

## Writing Erotica

A human creature is a sensual being from birth. Watch a baby at its mother's breast: lost, abandoned to sensation. Yet most utterly safe, and sated. At peace with itself.

As we grow older, we lose this complex involvement with touch. The intoxication of our senses. A common tragedy is how many of us grow up insufficiently touched, handled, caressed. Forgetting how to love and be loved. Losing touch in more ways than one.

Only the luckiest among us keep hold of the sensual as we mature and age. Fortunate at forty if we have friends to hug and family to hold. Blessed forever if we find some lover to lie with in peace and confidence, renewed through our senses.

For some, sex is a substitute. And the difference between sex and sensuality is the difference between what is pornographic and what is erotic. What is subtle and sustains, and what is sordid and overwhelms.

Theoretically, a professional writer can write anything, anytime, anywhere. It is the sublime test.

However, to be truly successful with erotica, you must add to craft and learning something from inside of you. Something separate from those writerly techniques of observation, analysis and research.

Subconsciously remembered from happy days of childhood, though long lost and mourned for. Reach inside yourself and find what you need - your own sensuality, expressed erotically.

Beware: your reader has feelings every bit as strong. Once at least we were all completely abandoned to our world of the senses. The erotic writer must remember the golden rule: more is less.

You fail if you tell too much to the reader. (This was the power of the asterisk in an earlier age of erotic fiction - think of *Three Weeks* by Elinor Glyn.) Readers bring their own experiences of sex and sensuality and add them to your words. Keep your descriptions of love and lust understated, and most delicately constructed. Suggestive in the best possible way.

Understand that readers will add to your erotic imagery something of their own. The collusion between you is what makes it erotica and not pornography.

And your written invitation to such a conspiracy is what makes for great erotic fiction.