



# What Wild Ecstasy: The Rise and Fall of the Sexual Revolution

*By John Heidenry*

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**What Wild Ecstasy: The Rise and Fall of the Sexual Revolution** By John Heidenry

A history of the last three decades of sexual culture. The author details the rise of the science of sexology, the burgeoning of pornographic works which fanned controversies over freedom of expression, the homosexual and other minority lobbies, and the effect of all this on society as a whole.

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

John Heidenry, a former editor at *Penthouse Forum*, has lived on the frontlines of the sexual revolution and knows whereof he writes in *What Wild Ecstasy: The Rise and Fall of the Sexual Revolution*. Despite its bodice-ripper title, the book is a serious look at modern sexual mores and issues. Heidenry is unabashedly pro-sex, but responsibly so. As he chronicles the coming of age of sexology, the growth of pop-culture pornography in *Screw* magazine or the film *Deep Throat*, and the legal battles fought by gays and lesbians, he is as forthcoming about the idiocies his subjects often fall into as he is about their heroics. He gives equally scathing treatment to people he views as crass opportunists (the porn-star John Holmes, for example) and anti-sex moralists on the right.

Heidenry is particularly sympathetic toward those who occupy the margins of mainstream sexuality--the bisexuals, transsexuals, and homosexuals, the prostitutes and pornographers. In these cases, he focuses on shared qualities: a need for love, for pleasure, for intimacy. *What Wild Ecstasy* is a frank, humane, and open-minded discussion of a subject that many people still find it difficult to talk about. Readers who approach Heidenry's book in the same spirit in which he writes will find, perhaps to their surprise, that underneath all the hoopla surrounding the sexual revolution, sex is still just one part of life, not the whole enchilada.

#### From Library Journal

This is an interesting, well-written account of an aspect of popular culture that still generates controversy?the so-called sexual revolution that began in the Sixties. Heidenry, former editor of *Penthouse Forum*, writes an entertaining account of the developments in the field of human sexuality from 1965 to the present. He discusses sex research, pornography, sexual minority groups, and contemporary sexual movements and their adherents and opponents. Readers will learn about the pill, abortion, Kinsey, Masters and Johnson, and Ted McIlvenna, as well as Annie Sprinkle, Bob Guccione, Hugh Hefner, Al Goldstein, and Larry Flynt. The author strives for balance in presenting the views of religious fundamentalists and both liberal and radical feminists, along with those who favor total sexual freedom. He also provides an extensive list of sources. At a time when the First Amendment and personal civil liberties are threatened, this timely book is highly recommended for all collections.?Barbara M. Bibel, Oakland P.L., Cal.

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#### From Kirkus Reviews

A detailed and engrossing history of the sexual revolution, though at points marred by an uneven understanding of the landscape. Heidenry (*Theirs Was the Kingdom*, 1993), former editor of *Penthouse Forum*, chronicles some 30 years of our changing sexual culture--sexology and sex therapy; gay liberation; pornography and censorship; controversies over the female orgasm; swinging; sadomasochism, and much more. Heidenry has an eye for a good story, and there are plenty of stories here--including gossip about figures on the sexual landscape from author Gay Talese to porn star Annie Sprinkle to legal scholar Catharine MacKinnon. But Heidenry indulges in more than his share of wild exaggeration. He claims, for instance, that Andrea Dworkin and MacKinnon were, respectively, Marat and Robespierre ``in the radical feminist Reign of Terror against men that was to wash over the country." Similarly absurd is his claim that in the '80s the sexual revolution ``shut down altogether"; certainly there was and is conservative backlash, but the changes continue, and popular morality will never be the same again. Also, it is clear that Heidenry is an outsider--albeit generally sympathetic--to gay and feminist struggles; this leads him to some odd choices. He begins his gay liberation chapter, for instance, with a lengthy account of a transsexual's personal torment and

eventual operation, even though he knows perfectly well (and states later) that transsexuals and gays have always been politically and socially separate, even at odds. Also, there is not always enough interpretation to lend shape to this rather sprawling narrative; at too many points he lets his anecdotes stand on their own, without speculating on their social significance. Plenty of pleasurable encounters, though not always satisfying. -- *Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Rosa Tarpley:**

Book is actually written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can recognize everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important point to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A reserve What Wild Ecstasy: The Rise and Fall of the Sexual Revolution will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think which open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or suitable book with you?

#### **Samuel Hamby:**

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book particularly book entitled What Wild Ecstasy: The Rise and Fall of the Sexual Revolution your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe unknown for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a e-book then become one contact form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get ahead of. The What Wild Ecstasy: The Rise and Fall of the Sexual Revolution giving you one more experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful information for your better life in this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

#### **Kristina Keene:**

The book untitled What Wild Ecstasy: The Rise and Fall of the Sexual Revolution contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the woman idea with easy technique. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was written by famous author. The author will take you in the new period of literary works. You can read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open up their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice learn.

#### **Margarita Culbertson:**

In this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more valuable

than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple method to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. One of many books in the top listing in your reading list is What Wild Ecstasy: The Rise and Fall of the Sexual Revolution. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking up and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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