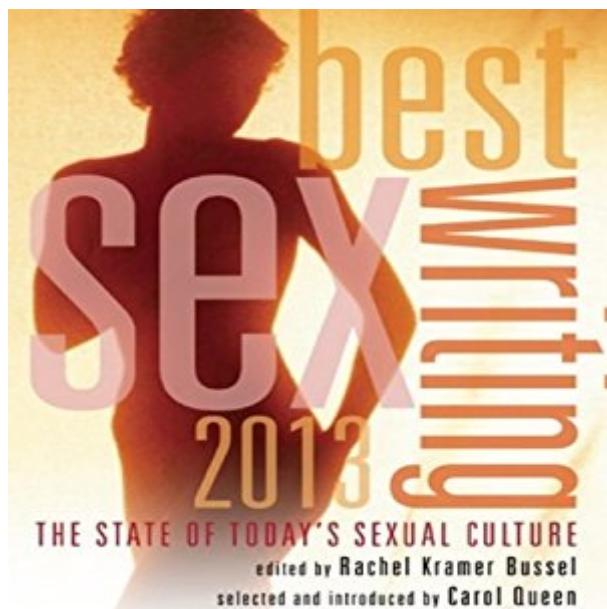


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# Best Sex Writing 2013: The State Of Today's Sexual Culture



## **Synopsis**

The Best Sex Writing series has fundamentally changed the way people think - and what they say - about sexuality. Once again, Rachel Kramer Bussel has collected the year's most challenging and provocative nonfiction articles on this endlessly evocative subject. The essays here comprise a detailed, direct survey of the contemporary American sexual landscape. Major commentators examine the many roles sex plays in our lives in these literate and lively essays. Judged by the Dr. Carol Queen, who is without peer, this stunning collection of sex-smart essays is sure to stir the heart, the brain, as well as other major organs.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Best Sex Writing 2013--The State of Today's Sexual Culture, by Rachel Bussel & Carol QueenI've met both these editors, attended the book talk last year when Susie Bright was guest judge, tale picker. Taking a tour with the minds and hearts of these two editors Bussel and Queen and their 20 writers is like getting out. As in: Get out much? I was able to tour wildly differing worlds, places where sexuality takes the human soul. Tim Tebow's Celibacy (Jon Pressick's Holy F\_\_\_: The Fourth and Long Virgin) was dear; as was a severely rocky polyamory road laid down by Nicholas Garnett in When on Fire Island...A Polyamorous Disaster; or the chief editor's own Age Play cherry popping evening. The experience of being asked to do her best Mommy with a grown up naked man friend one night opened up her own best heart to her own best self. Nice. And scary. Insiya Ansari's honest telling of God in her bedroom, her Sex By Any Other Name on trying to wait to have

Real P in the V Sex until after marriage: lived this one so during my Baptist years. Honest, painful writing here that takes us all back; and forward. Twenty stories in all. Every one non fiction. What I found super about the Bussel collection in this 6th in a series (IPYY award winner each time) is that she takes you every year to places with her writers you'll need five life times to see. This lady puts it out. As in 40+ anthologies she has published while getting publishing a hundred more. Good erotica is great when you can find it; but non-fiction sex writing has always impacted me the most as it is almost like a photograph in it's unncice take on untouched reality. When I tour occasional porn I always end up coming back to being a word guy.

It's difficult to overstate the quality of this book. I've followed the series for some time now, using one edition as a required text in a class on Sex, Gender & Culture. This is a wonderful collection of real writing. We're not talking about erotica or titillation (though t times, honestly, some of that happens in the best way possible). What we have in this book (and, I think, all it's predecessors) is a portrait of sex and sexuality, told in a special way, presented in a perspective that is unique and enduring. We can laugh out loud at Andy Isaacson's story of growing up and vibrators. Rachel Swan's *Sex By Numbers* is one of the more cogent, honest pieces about the realities of polyamory I've read. *Aging in retirement* and the amusing (thought annoying) preponderance of social rules highlights the chapter by Alex Morris. Bisexuality - frequently overlooked - is explored through pain in a chapter by Seth Fischer. I am drawn back to the haunting sound of 'Nowhere Man' by the doubt and fear conveyed in "Rest Stop Confidential". Again we find polyamory, and how this seemingly open approach can become normative in a chapter by Nicholas Garnett. Jon Pressick's sex positivity is refreshing. Rachel Kramer Bussel's own "Baby Talk" explores deep connections and sharing. Lori Selke's words are a testimonial to personal growth. Patrick Califia describes a perfect scene with the precision of a Julia Child. Madison Young's dilemma as a mom and a feminist jumps out at us. We could be that person. Carol Queen is Lazarus-like in the retrospective on past loves. There is agency, suffocation, safety, politics and, oh yes, porn. Every chapter is powerful and wonderful. It's a long list. For me, though, Julia Serano really is the cherry to be picked in her "Cherry Picking".

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