurrOmeter (1) Byredo (1) Carnal Flower (1) Carol Queen (1) Caron (1) Clive Christian (1) Cuir de Russie (1) Dawn Spencer Hurwitz (1) DelRae (1) Diamond Water (1) Edmond Roudnitska (1) Elena Vosnaki (1) Eureka (1) Frankincense (1) Frederic Malle (1) Fresh (1) Ginger Ciao (1) Indole (1) Indolic (1) Ines (1) Iris Nobile (1) JAR (1) Jean-Claude Ellena (1) Jo Malone (1) Juicy Couture (1) Juliette has a Gun (1) Katie Puckrik (1) Kelly Caliche (1) Kitchener (1) L'Eau de Tarocco (1) Light Blue (1) Midnight Oud (1) Miel de Bois (1) Moss Breches (1) Nanadebary (1) No. #1 (1) Nude (1) Object (1) Olivia Giacobetti (1) Oud Wood (1) Padparadscha (1) Perfume (1) Pilar and Lucy (1) Pretty Water (1) Prince (1) Private Blend Amber Absolute (1) Purple (1) Purples (1) Reflection (1) Sake (1) Satellite (1) Saturation (1) Scent (1) Serge Lutens (1) Snap (1) Stella McCartney (1) Tabac Blond (1) To Twirl All Girly (1) Tom Ford For Men (1) Tuscan Leather (1) Yosh (1) blow up (1) car bomb (1) citation policy (1) commentary policy (1) copyright (1) manifesto (1) permission (1) privacy policy (1)

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▶ 2010 (4)

▼ 2009 (51)

▶ December (10)

▶ November (10)

▼ October (27)

Satellite "Padparadscha"

\*\*\*\*

Ormonde Jayne "Ormonde  
Woman" \*\*\*

Thierry Mugler "Angel" 0  
(No Stars)

Victor & Rolf  
"Flowerbomb" 0 (No  
Stars)

Bella Bellissima "Perfect  
Night" \*\*

L'Artisan "Dzing!" \*\*

Tom Ford "Private Blend  
Noir de Noir" \*\*\*

List of Smells to Trade

Parfums DelRae  
"Amoureuse" \*\*\*\*

Dawn Spencer Hurwitz  
"Prince" ?????

Parfums DelRae "Bois de  
Paradis" \*\*\*\*\*

LCN Glossary

0 (No stars out of \*\*\*\*\*)

\* (Out of \*\*\*\*\*)

\*\* (Out of \*\*\*\*\*)

\*\*\* (Out of \*\*\*\*\*)

\*\*\*\* (Out of \*\*\*\*\*)

\*\*\*\*\* (Out of \*\*\*\*\*)

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▶ [September \(4\)](#)

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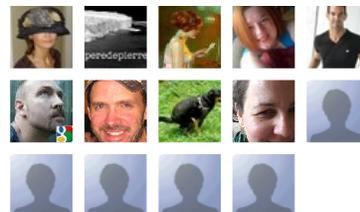
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