

Opening Up to Erotic Expression

by Susie Bright

There is no such thing as a person without an erotic story. I don't mean a tall tale, or a punch line, or a story about the one who got away. I'm talking about our personal erotic identity, what you might call our "sexual philosophy." It's the big What If? of our sexual lives.

Take a look at your own erotic story, and you'll see that it's a motion picture of everything about you that is creative: the risks you'd be willing to take, the weightless depth of your imagination, your attraction to the truth, and the things that would make you go blind. That's a story alright. It doesn't matter whether we tell it to a crowd of thousands, whisper it to our lover, or merely confess it to ourselves. The power is in owning it.

In this book, I want to cut through all the labels and politics, and reveal what I've learned about sex - what has been transformational to me as a lover, a parent, a daughter, and an artist. I want to argue that why sexuality is the soul of the creative process, and that erotic expression of any kind is a personal revolution.

Let me propose my erotic manifesto to you - a story for lovers who want to express their minds and bodies without a border between the two, who sense that their erotic notions are more than just masturbation candy. I want to connect with people who live, make love, nurture, battle, dream, sing, and bow down with the feeling that sex is more than just flesh, but hardly an ethereal affair.

Sex is known to everyone as the seed of our physical creation. But we don't often recognize, or even admit, that it's also the well-spring of our creativity. How many people are willing to name their erotic character as one of their most demanding or enlightening teachers? If you want to be a student of sexual life, or a teacher, plenty of questions you need to ask first:

Why is it so threatening to consciously address sexual desire in the first place?

What will everyone say about you when you do "come out of the closet" erotically?

How can parents ever be seen by their kids as real sexual people without violating the boundaries or their nurturing relationship?

What are the real - and fake - differences between men and women's sense of the erotic?

Is the best erotic expression soulful?

Does it have a spiritual or philosophical embrace?

Or is that just romantic drivel?

How do talking, reading, and writing about sex affect your actual sex life?

What's the point in discussing something so innately private in public?

For the last fucking time, is there a difference between erotica and pornography?

Why does our very language seem so inadequate for talking about our sexual feelings and behavior?

Is there such a thing as “sex jag”?

Who are the best lovers, anyway?

Can one even make that kind of judgment?

What does erotic expression teach us about our bodies?

Is there a line to be drawn in erotic creativity?

Can you go too far?

How can articulate erotic expression make us better lovers, let alone better people?

Every time I’ve been changed by reading a book, it was because the authors asked me the right questions. They drew me the outline of a picture and left me to my own colorful revelations. Now, as I sit down to write this book, the picture I want to draw encompasses my whole lifetime of sex, and for once, I’ll say it: I have an agenda. I’ve wiped the question mark off my face. I think it’s natural, in our current circumstances, to feel desperate or cynical about sex. Of course we don’t start out that way but information is scarce, and prejudice is over-abundant. In our efforts to be honest or realistic about sex, we often can’t even get past the pull-your-pants-off basics.

But this book isn’t about the physical. There will be no diagrams and zero about technique. This book is about the personal meaning of erotic expression: the creativity it demands, the challenges of sexual candor, and the rewards of coming clean about desire.

It's there, on that story of the lovers' mind and body, that I've sent my lens to a full exposure.

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