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A LIFE OF GIVING PLEASURE

Brothels, bedrooms, bestiality, blow-jobs, bitchiness, bank cheques, gang-bangs and a strange man standing in a bathtub wearing only Wellington boots and a satisfied grin. Intrigued? I was, and just a little terrified at the prospect of meeting the author of the unflinchingly honest Body Worship.

From the very first sentence Letitcia flings the doors open on the most ancient of professions with unparalleled gusto and pride. Inevitably the book contains more cock-tales than a hen party at Wetherspoons, but at its heart is a philosophical account of the human condition told with outrageous humour and relentless honesty.

I arrived at our meeting place early (a wonderfully stylish hotel in the New Steine) and was treated to a guided tour, from the white leather

bar, to the take-me-on-a-high-class-but-positively-filthy-weekend-here bedrooms. I was distracted from thoughts of my next classy but filthy weekend break by the apparition of Letitcia's hat through the window. I am reliably informed that hats are to Angie Nangle what roofs are to houses, to the extent that she was concerned that the hat she wore for the book launch would catch on the chandelier in the bar.

This one was large but stylish and underneath it was a confident, friendly woman who strolled into the hotel five minutes early, exchanged a few "Hello darlings!" with the cute barman then perched on the chair next to me and explained the importance of punctuality.

So far, so good: Friendly, funny, reliable, sassy and with lips that make Angelina Jolie look like she's permanently sucking a Polo.

I couldn't help wondering how this woman ended up as a prostitute, but it became very obvious during the course of our conversation

that this was not a fallen woman, but an empowered one. Her career and lifestyle were very much a choice not a necessity, as she defiantly explained.

I started working out of spite. A Kiwi boyfriend had gone to visit his parents leaving me 13,000 miles from home languishing in a foreign country and behind where I lived there was a brothel. I applied and guess what; I liked it. What's not to like? Sex and money - an irresistible combination. I don't have a moral issue with it. It is an honest transaction between those seeking a service and those providing it.

Honesty is central to the book, but it definitely isn't a kiss-and-tell scandal.

I have far too much integrity for that. I just let my experiences and memories take over. I wrote the book because everyone kept nagging me to do it, since they thought I had, shall we say, a different life experience to most people.

And the most memorable of these different experiences?

The experience I remember with the most fondness, to this day, is of Izumi. My first orgasm (gushing as if it was yesterday) No man has made me feel that way since. Who would have thought that a diminutive Japanese businessman could have broken my sexual duck. I don't look at Tora, Tora, Tora in the same light now.

Do you worry about negative reactions to your controversial experiences?

I have no control over what people think and I couldn't care less. The bigoted and the ill-informed will always pre-judge, but what people think doesn't pay my rent and I don't feel the need to justify my existence, nor ask for approval. I don't tell people how to live their lives and they have no right to attempt to do the same to me.



So, do you feel that you are dispelling the myths associated with the sex industry?

I'm not on a crusade, but there is a whole body of women who go unrecognised and in so many ways hold the fabric of society together. We should be given a gong in the New Year's Honours. A disgraceful oversight, if you ask me.

I hope the book does dispel a lot of stupid myths though, and create a better understanding of a controversial subject, 'the job that dare not speak its name.' In fact there are a few parallels between coming out as a gay person, but admitting to the profession is one - it's a vocation rather than a job. I 'admit' to nothing. I declare it with a feeling of empowerment and elevation.



What about criticism that you may be glamorising a profession that others do out of desperation?

My experiences are probably a world apart from a crack-head needing the next fix or someone in the sex slave trade. They are my experiences and it's the way I see things. I can't and don't speak for other sex workers.

It's obviously a job that you enjoy and (judging by the reviews on your website) are

very good at. One man is quoted as saying, "If my wife did that to me I wouldn't get out of bed."

Men really take notice of those reviews. They like to know exactly what they're getting in the same way as when they're buying a computer or a car.

But you are a woman of exceptional bedroom talents?

Lets just say I like sex and lots of it.

Any tips?

Do it properly or not at all. Forget about the primary erogenous zones. Be an artiste. I've met couples who have spent a fortune on the holiday of a lifetime. It's a pity that they don't spend a fraction of that time and effort discovering what really turns each other on.

The book implies that the adoration of many is preferable to you than the devotion of one.

Ironically, I'm not sure that I could respect a man who is happy for me to do what I do, so that puts me in an awkward situation. I've tried the 'let me take you away from all this' stuff and it doesn't work for me. Has anyone considered the fact that there are as many women who like multiple sexual contact as men? They haven't cornered that market.

So, if you had your time over again would you make the same choices?

No, I would have started ten years earlier. I was a late starter.

The final words in the book are, 'The best revenge is living well.' Is this the message you leave your detractors?

Absolutely. I am what I am in spite of others and not because of them. I am not defined by other people. I have a strong sense of who I am, what I want to be and what I want to do and I just go with the flow. It's my life, my choice and no one can take that away from me.

Body Worship (£8.99), published by Flesh Press ISBN 0-953349381 Available in Cardome, Clone Zone all good bookshops.