

What Men Want (In Bed) (Bettina Arndt, MUP, \$34.99 pb, ISBN 9780522857122, September) ★★ ★

Sex therapist Bettina Arndt got Australia talking with her controversial bestseller, *The Sex Diaries*. The book took the temperature of the average Australian sex life by analysing the diaries of 98 couples—and found that many men were frustrated by not getting enough sex from their wives. Arndt advised these women to ‘just do it’, whether they felt like it or not. This sequel focuses on men’s sexuality and often operates in conversation with the first book. Again, it mixes advice with case studies, drawing on diaries, this time kept by 150 men, who wrote for over a year. Subjects covered include the relationship between men and pornography (Arndt sides with the bewildered men who wonder why it’s such a big deal); men’s frustration with dealing with their partners’ body

image issues in the bedroom; and the desire for sexual adventure or kinky sex. Half of the book deals with erection issues. Arndt deals with both the mechanics and the emotions of sexuality. Her tone is frank, sympathetic and conversational; it’s easy to read. She’s one of those figures you either love or hate—and I suspect readers’ responses to the book will depend on which camp they fall into.

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Bettina Arndt