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Coming Out Like A Porn Star: Essays On Pornography, Protection, And Privacy



Synopsis

This one-of-a-kind book shares intimate personal stories of porn performers "coming out" to family, friends, partners, lovers, and community. The contributors represent a wide range of races, ethnicities, and genders. They include Joanna Angel, Annie Sprinkle, Betty Blac, Nina Hartley, Candida Royalle, Conner Habib, Dale Cooper, Christopher Zeischegg, Cindy Gallop, Drew DeVeaux, Erika Lust, Gala Vanting, Casey Calvert, Lorelei Lee, Stoya, Ignacio Rivera AKA PapÃ-Coxxx, and many others. Jiz Lee is a veteran porn performer who had worked in over two-hundred projects within indie, queer, and hardcore gonzo adult genres. Lee is the editor of Coming Out Like a Porn Star, and co-editor of the Porn Studies Journal Special Issue: Porn and Labour.

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Customer Reviews

Editor Jiz Lee has put together a fantastic collection here. They have acknowledged that they didn't manage to hit all the possible demographics and all the potential perspectives, but I can't believe this is for lack of trying. This collection, while tied together under the theme of "coming out", covers much more than just whether or how the contributors told their families about their porn careers. For the most part the essays come across as authentic and personal, crossing generations, ethnicity, and gender identities (though trending a bit towards current and younger performers), and including the experiences of photographers, film makers, academics and educators whose lives in porn don't necessarily include (or include anymore) taking their clothes

off and having sex for the camera themselves. Only a few essays are listed as outright anonymous, though one essayist wrote under the pen name Jaffe Ryder (a Dharma Bums fan, perhaps?). Most authors submitted under their porn names, a few under their given names, and another few under both. The Name is a big topic because whether a chosen porn name is part of the fantasy come-on (Jack Hammer or Denali Winters) or a plausible alternative (Connor Habib or Dale Cooper) most of the essays that touch on privacy touch on the issue of The Name as a thing that serves, however tenuously, as a veil against being stalked or outed. Being stalked, being at the mercy of someone who objects to pornography enough to willfully attempt to threaten performers' jobs, housing, or child custody is a thread that cuts through a majority of the essays and colors why and how people have made their decisions to come out • and to whom.

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