

# Sex, Sex, Sex: Up Front In Bookstores Near You

By EDWARD WYATT

Porn stars may not keep many things hidden, but whatever secrets they had are now on the shelf at the local bookstore.

A wave of confessionals and self-help guides written by current or former stars of pornographic films is flooding bookstores this year, accompanied by erotic novels, racy sexual-instruction guides, histories of sexual particulars and photographic treatments of the world of pornography.

While many bookstores have long maintained sections devoted to erotica or sexuality, rarely have those books been as prominently positioned as some of the current crop, which have been elbowing their way onto display tables at the front of the major chain bookstores.

Every generation has a book or two that sets pulses quickening and generates frantic debate about pornography, community standards and the lowering of the bar for what is acceptable. But the latest flurry of sex books, coming at a time when sexual images already dominate advertising, entertainment and the Internet, is clearly finding a wide audience.

Publishers, for their part, insist they are not simply churning out dirty books.

"I don't publish pornography," said Judith Regan, president and publisher of Regan-Books, an imprint of HarperCollins. "I publish smart books about sex. A lot of people try to imitate what I do but they don't do it well."

Ms. Regan's most recent offering is *Make Love Like a Porn Star: A Necessary Tale*, a memoir by a porn star who probably the most successful in the adult-film business. The book is by Linda Strauss, a former model and actress, who wrote for *The New York Times*.

The book, which is a best-seller, is a memoir (with clinical advice) of sex. It is a memoir of sex. It is a memoir of sex. It is a memoir of sex.

Also headed for stores this fall is "XXX: 30 Porn-Star Portraits" (Bullfinch Press) by the photographer Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, with an introduction by Gore Vidal and essays on the intersection of pornography and culture by Salman Rushdie, Nancy Friday, John Malkovich and others.

For history buffs there is *The Intimate History of the Orgasm* (Grove Press), as

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# The Arts

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