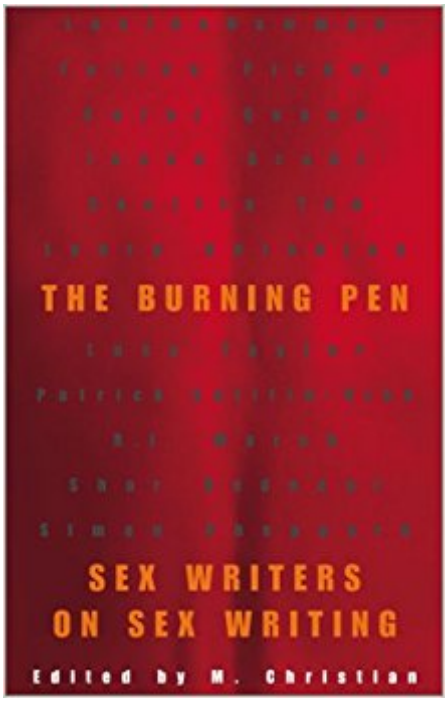
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The Burning Pen: Sex Writers On Sex Writing



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Synopsis

In this groundbreaking work, contemporary writers of erotica reflect on how their work originates, how their sexuality shapes their words, and, more important, how their words have affected their sexuality. Patrick Califia-Rice, Fack Fritscher, Cecilia Tan, Thomas Roche, Carol Queen, Felice Picano, Shar Rednour, Laura Antoniou, and Simon Sheppard are just a scattering of the names brought together by noted erotica writer M. Christian to deliver an eye-opening, thought-provoking examination of the craft of writing about sex, which includes each writer’s favorite erotic story as an illustration of this group’s diverse approach to sexuality and language.M. Christian is the author of Dirty Words , Eros Ex Machina, Midsummer Night’s Dreams, and Guilty Pleasures, and the editor (with Simon Sheppard) of Rough Stuff.

Book Information

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: Alyson Books; 1st edition (November 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1555836151

ISBN-13: 978-1555836153

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 5.4 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #6,609,405 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 inÃ Â Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Erotica #9231 inÃ Â Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > LGBT Studies #12697 inÃ Â Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Writing Skills

Customer Reviews

Erotica takes another sauntering, spike-heeled step toward the literary mainstream with this anthology of stories by some of the best-known sex writers in America, each paired with a memoir or personal commentary on the work. The editor’s introduction can be skipped, but the rest of the book should intrigue devotees of this developing genre, especially those who wonder about the relationship between writers’ sex lives or desires and the stories they write. In "Porno, Ergo Sum," for example, Jack Fritscher confesses that he breathes in experience and exhales fiction. In "Screaming Underwater," Lucy Taylor describes her attempt to merge the erotic and the spiritual. And Carol Queen, in an introduction to pages from The Leather Daddy and the Femme, provides

perhaps the most articulate--and politically explicit--piece of writing in the book, a defense of her reputation as "Rebecca of Sunnyf**k Farm." Cecilia Tan may say it best, however, in the memoir that accompanies her early story, "Telepaths Don't Need Safewords": "Writing is identity and loss of identity at the same time." You may learn something here about the personalities of the writers included, but there is really no explaining the ways that fiction moves us, or the reasons writers write. --Regina Marler

For the last decade M.Christian has proven himself to be a true literary chameleon, establishing himself as a master of multi-orientation erotica with stories in such anthologies as Best American Erotica, Best Gay Erotica, Best Lesbian Erotica, and so on and so forth as well as with the collections Dirty Words, Speaking Parts, The Bachelor Machine, and Filthy.

This is a writer guide? I didn't fall off the turnip truck yesterday. As a freelance writer and associate instructor at a nearby college, trust me, I know what I'm talking about.This is a jumbled and poorly planned book. Maybe even poorly laid out, but it's kind of hard to tell when the editor of the story doesn't make his purpose of writing the book very clear.If someone handed me the book, without letting me see the title and without telling me what it was about, I'd read it and say that it is a mostly a collection of whiney writers telling about their problems, with a few good erotic stories.If I were to rename this book I think I would go with something like, "Erotica Writers of America Come out of the Closet"Overpriced, Overhyped by the first couple reviewers, and certainly not a place to look for writing instruction or ideas.

This is not a "how to write dirty stories" book, as it is more the method and ideas leading erotica writers take to writing their stories. Not only do they each have their own thoughts on how they write their stories, and what "works" for them and what doesn't, you get some idea of what they're like as people. I have written my own erotica for years but am finding out especially after reading books like this that I may have a bit of a ways to go to match the work these authors have done.Writers, at least the good ones can really be thought of as "word magicians" in how they can turn a phrase, how they develop their characters and their stories, making them not only entertaining but hot as well. The stories collected here (each author's personal favorite (s)he has written), as well as each author's essay are informative and highly entertaining.

As the title says "Sex writers talk about sex writing." And they do, quite candidly. It addresses the

"why" and offers some examples of the work of some established, published erotica writers. (This is not a nuts-and-bolts how-to, if that's what you're looking for.)Having said all that, I'm disappointed. As a straight woman who writes gay male and straight erotica, I found the book too narrowly focused. Looking over the selection of writers and their personal stories, you'd think that most sex writers were either lesbigay and/or fetishist. There are very few straight writers represented here at all and almost no writers of 'vanilla' straight sex (which, while it may not be as colorful as S/M or B/D, it's still sex).If it's "Sex writers on sex writing," I'd have liked to see a broader representation of them than this book provides.

I found this an interestingly informative and humourous book. It reminded me that while writers may be able to do something I can't, or at least not very well, and seem to belong up their on their ivory pedestals, they're still human like me. So, before I loved the writing, now I can love them as well.Good book.

If you've ever read erotica and wondered about the men and women who write it, this is the book for you. Even if you just want to write, this is a great book. The essays are insightful and wonderful and the stories are incredibly hot and fun.

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