

BOOKS

THE LESBIAN SEX BOOK, 2ND EDITION
by Wendy Caster, revised by Rachel Kramer Bussel; Alyson Publications, 2003; \$21.95 softcover

Coming out as a lesbian or bisexual woman is only the first step in a lifelong journey of self-discovery that can be exciting, fulfilling and confusing.

While society has provided plenty of information—both good and bad—about how to have heterosexual relationships and sex, not much has been said about how women make love to and explore love with other women. For every article about driving a man wild in bed, there's a myth about same-sex female sexuality custom designed to confound and confuse the issue.

Fortunately, Wendy Caster's best seller of a decade ago has been updated by Rachel Kramer Bussel in this second edition to help 21st century lovers sort things out and live the lives their hearts and bodies desire.

When browsing through the large-size softcover, remember how when this book was originally released several modern queer role models were still cowering in their closets



Let's talk about... Welcome revisions of queer sex classics

ets and even the most progressive television stations and newspapers avoided gay subjects. This new version definitely doesn't hide from the light of day and is a welcome addition to the updated bookshelves of any gay, bisexual or unlabeled woman's library.

Drawing upon the personal experiences of seven lesbians ranging in age from 22 to 56, Caster's cornerstone work illustrates topics of value to any woman seeking

answers. Shy or uncertain readers should realize that Bussel's rewrite makes this information-packed volume even more powerful by using bolder language that some may find problematic, while others will joyfully embrace it for its honesty and reality.

Subjects covered are listed in alphabetical order and include age differences, aging, AIDS, alcohol and drug use, kinks, conflict resolution, domestic abuse, oral sex, a variety of sexual techniques, internalized homophobia, legal issues, monogamy and non-monogamy, STDs, transgenderism and so much more.

Easy to read, thoughtfully written and perfect for solo contemplation or open discussion, this is unquestionably a book worth having.

—Darklady

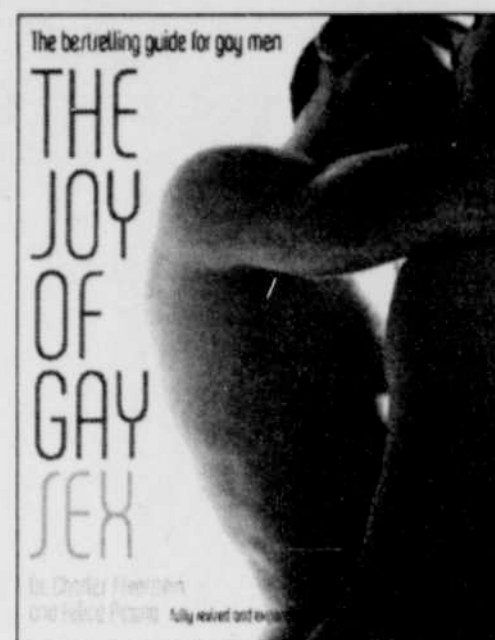
THE JOY OF GAY SEX: FULLY REVISED AND EXPANDED THIRD EDITION
by Dr. Charles Silverstein and Felice Picano; HarperResource, 2003; \$24.95 hardcover

I was 19 when *The Joy of Gay Sex* was published in 1977, and I still remember the thrill I got from the illustrations of beautiful men in hot, sexy positions.

This first-of-its-kind was a primer for men coming out because it was not only about how to be a great lay, it was about how to be a great gay—the bellwether of the emerging gay consciousness. It was rereleased in 1992 under the title *The New Joy of Gay Sex* to reflect the effect of the AIDS crisis on the gay community, and now *The Joy of Gay Sex: Fully Revised and Expanded Third Edition* includes our new realities: drug cocktails, the Internet and the mainstreaming of gay culture.

In 1977, just four years after the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality as a mental disorder, the original *Joy* was heavily censored by the publisher and banned in many localities. Major chains carried it under the counter, and some libraries had copies removed by local officials. (*The New Joy of Gay Sex* ranks No. 28 on the American Library Association's list of Top 100 Challenged Books of the 1990s.)

Imported copies were burned in Britain,



and French translations shredded in Paris. In one notorious episode, police raided a bookstore in Canada after an irate housewife bought a copy by mistake, thinking she had purchased *The Joy of Cooking*.

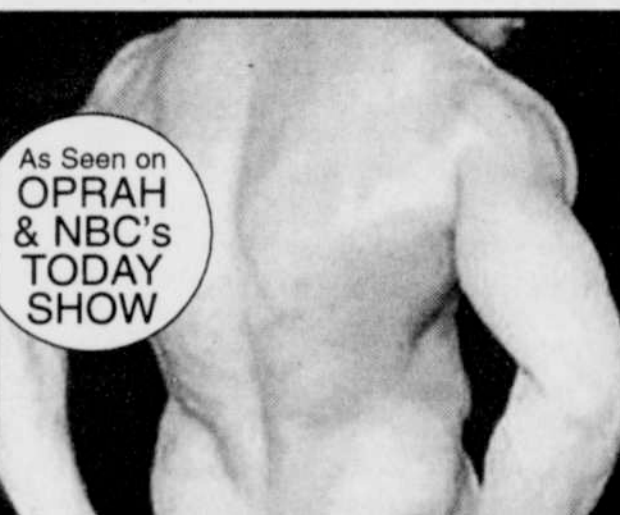
My, how times have changed. And yet the need for the book hasn't. Dr. Charles Silverstein (who, with author Edmund White, was responsible for the original) has once

again teamed up with novelist Felice Picano (co-author of the second edition) and produced a comprehensive and comprehensible guide to gay life in the new millennium.

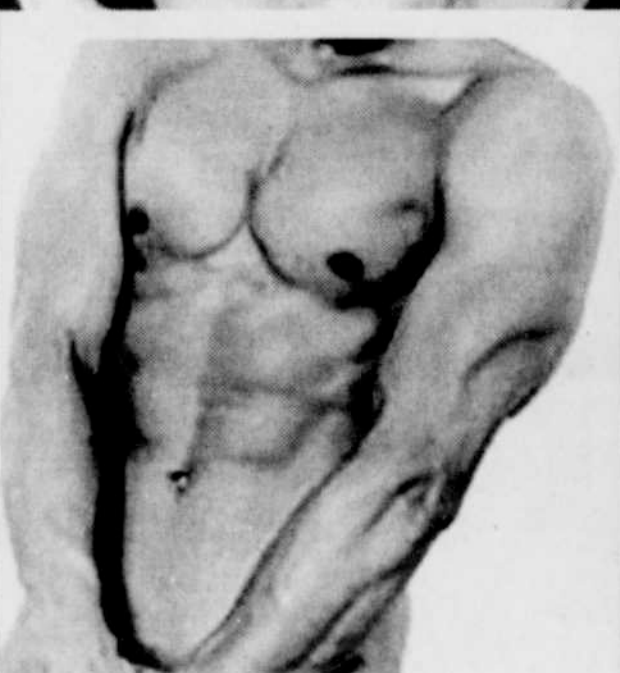
Organized alphabetically by topic, every single entry has been updated, and new chapters include Barebacking, Chat Rooms, Cosmetic Surgery, J.O. Machines, Online Profiles and Webcams. The newest edition is also far more complete and explicit about sex (including Kinky Sex, Rear Entry and Sex Parties) than previous editions yet also includes in-depth entries reflecting the changing social landscape, such as Gay Families, Married Men and Open Relationships.

This third edition is a must-have book for every gay man, whether he is just poking a toe out of the closet or stormed proudly out years ago. And the illustrations (by Joseph Phillips) are still really hot.

—Floyd Sklover



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