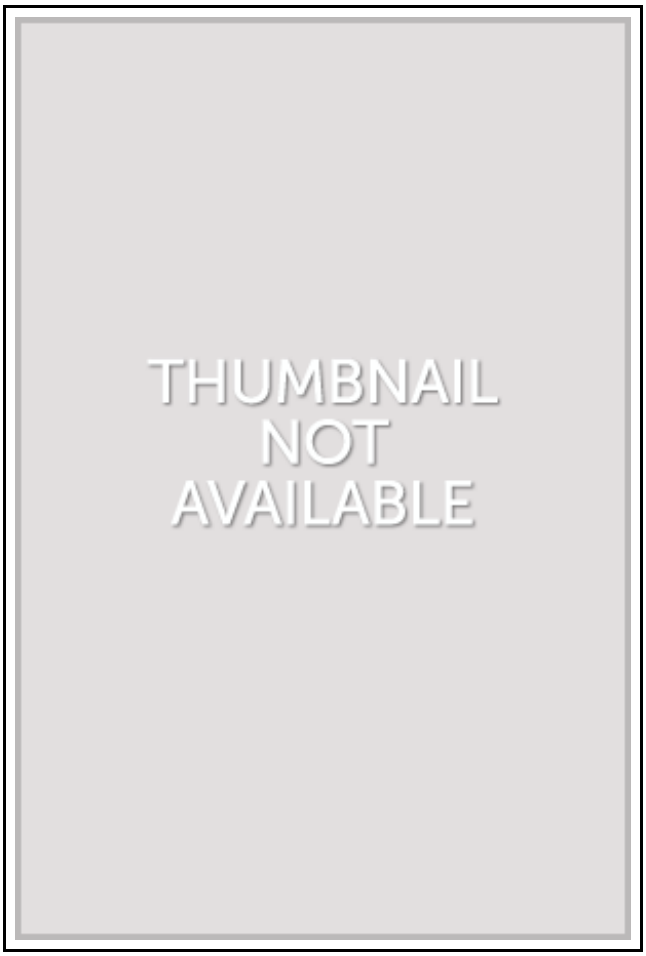
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Reviews

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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Elements of Conchology: Prepared for the Use of Schools and Colleges The fifth of the Series of First Books of Natural History, embraces that branch of our subject which treats of the Mollusca, or soft animals, and, consequently, includes the Elements of Conchology. In the beauty and singularity of their forms, the variety and brilliancy of their colours, shells only yield to flowers. The admiration of these deserted habitations of a very numerous class of animals is very general, if not universal; scarcely a house, at least in sea-port towns, is without a few shells, and in many there are large collections of them. Comparatively, few persons, however, view them in connection with animal existence - for the mass, they are merely beautiful things from the seas and rivers, far and near. We care little how they grow, how they live, how they breathe, upon what they feed, or for what use they were created. Who stops to think an oyster has a heart and blood-vessels, a breathing apparatus, a nervous system, or digestive organs? How very few are aware that certain snails possess eyes and lay eggs; nor is it universally known that we are indebted to the organization of soft animals for mother-of-pearl and pearls! Limited as this little volume is, it may prove a key to stores of information, even more interesting to many than the numerous fictions of the day. Truth is stranger than fiction, has been often said; and the beautiful truths brought to us by a study of animal life, in its various forms, are certainly more admirable and wonderful than any fiction of man s creation. Is there...

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