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## Cigar Asphyxianado

*Eric Spitznagel*

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**Eric Spitznagel : Cigar Asphyxianado** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cigar Asphyxianado:

Everybody is lighting up these days. From personalities like Schwarzenegger and Madonna to Cosby and Castro, people from all walks of life are enjoying the richness and pleasure from a good stogie. As cigar smoking becomes one of the hottest cultural trends of the 1990s, one publication continues to report from the very center of this phenomenon as it chronicles its every move -- Cigar Aficionado. Now, this hilarious parody -- "Cigar Asphyxianado" -- takes dead aim at the snobbery and arrogance of the "above" average cigar smoker. From draw strengths to smooth nutty finishes, "Cigar Asphyxianado" teaches readers how to maximize the pleasures of a good cigar without losing its tongue-in-cheek wit. In the tradition of the bestselling *Is Martha Stuart Living?* comes this hilarious parody of the stylized

monthly magazine devoted to the pleasures of cigars and the chic lifestyle of the cigar smoker.

.com It might almost be argued that the cigar lifestyle magazines that Eric Spitznagel so perfectly parodies are already beyond a joke, but Cigar Asphyxianado manages to get a lot of laughs out of a very bad habit. Describing itself as "Not the best magazine on cigars, but certainly the most pretentious," this book touches every base--from the cigar-toting celebrity cover-shot (Fidel Castro) to the ads that promise that "Size Does Matter." And for the tobacco tyro, there are even instructions on how to light your favorite stogie: Angle the cigar 25 degrees below horizontal and hold the flame exactly 1/3" below the foot. Rotate the cigar under the flame, alternating between clockwise and counterclockwise, allowing 23 seconds for the clockwise rotations and 29 seconds for the counterclockwise, while puffing the cigar every two to four minutes (depending on the room temperature). Continue this process for 43 minutes. This book will probably prevent Eric Spitznagel from ever visiting Cuba, and people who actually buy magazines about cigars may not get the joke, but for everyone else, Cigar Asphyxianado is a lot of fun. --Simon Leake