



# The double standards for mummy porn

**T**HE well-coiffed matron sits comfortably in the suburban coffee shop, avidly peering at her well thumbed copy of *Fifty Shades of Grey*. She's totally relaxed about being seen devouring this new erotic bestseller, leaving it openly displayed as she orders her second cuppa.

Everywhere women are talking about this raunchy chick-lit, which has become the fastest-selling novel of all time. Elderly women sitting in a doctor's waiting room laughingly confess to blushing their way through it; mums in tuckshops chuckle over the best bits.

There have been many positive reviews blithely dismissing the dreadful prose and claiming how liberating, how empowering this is for women. This latest "mummy porn" is just the thing for revitalising a marriage, the experts claim.

There's such giggly delight in the public display of women's huge appetite for this latest girly porn. Yet when men are caught looking at their favoured sexual material — pictures rather than words — that's somehow very different. Men who use porn are disgusting, perverted, their filthy smut a danger to marriage and sure sign of an addled male brain.

The erotica that most men enjoy is visual, catering to men's favoured images of joyously naked, willing women catering to men's every whim. Fantasy? Oh yes indeed and, as all men know, a far sight removed from the reality of most real-life marital sex. It's all about sexual escape, enjoying the

imagined delight of a world free of grovelling for sex and devoid of exacting, prolonged foreplay requirements.

But surely no more unrealistic than the fantasy world of *Fifty Shades*, where a gorgeous but twisted billionaire sadist seduces a virgin college student, inviting her to frolic with him in his whip-and-chain-filled Red Room of Pain. Just what every girl really wants, eh?

Let's not confuse the bedroom and boardroom, responds anthropologist and Rutgers professor Helen Fisher, dismissing any suggestion that *Fifty Shades* represents women's true desires: "This is the world of fantasy and play."



**BETTINA ARNDT**  
BETWEEN THE LINES

So how is it that men are infantilised by assuming they can't distinguish their sexual fantasies from what happens in real-life relationships?

It's interesting how readily many female commentators switch from their normal stance that men and women are equal to suggesting women are essentially superior. If men and women were the same, surely we would have the same capacity to be rational, moral beings mature enough to handle our fantasy lives without distorting real-life goals and expectations. But no, when it comes to sexual fantasy any notion of equality goes out the window, with men seen as incapable of making this type of differentiation while women remain uncorrupted by their own salacious, grossly unreal imaginary sexual world. While women are allowed, indeed are encouraged to blatantly enjoy their porn in the most public of settings, most men have no choice but to view their erotic material in secret, knowing full well the reaction from many of their partners if they are caught out.

The women's magazines regularly run articles discussing in solemn tones women's feelings of betrayal when they discover their partners using porn. There's rarely any attempt to suggest that men's sexual fantasies could pose no threat to the relationship nor affect his feelings for his partner or delight in normal lovemaking. Given the constant attacks on his private viewing habits, most men have little choice but to keep daddy's dirty secret well hidden — and that then becomes another point of attack.

"Most married men who are viewing porn, especially the hardcore stuff, are doing so in secret and maintaining this duplicity in the knowledge that porn is distressing to their partners," sneers psychotherapist and former Melbourne university sociologist Petra Bueskens writing on [onlineopinion.com.au](http://onlineopinion.com.au).

Of course, men are the beneficiaries of women's newly discovered appetite for mummy porn, with widespread reports of *Fifty Shades* awakening long-dormant female sexual appetites. So they are certainly not complaining. But surely many are wondering why there are such different rules for the girls.

Bettina Arndt is a Herald Sun contributor

world stand up and take notice. She is getting stronger and has Miley in her sights. Both women have shown continuing form ahead of the Games and will surely be up for the challenge at the Olympic Aquatic centre.

**T**HE velodrome will be a true battleground for Australia and Great Britain. In Beijing, the Brits absolutely dominated the track, winning seven of the 10 gold medals on offer. Much has changed in the past four years, with the Aussie track cyclists building momentum on the world stage.

Along with our men's sprinters, Anna Meares will be out to rattle a few cages. Since taking silver in Beijing, after a horrible neck injury in the lead-up, she has been near unbeatable. Anna's main competition is Victoria Pendleton from Team GB. These two have waged a running rivalry spanning two Olympiads, with Meares looking like she will take the edge heading into London.

Our men's sailors have won three straight world championships in the

470 class since winning the gold medal in Beijing. Malcolm Page will attempt to defend his title with new partner Matthew Belcher.

Weymouth, three hours south of London, is host to the sailing events during the Games and, with fairly harsh conditions to contend with, Team GB will take some beating on its own water. Page and Belcher remain optimistic, though, having spent plenty of time in Weymouth themselves.

Although Sally Pearson will be almost impossible to beat on the track in the 100m hurdles, the Brits will have a contender. American-born Tiffany Porter placed fourth in the 2011 world championship final, which was won by Sally.

Undoubtedly Porter will pressure Sally only if the Aussie has a bad day, but the 80,000-strong crowd in the main stadium will no doubt be behind the local girl. Still, it's a big task: Sally has been beaten only once since winning the world championships in Korea in September.

Along with our cyclists, Australia's rowers will be pitted

against the British, this time on the Waters of Eton Dorney, the rowing venue in London.

It is hard to deny the draw of the men's four where triple Olympic champion Drew Ginn's fresh-faced Oarsome Foursome is looking to recapture the Australian performances of the 1990s and end the host's 12-year domination of the event.

Australia has made accusations that the Brits will have an unfair advantage at the home venue. This will only add fuel to the fire, setting up another a classic encounter.

When we watch the Games, we expect to see world and Olympic records broken.

In 2000, Australia broke the ultimate world record by setting a new standard when hosting the Sydney Olympic Games.

Many would agree that we still hold that world record, but as we all know records are there to be broken.

Good luck, Britain.

Matt Shirvington will head Foxtel's London Olympics commentary team

## to take right direction

occurred and the demand dropped substantially.

In other jurisdictions, such as Ireland and New Zealand, where this open release has been implemented, taxi drivers' earnings have been decimated.

**T**HE industry has made some recommendations that I believe address the issues that need to be focused on.

These recommendations include: **T**HE capping of the assignment values that provides for a redistribution of this income to the driver, at the same time providing the owner with security. **T**HE release of future taxi licences to be based on the public interest test and key performance indicators that need to act as the trigger.

**A**FARE increase to bring Victoria into line with the rest of the country that provides the majority of this

increase be paid only to the driver. **A** MORE simplified taxi driver training program, with most of it focused on the knowledge of Melbourne.

Some innovative suggestions have been made in the past couple of months.

The industry welcomes innovation and believes that all industry needs to embrace innovation to survive.

The explosion in technology with apps and GPS-based dispatch provides the customer with direct interaction with the taxi driver that has been missing for a long time.

The sharing of taxis, known as multiple hiring, has been re-introduced and this concept provides for the sharing of taxis at discounted rates.

An array of suggestions has been made to address short-fare refusal (minimum taxi fare) and the problem of the shortages in the

CBD on the weekends. It is a myth that there are not enough taxis to service weekend demand.

The reality is that taxi drivers avoid the CBD on weekends due to the risks of picking up drunk, aggressive patrons.

In order to move forward and create real reform, a working group needs to be implemented similar to those the Victorian Taxi Directorate has organised.

These working groups need to engage taxi stakeholders with real, live experiences that can provide real changes that deliver results.

Our organisation, in conjunction with the Victorian Taxi Association, is calling a meeting on Saturday at 1pm at the Dallas Brooks Hall to address these concerns and welcomes the public to attend.

Harry Katsiabonis is a committee member of Taxi Industry Stakeholders Victoria and director of TaxiLink Pty Ltd

