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Perv: The Sexual Deviant In All Of Us



Synopsis

A groundbreaking argument that perversions are more common than we think, from everyone's favorite provocateur. In his eye-opening new book, *Perv*, the award-winning columnist and psychologist Jesse Bering argues that we are all sexual deviants on one level or another. As Bering takes us into the lives of a woman who falls madly in love with the Eiffel Tower, a young man addicted to seductive sneezes, and a pair of deeply affectionate identical twins, among others, he challenges us to move beyond our judgments and attitudes toward "deviant" sex and consider the alternative: What would happen if we rise above our fears and revulsions and accepted our true natures? With his signature wit and irreverent style, Bering pulls back the curtains on the history of perversions, the biological reasons behind our distaste for unusual sexual proclivities, and the latest research on desire. Armed with reason, science, and an insatiable appetite for knowledge, he humanizes deviants while asking some very provocative questions about the nature of hypocrisy, prejudice, and when sexual desire can lead to harm. A groundbreaking look at our complex relationship with our carnal urges and the ways in which we disguise, deny, and shame the sexual deviant in all of us, *Perv* brings our hidden desires into the light.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Perv: The Sexual Deviant In All of Us by Jesse Bering "*Perv: The Sexual Deviant In All of Us*" is the uncomfortable, relentless, fearless look into the not-so-uncommon devious world of human sexuality. Dr. Jesse Bering is on a courageous quest to expose the full spectrum of erotic

manifestations. The fascinating topic is equaled only by Bering's innate ability to use scientific research into a narrative that provokes, shocks and ultimately educates. This entertaining 289-page book includes the following seven chapters: 1. We're All Perverts, 2. Damn Dirty Apes, 3. Sister Nymph and Brother Satyr, 4. Cupid the Psychopath, 5. It's Subjective, My Dear, 6. A Suitable Age, and 7. Life Lessons for the Lewd and Lascivious.

Positives: 1. A very engaging writing style that relies on good research, sound science and humor. Refreshingly open resulting from years of having to live in fear for no other reason other than being. 2. The fascinating yet surprisingly neglected topic of human sexuality in the fearless hands of one Dr. Jesse Bering. Sexual perversions...oh my. 3. This book in many respects is a plea to stop judging people's sexual preferences on what is considered normal and instead on what is considered harmful. It's a book in defense of "erotic outliers". 4. Making clear what you are going to get out of this book besides being thoroughly entertained, "What you're going to discover along the way is that you have a lot more in common with the average pervert than you may be aware. I'll be sharing with you a blossoming new science of human sexuality, one that's revealing how "sexual deviancy" is in fact far less deviant than most of us assume." 5. The origin and evolution of the word perversion...who knew?

***WARNING:** DO not read this book if you are the type that is offended by...almost anything. More specifically by things of a frank sexual nature. Don't say I did not warn you. However, if you are perv like me that is disturbed by little and finds humour in negative spaces, then please by all means, proceed.*

This is an interesting book. I mean interesting in multiple ways. While clearly the author is highly educated and knows quite a lot about human sexuality and the forces that drive deviant behaviour, this is not your typical textbook look at said situation. Instead, this author uses a humorous approach to recounting his own experiences and gives his opinion on the matters at hand. He is very open, honest and I found him entertaining, although it should be noted that his non-religious views may offend some as he does not hold back when speaking of his disbelief in a higher power. I am not sure there is a single subject in the realm of deviance that this author did not explore. There are moments that will make you blush, a few that might make your stomach turn and many more still that will make you think about civilisation as a whole and how we came to be how we are. One thing I really did enjoy about this book was his nonpartisan attitude. This author does not make harsh judgments against anyone, but simply gives the reader a chance to view things from an objective perspective. He does not try to influence your beliefs, yet feels comfortable enough to offer his own opinion. While I did not agree with all of the author's views, I did see things his way a good number of times.

Ironically this book has entered the book market at the same time as Showtime's "Masters of Sex" has reached out TV sets. I had not read anything by Jesse Bering before--had never heard of him--but am delighted I took a chance on "Perv: The Sexual Deviant in All of Us." This is not a scholar's type of book although it is written with extensive--and very interesting--footnotes as well as a very extensive bibliography. The book is what it says it is: a work about the rich diversity of human sexuality, a topic that intrigued Dr. William Masters and Virginia Masters several decades ago. (By the way, I also highly recommend "Masters of Sex" with its very ironic title.) But I suspect that the mainstream public, especially those who are religiously and politically conservative would shun this book. Yet, ironically, this is exactly the book they should be reading to broaden their horizons. Quite possibly gay men--and I am one--such as the author have more of a curiosity about the uniquenesses of what "turns people on" sexually because we have been admonished for being "perverts" and have had to struggle with that issue. However, Masters and Johnson discovered decades ago that straight people are just as "perverted" as gays. In Bering's book, he reclaims the word "pervert" (or as he calls all of us, "pervs") by showing that there are so many varieties of fantasies. A work like this should be seen as just another opening up of dialogue. I straight minister I know who struggles with issues around homosexuality--he is so against gay marriage--said this to me, "I don't know what makes men homosexuals." And I thought to myself, "Then why are you not asking them, including me?"

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