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Future Sex



Synopsis

A funny, fresh, and moving antidote to conventional attitudes about sex and the single woman Emily Witt is single and in her thirties. Up until a few years ago, she still envisioned her sexual experience as “eventually reaching a terminus, like a monorail gliding to a stop at Epcot Center.” Like many people, she imagined herself disembarking, finding herself face-to-face with another human being, “and there we would remain in our permanent station in life: the future.” But, as many of us have found, things are more complicated than that. Love is rare and frequently unreciprocated. Sexual experience doesn’t necessarily lead to a future of traditional monogamy and why should it? Have we given up too quickly on the alternatives? In *Future Sex*, Witt explores Internet dating, Internet pornography, polyamory, and avant-garde sexual subcultures as sites of possibility. She observes these scenes from within, capturing them in all their strangeness, ridiculousness, and beauty. The result is an open-minded, honest account of the contemporary pursuit of connection and pleasure.

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Customer Reviews

A very bizarre book that was informative, interesting, and well-written. It doesn't have much to do with the future of sex, but it captures the anarchy, chaos, and variety of the past 30 years up to the present. In fairness, it's an exploration of the outer edges, and folks (like myself) who live in "flyover country" may have trouble grasping the big picture -- if there is one. One quibble is that amid all the craziness, the word love appears over and over and over. It's never really defined, and, in a book otherwise off the handle, a definition of what Miss Witt means by "love" is needed. Perhaps it's characteristic of the circles in which she travels, but a lot of the sex seems disconnected from the rest of each person's personalities, giving the impression that sexuality isn't grounded in and reflective of anything deeper. I'll let the reader decide.

Very nice reading, I enjoyed the narrative of the author telling her experiences, sometimes it gets a little complicated where she is going but that does not last too much. I do not think I understood where the last chapter was going but loved the Elizabeth story and burning man narrative. If you want to see another way of thinking about actual sex in the San Francisco way of thinking and how technology impacted it

Interesting if you don't read a lot of "lifestyle magazines" like Cosmo or Esquire. If you do, or if you pop in the occasional porn film, you probably won't find much that's new. There's plenty of good stuff scattered throughout the book, such as the details of web cam sex experience and how little the girls working the cams can end up with after their "sponsors" have taken their cut. Otherwise, this would have made a terrific series of magazine articles, which is pretty much how it reads. Good work, but Emily Witt can do a lot more with a more substantial subject. I'll be interested to see what she comes up with next.

Read a review in the Nation. I already had purchased a copy on my Kindle. Made a good lazy, day after Thanksgiving read. I think it punctuates the class difference of a nation. Nevertheless, it is a thoughtful reflection on sexuality that is a universe away from the narrow bible belt I inhabit.

I rarely write reviews, but I loved this book. It's a tour of modern dating culture that's as witty and entertaining as it is insightful. Rather than tell us abstractly about polyamory, porn and feminism, online dating, etc, Witt informs us about them through her hilarious first-persona experience with the stuff. An accomplished investigative reporter, we feel like we're always at her side, taking in the future of sex first hand.

Love this book. Well researched, well written, personal, funny, necessary.

Excellent book gives perspective to sex and romance in the modern world.

Glad I got this. Not too memorable but a good read.

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