

# TALES OF A BUTT BANDIT

FORWARD ABOUT COMING  
BACKWARDS, **TRISTAN TAORMINO**  
IS THE WRITER, GO-GO GIRL  
AND ANAL SEX GURU  
EDUCATING WOMEN ON THE  
JOYS OF THEIR MOST  
NEGLECTED ORIFICE.  
HORACIO SILVA INVESTIGATES  
TAORMINO TERRITORY. ➡

PHOTOGRAPHY : SIMON HARSENT

HAIR : XAVIER SOTO

MAKEUP : LEA SIEGEL

LOCATION : VANITY BAR + LOUNGE, NYC







isn't it? Besides, it's one of my goals to teach the world how to have safe + pleasurable anal sex - fuck being coy. - T

When people ask me what I write about, I tell them the truth. ANAL SEX FOR WOMEN. LESBIAN



EROTICA. THE PORN INDUSTRY. SEX. SEX. SEX. BUTCH DYKES. LEATHERWOMEN. AND MORE, MUCH MORE. It might be easier to take

easier to swallow if I would sugar coat it - but a twelve inch dick sugar coated is still a twelve inch



*Girl, you've got an ass like I've never seen / And the ride, I say  
the ride, is so smooth / You must be a limousine – from Little Red  
Corvette by The Artist Formerly Known As Prince.*

**For dyke writer** Tristan Taormino the Artist's paean to 'auto' erotica is the ultimate metaphor for her overriding obsession – the joy of anal sex. "You venture into the back seat of a car you think isn't meant for passengers," says New York-based Taormino, "but with lots of patience and lube you discover it can be a limo."

She should know. Taormino's seventh and most recent book, *The Ultimate Guide To Anal Sex For Women* (Cleis Press), is a must for anyone – male or female – who's interested in exploring the pleasures of the back door. The book examines everything from AIDS-age taboos to anilingus and fisting. It's probably the only book ever to have been sent to reviewers with a press kit that included a butt plug and lube.

On first meeting, Taormino looks disarmingly like Ally Sheedy, in the days when the former Bratpacker used moisturiser. She gets the comparison a lot and sure enough, when we enter a local straight bar for our interview, some of the regulars do a double take. Pretty soon the rubber-necking is more on account of her sexual candour. "I feel like the leather dyke scene is undergoing a renewal in NYC and the Lesbian Sex Mafia is back in full swing," she says, over her drink. "There are a lot more lesbian sex parties."

A keen butt bandit since her first girlfriend showed her how to put the fun back in her fundament, Taormino's head isn't totally up her arse: this some-time stripper, go-go girl and sex educator is also the editor of the annual *Best Lesbian Erotica* (Cleis Press). She also founded the pan-



sexual zine *Pucker Up* and writes a regular column, "Adventure Girl", for the lesbian magazine *On Our Backs*.

The 27-year-old New Yorker is adamant that anal sex is a window into sex education in general. "A lot of the things I talk about in my book and workshops – patience, using lube, setting realistic goals, talking about your fantasies, experimenting by yourself – apply to sex across the board," she says, as if making a particularly important point to her therapist. "It amazes me that there are people having sex right now without talking."

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**TALES OF A  
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That needs to stop. Even if you like to be quiet in bed there needs to be a little dialogue, otherwise how do you know if anything feels good? A lot of people say to me, 'I really want to do anal but there's no way in hell I'd bring it up with my partner.' And I say to them, if you can't bring this up there's probably a bunch of other things you can't bring up and do you want to be in that kind of relationship?"

If there's one thing Taormino likes as much as sex, it's getting her picture taken. "The spread for *blue* was such an amazing experience because I'm a ➤



total exhibitionist and on a shoot it's everyone's job to look at me," she says. "It's not like when I'm stripping or go-go dancing and women have the choice not to look at you. This really fed the exhibitionist in me; it gave me a fix. I could go on hiatus now for months and still feed on it."

Taormino says she and photographer Simon Harsent had planned to create some unconventional images. However, neither had bargained on the sexual chemistry between her and Harsent's male assistant, Erik. "I started flirting with Erik on the shoot and Simon picked up on that – there was this running joke about how he's so cute he's going to turn the lesbian straight," she says.

When it was agreed that the images would be accompanied by Taormino's handwritten musings there was no doubt as to what she would write on her photo with Erik. "I've been very out about fucking men and people are up in arms about that. You know, I've been called a 'former lesbian' in the press. I've been criticised. 'Is she bisexual? What's she doing? How can she maintain that she's still a dyke?' Personally, I don't understand how people have the time to worry about who I'm fucking, but it's been important for me to be really out about it and not feel like the lesbian separatists are going to shame me for wanting to fuck a man once in a while. And I will fuck him, and he'll be a changed man for it."

As a dyke-identifying woman, Taormino insists on speaking her mind because, she says, there are too many stories and images missing from lesbian history. Thankfully for her crusade, she could talk underwater with marbles in her mouth. "It's interesting because for gay men there is so much consumable porn, both written and visual," she says. "Lesbians don't really have all that much." She thinks part of the reason is because

## TALES OF A BUTT BANDIT

the ritual and they're all there reinforcing each other. We don't have that."

From where Taormino stands on the go-go podium, women still have a way to go before they're comfortable objectifying each other. "When I go to public sex parties for women sometimes there are 40 women and four of them are having sex and the rest of them are just standing around," she says. "And when I'm go-go dancing for women they still have issues about tipping. Obviously women have less money so they have to weigh up having five drinks against having two drinks and tipping the living daylights out of this girl. But it baffles me that every other woman isn't thinking, 'I should be producing my own lesbian porn movie, or producing a lesbian porn

women – especially lesbians – are still not comfortable being producers and consumers of sex.

"I'm convinced that men could be raised in the wild by animals, and if you took them to a strip joint on their 21st birthday they'd whip out a wad of notes – they just know!" she says. "They know how to behave, they know





## TALES OF A BUTT BANDIT

magazine, or taking nasty naked photos of my friends and putting them on the internet. There's definitely a need for it. All the women I speak with ask me, 'Where's the lesbian porn?'"

Taormino certainly walks it like she talks it, having just completed filming her small-screen debut with tantric sex doyenne, Barbara Carrellas. "She's brilliant," says Taormino, sounding like Nicole Kidman talking about Jane Campion. "She filmed one of her workshops for European television and I was in that. So technically that's my debut, although it's not going to be distributed. The first porn video I'm appearing in – *Not So Tender Is The Night* – is being produced by the two people who publish [artsy highbrow journal] *Libido*. It's not hardcore fuck-fuck-fuck, it's more erotic but it's very funny – and straight, technically."

Also coming to a Blockbuster store near you is a video version of *The Ultimate Guide To Anal Sex For Women*, which features Taormino

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alongside porn star and sex educator Nina [Boogie Nights] Hartley. A compulsive over-achiever (and niece of another one, Thomas Pynchon), Taormino has also been working on a new instalment of *Best Lesbian Erotica* and a memoir about growing up with her gay dad (columnist Bill

Taormino, who died from AIDS complications three years ago). "It's either going to be called *My Father's Eyes* or *Me, My Dad And Judy Garland*," she says. "Judy plays a pivotal role."

When remembering gets a little too painful, Taormino returns to another of her projects, a compendium of first-person sexual adventures, some of which have already been published in *On Our Backs*. To date, the magazine has sent Taormino to a strip club, a swingers' party, a session with a professional dominatrix, the World Pornography Conference and a female ejaculation class. However, her most enjoyable encounter was a recent masturbation session with swinging septuagenarian Dr Betty Dodson.

"I love that woman," says Taormino, almost coming in her pants. "I swear she doesn't look a day over 50. She's been jerking off for years and teaching others how to. Everything I do stems from her pioneering work. She really renewed my take on life: I need to have a weekly masturbation session, it's like therapy."

"She covers everything – gets the mirror out and makes you look at your pussy. She says so many of her clients haven't seen their pussies and don't have a relationship with them. I'm sort of the same in my anal sex workshops: whip out that mirror and look at your butt-hole. You just can't imagine what it looks like – you really have to look. And you shouldn't be messing around with anybody else's arse until you've had a good look at your own."

(blue)









