

Go on your own journey with desire...

Erotic Writing Guidebook



From the author of "Desire Lines"

ANNA SANSOM

EROTIC WRITING GUIDEBOOK

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Introduction

Erotica and erotic writing have been around for a long time. Nearly every civilisation - ancient and modern - has created works of art that show and tell of sexual encounters. Sculptures, paintings, photographs, film and, of course, the written word, have all been used by artists to capture stories and moments of sexual passion.

Within our imaginations, there is pretty much unlimited potential for creating erotic scenes. The skill of the artist is to translate those scenes from what we see in our mind's eye into something that other people can see and share too (if we choose).

This guidebook is all about writing as a way to share your erotic imagination.

Whether you intend the story to be for your eyes only, you want to gift it to a lover, or you have a desire to see it in print or on the web for a wider audience to enjoy, you'll find this book offers step-by-step guidance to get your story 'out of your head and into your bed'.



Hi, I'm Anna Sansom, author of erotica and creative non-fiction that celebrates and explores women's sexuality. I'll be your guide while you explore *your own* fantasies and desires. It's a privilege to be on this journey with you.

I've enjoyed writing erotica for many years. It started as a tool for personal seduction: I found it easier to write about my desires than to tell them to my lovers. As my sexual confidence grew, I found other ways to communicate aspects of my sexual self, but I always enjoyed recording my erotic imaginings in story form.

My writing turned me on (both the process of doing it and then re-reading the final story), and turned others on too. What began as writing about my favourite fantasies developed into writing erotic stories that I didn't even know existed until I began to tell them. It felt like an untapped bank of material that, once given permission to emerge, began to flow, and showed me all sorts of different aspects of my sexual self and my desires. Some of these were very familiar; others are constantly changing and evolving.

Your experience of writing erotica will be as individual as your fingerprints. Your fantasies, your desires, your passions... are all uniquely you. Sharing them is always a gift, and you get to choose exactly how much or how little you want to give, and who you want to give your gift to.

Whether you plan to write solely for yourself, for your lover, or for a wider audience, I hope you have fun tapping into your erotic imagination and I invite you to give yourself full permission to enjoy the process.

Welcome to the world of your erotic imagination!

Pull up a chair and tell me: why do you want to write your erotic story?

Before you begin creating your delicious erotica, I suggest you just take a moment to connect with *why* you want to write your erotic story.

There are no right or wrong answers to this but it really helps to find out what your motivation is and then to be able to use this as you begin to write.

Do you want to write a story solely for yourself?

You're intrigued about what goes on in your imagination when you are in sexual situations. Maybe you have a bank of fantasies that you use when masturbating or having sex. Maybe you are keen to write yourself a new fantasy. Or maybe there is a favourite one that you would love to capture somehow.

Maybe there is a sexual scenario *you are keen to explore* but it feels taboo or off-limits. It is way out of your comfort zone but *it feels important to you*. Writing it down will help you to give it some attention, you can explore it, and you can enjoy it safely. It's your private fantasy brought to life in story form.

If this is for your eyes only (and always will be), hold nothing back: write the story that you most want to tell!

Remember that this story is a celebration of the amazing sexual being you are.

Do you want to write a story for your lover?

“Tell me what you want,” your lover whispers in your ear.

Does your mind go blank?

Does your mind race with ideas and suggestions but you can't bring yourself to say them?

Do you tell them exactly what you want, in that moment?

Being able to ***express your desires*** is something that comes with practice and confidence. Some people are ‘talkers’ and have no problem making the connection from what their body wants to what their mouth says. Other people find it embarrassing or awkward, or they simply don't feel they have the language or words to say what they want.

You can seduce your lover with your writing.

Tell them a story about what you want to do with them.

Respond to a suggestion they've made, or a fantasy they've shared.

Tell a story so wildly hot and erotic that it has the two of you desperate to get to each other's bodies to satisfy the yearning you've created.

Remember that this story is going to be a special and shared experience between you. It's your way of saying “I desire you”...

Do you want to share your story with a wider audience: in print or on the web?

People love stories. Story-telling is how we pass on dreams and visions and memories. Reading someone else's fantasy or erotic story is an amazing way to share ideas, and to get off on someone else's erotic imagination.

You can share your story with a wider audience if you want. In this context having a *story* becomes all the more important. Your reader only gets as much as you give them. A simple description of a sexual encounter is going to leave them feeling unfulfilled: they want to be taken on a journey, to meet new characters, and to be invited to peek through the curtains of someone else's desires.

Remember you are writing for an audience. Allow yourself to get turned on at the thought of turning someone else on.

What do you want to write?

You can write a fantasy or you can write a story. What's the difference? An erotic *fantasy* is part of a story that you've already created. It's the place you go to when you want to get yourself off. You may have several variations on a theme: the one where you're tied up; the one where you meet a stranger; the one where you're starring in a porn film; the one where... It probably changes as you use it. It probably consists of different scenes or events. You may only have a vague notion of what it involves ("I'm in a hotel somewhere, and there's a knock at the door...") or you may have an elaborate order of events ("after I've come for the third time we decide to do it anal, with me wearing the strap-on...").

With an erotic *story* you tell a story with a beginning, middle and end; there is a plot; there are characters; there is a sense of being taken on a journey. ("I'm on a desert island and I see a figure approaching me from over the sand dunes...") If you are telling this as a story, it requires that the reader knows who the narrator is; perhaps how they came to be on the island; their feelings at seeing the figure approach - relief/fear/excitement - and why; and what happens next.

You can write a story or a fantasy, or a fantasy *within* a story, or... It's up to you. Remember though that fantasies alone work best when the reader already has a sense of the bigger story. So, if sharing with your lover or yourself, you can go straight into writing your fantasy (and consider whether this is something you would actually want to *do in real life* or whether it's *purely a fantasy*). If you want to share with a wider audience, and like the idea of seeing where your story leads you, make sure you include all the other bits too. (You'll find lots more about how to do this in this guide.)

Stories are... stories. They don't have to be true to life, they don't have to take place in the here and now, they can include people you've never met and people you've dreamed into existence, and they can include versions of yourself or your sexual alter egos.

May I take your hat?

We all have lots of different roles in life: worker, partner, family member... and each role comes with a different hat. At work you wear your work hat; at home you wear your home hat and so on. Before you sit down to write your erotica, allow yourself to take off **all** those different hats. Spend a moment completely hatless and take a few deep breaths. Oh yes. All those other roles and responsibilities are now safely held on the hat stand and you can dedicate the next bit of time to wearing your **erotic writer** hat. What does it look like? Does it have a feather stuck in it at a jaunty angle? Is it made of leather or silk? Does it fit snugly like a skullcap or does it have a concealing brim?

Now you've got your hat, do you want any other props around you? Music? A cup of tea? A glass of wine, or whiskey? A snack? A vibrator? A box of tissues?

Get yourself nice and comfy.

And try and make sure you won't be disturbed: this is quiet, private time just for you.

Ready to begin?

As the line from the song in the *Sound of Music* tells us: "When you learn to read it's A, B, C; when you learn to sing it's do-re-mi!"

Well, when you learn to write erotica, a very good place to start is with some individual erotic words. Think of them like the chocolate chips in a chocolate chip cookie: you expect them to be there; you want enough to make it tasty; but you don't want so many that it becomes sickly.

Once you've read this guidebook, you will know how to add the right quantity of chocolate chips to your (erotic) cookie dough, *and* you'll be able to make sure that they are your favourite type of chocolate.

What do you call it?

Words, words, words

Each of us has different experiences with language. For some people swearing is a natural part of their vocabulary, for others it is totally out of bounds.

Erotic language is different to swearing - even though many of the words might be the same!

Fuck! Pussy! Dick!

You can use any of these words aggressively, with humour, with disdain or with erotic potency.

For example:

“Fuck off!”

Or

“I want you to fuck me, now!”

“Stop being such a dick!”

Or

“Wow! Your dick is so huge!”

“You’re such a pussy!”

Or

“I want to bury my face in your pussy!”

Words have different meanings depending on how they are used.

There are also lots of different words that can have the same meaning but feel very different depending on how you react to them.

For example:

Cock or penis?

Cunt or pussy?

Fuck or make love?

Getting comfortable with the words

The language we use has tremendous potency. The right word at the right time can be tantalising; the wrong word can be a complete turn-off.

Each of us will have different words that we like and don't like when it comes to sex and sexuality. Find out which words 'do it' for you by filling in the tables below.

Think about each word based on how you feel when you read it, but also based on how you feel if you hear/say it out loud.

NOTE: just because a certain word may feel 'naughty' or 'coarse' that doesn't mean you have to dislike it. Equally, an anatomically correct word may do nothing for you - even though you find it inoffensive.

Make your genitals juicy!

Now that you've chosen the words you prefer to call genitals, and other sexy body parts, think about spicing them up with some great adjectives or describing words.

For example:

- rock hard cock
- soaked pussy
- engorged clit
- hefty balls
- throbbing shaft
- shy nipples
- blatant erection
- slippery hole
- delicious vulva
- sensitive button...

I remember once reading that *anything* could be described in an erotic style. The writer used the example of eating a boiled egg - here's my version:

The hot shell lay firm underneath my eager fingers. I picked up my spoon and paused for a moment to select just the right place to begin. The crisp snap of the shell as I brought my spoon down urged me to strike again and again, until I had created a glorious mosaic on the surface of my egg. I quickly picked off the sharp fragments, excitedly anticipating what lay beneath. My spoon slid through the firm white to reveal the glowing, golden yolk. Without hesitation, I grabbed my toast soldier and thrust it into the oozing yolk. I plunged my toast in repeatedly, bringing the succulent goo to my lips, and swallowing it enthusiastically...

A bit of fun...Try writing your own boiled egg description - with an erotic flavour!

Other useful words:

What other sex-specific language might you want to use?

Are you interested in incorporating sex toys into your story? Do you know what you would call them?

- Dildo
- Vibe/vibrator
- Strap-on
- Love balls
- Wand
- Butt plug
- Lube/lubricant...

Are there any BDSM-specific activities or equipment you want to include?

- Nipple clamps
- Flogger
- Cane
- Cat o'nine tails
- St Andrew's Cross
- Sling...

What about any kink/fetish-specific words?

- Spanking
- Latex
- Leather
- Pony play
- Golden showers
- Corset...

Use this table to note down any other words - or phrases - you might want to use in your story:

It is rumoured that EL James - the author of the Fifty Shades of Grey series - used Google to find out about the BDSM activities in her books. You can do your own research if you want: online sex toy shops will give you names and descriptions, and sex toys reviews can give you more of an idea about how different things might feel.

You can use your imagination too: how do you imagine a riding crop feels versus a wooden paddle; would you prefer a dildo that was smooth or one with ridges; would you want nipple clamps that pinch straight on or ones that are tightened, bit by bit?

Reading erotica written by other people is another great way to expand your sexual vocabulary and your ideas bank.

A few words about language and gender

There is way more to explore around gender than simply deciding on the names that we want to use for male or female genitals. Binary gender - the notion that all people are *either* male *or* female - is a limiting construct, and one that doesn't do justice to the myriad of ways that people can feel and understand their own, *individual*, experience of their gender.

I invite you to revisit the lists you've just compiled. What other words might be missing? What other language or ideas might you want to explore if you decided to challenge gender expectations and norms in your story? How might you write about characters who are transgender, or those who identify as non-binary gender or gender-queer?

You don't need to include this in your story - unless you want to - but you might also want to take a moment to think about how you experience your *own* individual gender, and how that might feature in your story. What might your fantasies and desires look like if you expand your thinking around gender?

Here's an example from my book, *Desire Lines*:

I made a connection with a person sitting about a metre away from me. She was naked; I was wearing a robe. She had a physical penis but I knew she identified as a woman. Earlier, we had enjoyed conversations and cuddles together.

"Anna," she whispered, "would you fuck me with your energy cock?" I nodded, thrilled that she'd been bold enough to ask.

My energy dick hardened and swelled, straining to reach her energy cunt. She began to rock her hips. I felt myself at her entrance, and then pushing inside of her. I heard her gasp; she felt it too. We rocked together. I filled her and she gripped around my shaft.

(Desire Lines)

Knock, knock. Who's there?

Choosing your characters

You may want to write yourself - or a *version* of yourself - into your story. We all have different sexual alter egos:

Alter ego

noun

1. Another side of oneself; a second self.
2. An intimate friend or a constant companion.

All of us have more than one aspect to our 'self'.

We are: daughters, sons, wives, husbands, employees, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, lovers, carers, bosses, friends, activists, and much more.

We generally understand that there are many aspects to our 'self' and that each involves different roles and sets of behaviours: how I behave on a night out with my friend is different to how I behave when I go home to visit my parents, for example. And what I wear to work is different to what I wear at the weekend for a day out in the park.

Just think about how many different roles and personas you take on in just one day. Although certain aspects such as clothes and language may change with each role, it is still YOU.

The same can be said for our sexual selves: we can have more than one and still know that all of them, ultimately, originate within the same person.

However...

When it comes to our *sexual* selves, it can be hard to distance ourselves from societal expectations or pressures.

'Society' gives sexual women labels like: slut, cock-tease, easy, frigid, siren, and sexpot. Men might be labelled: stud, beefcake, womaniser, impotent, and thinks-with-his-dick...

Writing your own erotic story is a great way to explore the different aspects of your sexual self and reclaim any of these labels that feel good to you. There are no 'negative' or 'positive' sexual labels in this setting: you can be whoever and whatever turns you on.

Consider what it would be like to cast yourself as a man-eater, a siren or a beefcake.

If you are usually shy in bed, imagine yourself to be extrovert and raunchy instead. Or if you are usually the one who instigates sex, imagine yourself as passive and responsive instead.

Sexual orientation and gender are other labels that you can play around with in your erotic story.

You could write yourself as a different gender.

You could explore any bisexual, gay, lesbian, or straight fantasies you might have.

You can use your fantasy story to explore different aspects of **your own character**:

- Do you want to be the one taking control or to be controlled?
- Do you want to be slutty or demure?
- Do you want to make out with a stranger, a celebrity, an existing partner, or someone you have a crush on?
- Do you want to play with your gender or the gender of your sexual partner?

You can also explore all of these things using characters you've made up - **you** don't have to feature in the story at all.

There are lots of different combinations to play around with - and this is all before we've even introduced another character.

Who else gets to play?

Who else do you want to feature in your story? Your current lover? An ex-lover? A dream lover (either a real person or completely imaginary)?

Have another think about who you are writing your story for:

If you are writing for **yourself**, you can be anyone and anything you want to be and you can make any other characters in your story likewise.

If you are writing a story as a gift for **your lover**: would you like it to feature the two of you, or completely different characters? (Probably best to avoid introducing ex-lovers into this scenario, and I suggest that you only include people you both know in real life if you are confident that your reader will be pleased to see them there!)

If you are writing with the aim of having your story **published**, please have a think about the ethics of sharing anything that might be based on a true story: unless the other person/people who shared that experience have given their informed consent for you to write about them, it is best to change names and any other identifiable characteristics.

How many characters you have in your story is up to you: just one, a couple, a threesome, an orgy... You might find it easier to stick with a smaller number of characters when you are just beginning to write erotica but, if you are confident you can keep track of them all - their individual characters (and all their bits and pieces) - then include as many as you like.

Something to think about: could you write a sex scene with just one person?

Solo sex/self-pleasuring/masturbation can be hugely erotic, and writing about it gives us an opportunity to really hone in on how our character wants to be touched and how they are feeling.

Here's an example:

She surrendered to the requests of her body for movement this way and that. Sometimes stretching high into the air, other times crouching low to the ground; her hips swaying, her legs keeping the beat, and her arms snaking out from her body. When her hands called to touch her skin, Lilith let them. They stroked her face, her neck, over her breasts, and down her lower back to her buttocks. When the call to touch herself more intimately arose, Lilith submitted to that too, kneeling on her bed and continuing to move to the music while her fingers slid into the space between her thighs. With one hand on the mattress to give her balance, and the other tucked between her legs, Lilith leant forward and parted her thighs wider.

(Desire Lines)

If you find it helpful, use this table to think about and record the details of your characters (you can add as many columns as you need):

What you know about them:	Character 1	Character 2
Name		
Age		
Gender		
Sexual orientation		
Relationship between character 1 and character 2 (e.g. strangers, married, best friends)		
Key aspects of their personality (e.g. dominant, submissive, cheeky, laid-back, shy, uninhibited, jokey) Does this change before, during and after sex?		
Describe their appearance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hair colour and style • Eye colour (do they wear glasses?) • Skin colour - e.g. ebony, milky white, bronzed, 'English rose' • Body type - e.g. buxom, muscular, lanky, petite, curvaceous, chunky, broad-shouldered • What they are wearing - e.g. nothing, a corset, a suit, pyjamas, riding gear, just socks • Any other key physical characteristics - e.g. piercings, tattoos, scars, circumcised, shaved 		

They did what?!

Developing your storyline

You may already have a favourite fantasy that you want to write about, or you may have seen or read something hot that you want to adapt. Great, go for it!

However, if you are stuck for a plot, here are some easy questions that can help get you started:

1. Write down five places you visited last week (e.g. supermarket, office, cinema, garden, neighbour's house). Now choose one of these at random. This will be your **location**.
2. Make one of the characters yourself - or a fantasy version of yourself - and **add another character** based on your dream date. This can be someone you know, someone you know of (such as a celebrity or film star), or a character from another story (such as a character from a favourite book or movie). Think about what aspects of this person you find particularly attractive: is it all about the body; do they have a voice that could melt butter; do you love their sense of humour or the fact that you can debate politics with them long into the night (before tearing each other's clothes off!).
3. Now think about different reasons why the two of you would be at your chosen location at the same time. Had you invited them there? If so, how did you already know each other? Was it a chance meeting? If so, what was your reaction to seeing them there?

As this is a *fantasy*, you can choose to be as outlandish as you like. Want to bump into Brad Pitt or Angelina Jolie in the supermarket queue? Great, have them visiting relatives nearby and stopping to buy a cake on the way. Maybe they are lost and you offer to show them a shortcut through the neighbourhood, and then they offer you a date by way of thank you.

Or maybe you could work with this idea: you're out walking your dog by the sea and you come across a message in a bottle that invites the holder to an exclusive party. You arrive at the party to discover a room set out, just for the two of you...

Have fun coming up with your own ideas. Remember, you can write as many stories/fantasies as you like.

Just one thing...

*It's not my intention to limit or restrict your imagination in any way - however, there are some basic guidelines that are generally adhered to in the world of erotic writing, namely: **all sexual acts must be legal and consensual.***

It is up to you if you want to ignore these guidelines (and some writers do when exploring the darker, edgier sides of their sexual imaginations) but - if you are considering sharing your writing with a larger audience - most publishers and websites would have these rules in place (more on this later).

If you find it helpful, use this table to think about and record the important parts of your plot:

<p>Where does your story take place? e.g. at home, in a hotel, in the park, on a submarine, on another planet, at the office</p>	
<p>When does your story take place? e.g. present day, a time in history (recent or ancient), in the future</p>	
<p>What do you most want to see happen to this character or between these characters? And who does what to whom? e.g. spanking, oral, anal, foot worship, sensuous undressing, kissing, masturbation</p>	
<p>Are there any props you want to have to hand? (note: lubricant is always a good idea!) e.g. condoms, silk ties, handcuffs, vibrator, dildo, tickling feather, flogger, ice cubes, hot tub, nipple clamps, comfy bed, video camera</p>	
<p>Anything else you don't want to miss out?</p>	

Out of your head and into your 'bed'

Let's write

You've thought about words that turn you on and off, you've come up with some ideas for characters and storyline, now how do you start actually writing it down into a story?

If you want to just have a go at writing a hot and sensual sex scene then dive straight in and go for it (like the boiled egg story).

However, if you are writing a *story* (not just a sex scene) you are going to need to do a bit more.

What's the plot?

Wikipedia defines 'plot' as:

"the events that make up a story, particularly as they relate to one another in a pattern, in a sequence, through cause and effect, how the reader views the story, or simply by coincidence. One is generally interested in how well this pattern of events accomplishes some artistic or emotional effect."

In writing erotica, the overall emotional effect you are aiming for is *arousal* (mental and physical). However, there can be lots of other emotions in there too: love, lust, fear, guilt, joy, courage...

One simple way of thinking about plot - or taking your reader on a journey - is to think about the different stages a story goes through.

Think of the plot of your favourite movie or book and see if you can pinpoint each of these stages:

Introduction: the characters are introduced, and we begin to get a sense of their motivation and a bit of their back story. There's a reason why they are in the story, we don't know what's going to happen, but we have an idea of what's at stake if they don't succeed (this could simply be a desire/hunger/need to get off! Or it could be something more elaborate like saving the world or fixing the leaking tap...).

In sex terms, think of this as foreplay for your reader. You want them to engage with the story and to allow themselves to be drawn into it. You don't want them to feel bored or uninterested.

Hotting up: the pace begins to pick up and the action starts to happen. The story builds, tension builds, and arousal builds - both for the characters and the reader.

Climax: the story reaches its crescendo. It's all been building up to this moment. In sex terms this is likely to be the moment of orgasm - but not necessarily. *(There's more on writing the 'big O' later in this guidebook.)*

Cool down and get ready for more: After you've given your reader the climax of the story you don't just want to metaphorically turn over and go to sleep, or light a cigarette and turn on the TV. Equally you don't have to have any big post-coital revelations.

Do find a way to draw your story to a close though. Think of it as your sexual afterplay: you want them to come back for more.

Remember: this is not a story-writing formula. There are no hard and fast (or soft and slow) rules about the order of events, the pace, or the flow of your story. Write your erotic story in a way that works for you.

Who's telling this story? or Points of view

You may have already heard of the phrase 'point of view' (or POV).

Basically this relates to who is 'telling' the story.

First person POV is where the person telling the story is also a character in the story and refers to themselves as "I". Other characters are generally referred to by name.

For example:

I came home early expecting to find the house quiet and hoping for a half hour to myself just to drink some beer and reflect on the day. When Jeanette appeared at the kitchen door I nearly dropped the bottle I'd just extracted from the chiller. It wasn't just that I was surprised to see her; I was surprised to see so much of her. She'd completely shaved off her bush! After 30 years of marriage I suddenly saw my timid wife in a new, erotic light.

Second person POV is where the person telling the story calls the reader 'you'. This is a style often used in song lyrics but less so in story-writing. However, if you are describing an encounter between you and your lover, this can be a very intimate way of telling the story.

For example:

You never did like having to wait. You've already taken off your underwear and started playing with yourself, despite receiving strict instructions to stay still and be patient. If you can sneak in a quick orgasm you will; you know you'll be able to have plenty more before the night is over.

Third person POV is where the person telling the story doesn't feature in it at all. Characters are referred to by their names and as "he", "she" or "they" but not as "I", "we" or "you".

For example:

Tabatha stormed out of the room, her arse smarting and her pride well and truly wounded. "Not such the tough nut she thought she was," Hilary mused. "If there are any more of you in line who think I'll go easy on you because you are a girl, you may as well leave now." She looked at each waiting woman in turn. Carla couldn't decide if she wanted to run away or step into Tabatha's place at the whipping bench. Hilary saw the conflict in her body and decided to put the girl out of her misery. "You're next," she said, pointing to Carla with the tip of the cane.

What POV best suits your story? You can try writing it in each style and see which one you enjoy the most. However, once you've chosen your POV stick to it for the whole of your story. Also, each scene should be written using only *one* person's POV. Mixing up POVs makes it all very complicated and your reader will quickly get confused and distracted trying to make sense of it all.

A small tip: many erotica writers start writing because they want to tell their own fantasy. In this case, writing in the first person POV works really well.

Oh wait! There's more...

Other things to think about when writing your story are:

Is it erotic?

The wildest sexual fantasy could sound boring if it is written as a list of instructions without any emotional connection.

One way to make sure your writing is erotic is to show the reader that one or more of the characters in the story is sexually aroused and feeling their lust.

For example:

He moved his hand up my thigh then pushed his fingers inside me.

This works so much better as:

I waited to see what he would do next. I was willing him to touch me roughly; to prise my thighs apart and rudely thrust his fingers inside me. I was done with playing the nice girl; and I was done with his over-politeness too.

Show, don't tell

You may have heard this phrase before. In a nutshell it's about writing in a way that helps the reader *experience* your imaginary world. Don't just sum up what happens; include descriptions, emotions, what's happening at a sensory/physical level, as well as what's going on beyond the physical.

For example, here's what happens if I simply 'tell' my reader what's happening:

Mary walked to the shops and picked out a cheesecake. She knew there was still some whipped cream in the fridge at home too. Hopefully Jane would be happy with that.

Here's a better version where I focus on 'showing' my reader instead:

Was Jane still doing her dairy-free thing? Mary tried to remember the last time they'd met for coffee: that latte could have been soy for all she knew. She'd been so distracted by Jane's bobbing cleavage it was a wonder she remembered anything about the date at all. She liked making Jane laugh and liked it all the more when she saw the secondary effect that Jane's giggles had on her already attention-grabbing bosom. Mary glanced down at her own breasts and thought about the engineering that would have to go into a bra to get them that high up and keep them that molten.

Despite standing in the chill aisle of the supermarket, Mary felt her own heat rising. She could hardly wait for her dinner guest to arrive and had visions of wolfing down her meal just to get to the part of the evening she was really looking forward to. Hopefully we won't even make it to the dessert, she thought, as she grabbed a cheesecake from the shelf and chucked it into her basket. If Jane is still dairy-free and still hungry after the main course, I'll happily offer her an alternative way to finish off our meal, Mary mused.

Talk dirty to me!

In 'real life' many of us don't say very much during sex: not because we don't have anything to say, but because we may feel too shy or embarrassed to say it.

There can also be lots of *sounds* during sex but - as a general rule - these really don't translate well into writing.

For example:

"Baby, ah ah ah, oh oh oh. Nnnnggaaahhhhho oh oh oh!" she screamed.

Or:

"Ohhhh," she moaned. "Oh. God. Ahhhh, owwww, baby, yes, oh oh oh, yeahhhh!"

How about doing away with the sounds and making this a little easier (and hotter) for the reader?

The same scene becomes:

She pushed her arse higher up into the air and grabbed the pillow to her face. She wanted this but didn't know if it would be too much. Her breath was already quick and shallow but it quickened even further when Harry's tongue made contact with her puckered hole.

"God, yes," she breathed into the pillow. Harry licked a little firmer. Her breaths became pants and soon she had tossed away the pillow and was calling out to him, "Don't stop! Oh, god, please don't stop!"

You can use your writing to explore what it feels like to speak up during sex by having your characters do the talking for you. And if you are already pretty vocal during sex, how about using this as a chance to extend your sexy-talk repertoire?

Here are a few examples of dialogue:

“Touch me, baby,” I cooed. Lucy looked at me shyly. “You’ve made me very wet and I can’t wait to feel your fingers inside me.” I rolled onto my back and spread my legs. Taking Lucy’s hand, I guided her fingers to my cunt and placed her hand on my mound. “Can you feel how wet I am? That’s from fucking you.”

(Coming Close)

“Tell me what you like.” Lilith had never been asked this before. Of course, she’d offered suggestions to Adam, but they had been mostly one-word requests: faster, softer, there, oh, yes, there! “Don’t be shy. Just start with what you’d most like, right now. Feel into your body and speak the words to me.”

Lilith knew exactly what she wanted in that moment. She wanted soft kisses that built in passion. She wanted fingers stroking the sensitive place where her thighs met. She wanted her slickness drawn out of her, her aching need met with fervour, and her emptiness filled. She told the daemon all of these things in a breathless whisper, her body beginning to pulse and rock of its own accord. Each confession was received with an appreciative moan. When Lilith finished speaking they were both entranced: the heat from their bodies like a fire lit between them, their lips wet and eyes sparkling.

(Desire Lines)

The smooth head of a vibrator was pressed up against Cassie's clit and she jumped at the unexpected contact. Jay worked it forwards and back a few times, sliding it through Cassie's wetness, pausing - tantalising - at the opening of her cunt. A click of the controls and a low hum emanated from the shaft of the vibrator. Jay continued to move it slowly back and forth while Cassie rocked her pelvis in time.

"Now, we can keep going like this all night," Jay offered, "or you can tell me what you want to happen next."

Cassie's hips paused while she digested Jay's words. Up until now she had been happy to stay mainly silent. She loved having Jay tell her what to do; Jay knew Cassie found it difficult to ask for what she wanted.

The vibrator continued to hum softly and Cassie picked up the rhythm again. She took a deep breath. "I want... I want..."

"Yes?" Jay pressed the vibrator a little more firmly against Cassie's clit in encouragement.

"I want to feel your fingers inside me. I want you to fuck me while you tease my clit with the vibrator. I want... I want... Oh I want to come, please!"

Jay easily filled Cassie's eager cunt with three fingers while clicking the vibrator's controls up a few more notches. The sudden intensity of the sensations was almost too much for Cassie and she thought she might come immediately. But Jay knew her body well and worked her to even greater heights of ecstasy. "I'm not going to let you come yet, baby. You need to keep talking to me."

Cassie gasped, "Yes... Please... Oh fuck, I'm going to come."

(Cassie's Story)

Say it out loud and say it proud!

A great tip for checking the authenticity (and believability) of your dialogue is to read it out loud. As you read your characters' words, listen to your own voice: does the sentence sound corny, like something out of a porn movie, dull, or sexy? There's nothing *wrong* with a character saying something cheesy or sounding like they are in a porn movie *if* that is true to their character *and* it doesn't detract the reader from enjoying the story.

The Big O

What does an orgasm feel like?

The answer to this question varies hugely and the ways that people have come up with to describe it also vary widely.

There are some classic descriptions involving fireworks, exploding volcanoes, and crashing waves. These are all pretty clichéd though and I'm sure you can come up with something more original.

In real life, orgasms are often over pretty quickly. This means that the build-up to your orgasm is all the more important. You're not just telling a story like this: "She slid the dildo all the way in, turned on the vibrator attached to her clit, and came." Rather, you are building up the erotic encounter to that pivotal point where your reader is tipped over the edge as well. The actual orgasm may be over pretty fast, but there's the before and after to consider.

That said, how do you describe an (even fleeting) orgasm?

First of all, do you know what your orgasm feels like?

Can you put it into words? Can you describe not only the physical sensations but any emotional ones too?

Here are some examples:

Her mouth returned to my breasts, sucking and nibbling my nipples while her hands pushed and stroked at my pussy. My lips were parted and my tongue tasted the heady musk of our arousal in the air. The feelings of pleasure filled my body and I breathed them out with sighs and moans. It was impossible to hold back. She drew a silent scream from me as she brought me to the peak and tipped me over the edge. I lost sense of her, of me, of the bed, of the room, and dissolved into a void where there was only being, only that moment, only pleasure.

(Despite Our Differences)

The daemon gently stroked one finger between Lilith's thighs and groaned with desire when his finger made contact with her erect clit and juice-soaked lips. Another finger joined the first and danced over and around Lilith, following the trail of her gasps and cries to locate her sweetest spots and most urgent wishes. As Lilith's breaths quickened, the daemon unfolded his wings and danced the tips of his feathers over her back and arse. "Please go inside me," Lilith urged. With a dextrous move, the daemon shifted his hips to slide into Lilith whilst still stroking and circling her clit. Lilith called out freely now, her sounds of pleasure rising in pitch and volume and echoing around the cave. They moved together, both suspended in the place of wanting to come but not wanting it to end. They rode the wave of bliss until neither could contain it any longer. Their orgasms tore out of their bodies and throats with such force they were both left panting and glassy-eyed.

(Desire Lines)

What does an orgasm look like?

Contortions; tremors; eyes wide open or squeezed shut; flushed skin; pulsing veins; stilled body... There are lots of ways you can tell a person is having an orgasm and you can include these in your 'show, don't tell' style of writing.

For example:

The flush had spread across Kasey's chest and her thighs were trembling uncontrollably. Her breath came out in short gasps, punctuated with occasional words: "Fuck. Yes. Please." Her hips began to dance to their own tempo and Mandy felt the tightening around her fingers before, finally, Kasey cried out, her whole body juddered, and her palms curled up into tight fists.

(Science Stripped Bare)

Did you come?

Can you remember the last time you were in an 'orgasm-situation'? You came, your lover came, maybe a whole room full of people came! Were you paying attention? Could you describe the experience physically as well as emotionally? What about the thoughts that were going through your head as you neared and reached your climax?

See how much you can remember and then, if you feel like it, next time you want to masturbate watch yourself in a mirror. Find out what your own body looks like during arousal and climax.

You can watch other people's orgasms too. There is a website called Beautiful Agony (www.beautifulagony.com) that shows people's faces as they orgasm.

Nothing else - just their faces. It's fascinating to see the range of emotions and expressions. Think of it as writing research.

Does there need to be a climax?

Believe it or not, erotic stories, just like real-life acts of sex and intimacy, don't need to include, or end with, an orgasm. They can be just as satisfying and stimulating when the person is left *wanting more*, as when they are left replete.

The beauty of erotica is that it has the capacity to evoke feelings: feelings of arousal, lust, and desire. Whether you choose to include one orgasm or many, or none at all, is entirely up to you.

Here's an example:

The first thing I noticed about you? Your breath. As you spoke to me on that crowded tube train, a sweet-sharp waft of peppermint snaked its way inside my nostrils creating a sudden and unrequested intimacy.

It was odd that you were talking to me. Strangers don't speak to each other on the Tube. Except perhaps in an emergency or when some unexpected event unites them. But there had been no sudden plunge into darkness, no crazy person bursting into song; you had simply turned to me and begun to tell me your story.

We had been riding side-by-side for a good ten minutes and I hadn't noticed you eating your peppermints. I was zoned out in

that typical London commuter way: intent on getting to my stop and finally getting home and away from the crowds and noise.

But as soon as you spoke, as soon as your flavour reached me, I forgot about the no talking rule, and I forgot about the quiet sanctuary waiting for me at home. Your voice - your breath - wrapped me up in an insulated bubble; the sweetness of you made me salivate, while the sharper notes gave me an uncommon clarity. I inhaled your breath and I knew how your tongue would taste.

The narrowness of the Tube seats gave us no choice except to sit close. I usually ignored the unbidden pressure of another's thigh against mine on my journey home, but this evening I shifted my focus directly to it. The heat from your body contrasted deliciously with the coolness of your breath. Safe in our anonymous bubble, I shifted a little closer, leant a little closer, inhaled a little deeper.

When you stopped talking I was suddenly bereft. The scent of your words had been my oxygen supply, making it possible for me to breathe easily in this cocoon we had created. I felt a wave of panic begin to rise as the noise and movement of all the other passengers began to infiltrate our safe space. I felt vulnerable and exposed: too many people, not enough space for me - and you.

My eyes darted to the scrolling sign at the end of the carriage: where were we?

Your voice told me the name of the approaching stop and that one word was enough for me to breathe again. Then your lips were on mine, your peppermint tongue tasted my own, and we were alone once more.

(Breathe Into Me)

Is safer sex sexy?

I like to take a few risks in sex but, where my health is concerned, I'd rather take a more precautionary approach. I can be reading the hottest story ever written but will be instantly turned off if I realise one or more of the characters is courting disaster through unsafe sex practices. Anal to vaginal penetration without a change of condom or some hot water and soap? No, thank you! Blood sports with an unsterilized needle? Yikes!

I was once asked if I'd ever incorporated dental dams into one of my stories. (Dental dams are squares of latex used to cover up bits and pieces (vulvas and anuses usually) during oral sex.) I had to confess that, although I'd happily featured condoms, latex gloves, and surgical wipes in my stories, I'd never introduced a dental dam. However, I took it as a challenge and wrote a story where the dental dam was intrinsic to the action: it wasn't about safe sex per se, but I think it does show that safe sex can indeed be sexy:

She moved up from my lap to bring her crotch level with my face. Now the latex smell from the dental dam obscured the beer scent and there was another muskier note added to the mix. I breathed all of it in. The latex was smooth and warm and my tongue slipped easily over its surface. I pressed a little firmer and felt the contours of her cunt: the hidden folds and valleys that lay beneath; the latex square like a dust cloth that had been draped over priceless possessions to protect them while they lay dormant. Her cunt was not dormant though: I could feel it twitch and pulse beneath my tongue. I explored more of her shape, my eyes closed, my hands numbing under my thighs, my senses of taste and smell overloaded with the up-close-and-personal experience of licking her through the dental dam, and my own cunt flooding with the elicit thrill of touching yet not touching.

(Her Desire)

Hey, hot stuff!

Which brings me onto the question of just how sexy should your story be? There isn't a simple answer to this. Some people enjoy "erotic romance" - where the focus is on the romance and more gentle sex within a loving relationship; other people prefer hardcore raunch - where the focus is on more extreme sexual acts such as BDSM and fetish play. Of course, BDSM can take place within a romantic situation too; and what one person considers hardcore might seem pretty tame, or completely off limits, to another.

All in all, this means that you should give yourself license to write in a style and language *that turns you on* - first and foremost. If you plan to share your story with your lover you can be sensitive to their preferences too, but you don't need to play it *too* safe: you might be surprised at how the expression of your - and their - desire expands when it's given a chance to grow.

Does size matter?

Is your story long enough? Again, there's no simple answer to this. Some people write 'flash fiction' stories of only one or two paragraphs. Some people write up to 1000 words, others will write 3000, 5000, 10,000 ...or a whole novel's worth of 70,000+ words.

If you are writing with the aim of submitting your story for publication there will most likely be a word limit you need to adhere to.

If you are writing for yourself or your lover, make your story as long or as short as you like.

When you read it over, just make sure that it flows well and feels well-paced. You don't want your story to drag and become tedious, but equally you don't want to rush through it so fast that you don't give your reader time to appreciate it.

Reading other people's stories will help give you a sense of how a good story flows and what feels like a satisfying length.

Give it the once over, or twice, or three times...

Once you've written your story, congratulate yourself and then put it to one side. If possible, leave it for at least 24 hours before re-reading it. As you re-read you may want to do a bit of editing: correct any spelling mistakes; improve any dodgy grammar; re-write a bit of dialogue; or add in or take out a few bits and pieces.

This is good!

Most writers will go through several drafts of the same story before they are completely happy with it.

If spelling and grammar don't come easily to you, you have a choice: you can either run your story through your computer's spellcheck and grammar check, fix what you can and then leave the rest, celebrating the fact that you don't have to be perfect; or you could ask a trusted friend (who *is* good at spelling and grammar and who you can trust with your personal fantasy) to have a read and point out anything that needs tweaking. Alternatively you could have a professional writer/editor read over it; or find an online erotica forum where people share their stories and give each other helpful feedback.

Passing the Wet Test

The term 'the wet test' was first used by the writer Dorothy Allison and later coined by Susie Bright aka Susie Sexpert (American writer, performer, speaker and teacher on sexual politics, erotica and feminism).

The wet test is pretty simple to perform: read your story and find out if it gets you wet/aroused/hard (or whatever the equivalent is for you!).

You might feel aroused during the process of writing your story/fantasy. You might want to stop part way through and touch yourself, you might wait until you've finished writing, or you might come back to your fantasy story in a few days' or weeks' time and feel aroused by it then.

Writing your own erotic story can be a liberating and fun experience, as well as a hot and horny one!

Feel like sharing?

Are you ready to share your story?

If your story was always written **for your eyes only**, make it a gift from your sexual/creative self and enjoy all the pleasure that writing and re-reading your story gives you.

If your aim all along was to write a story **for your lover**, are you happy that this is the story you want to share? Give yourself permission to change your mind, write a different story, or keep it just for yourself. Also give yourself permission to share your story with pride: this is a precious and magnificent part of your sexual self. Let them know that you have written the story for them, why you decided to do this, and what you would like the outcome to be. For example, do you want it to lead into acting out the story together? Or a conversation about some of the things you included but maybe you or they feel unsure about it in real life? Or perhaps you would like to use it as a way to invite them to trade fantasies with you and tell/write you one of their own?

How about sharing your story with **a wider audience**? Would you like to see your story in print or published online?

There are lots of options for this and some of the current ones are listed below.

As before, think first about what and how you want to share: do you want to adopt a pen name for your erotica or will you write under your own name? Are you hoping to get paid for it, or do you simply want the thrill of knowing that other people are getting off on your words?

A note about payment: some publishers pay a flat fee per story whilst others offer a share of the royalties. Neither of these options tends to pay huge sums - unless you become an overnight sensation like EL James! Most erotica writers write because they *love* writing and they really enjoy exploring sex and sexuality in this way, not as a 'get rich quick' scheme. (That said, if you do get rich from your erotic writing, please remember the creator of this guidebook *wink*)

There are far more opportunities to share your writing if you are not looking for payment. A quick internet search for "free erotica" brings up over 300 million websites. Your erotic story could be featured on one or more of these (just make sure you're happy with the site and any terms and conditions first).

Helpful resources

Erotica Readers and Writers Association

<https://www.erotica-readers.com/call-for-submissions/>

This website has a very comprehensive list of publishers who are seeking story submissions, including print anthologies, e-book submissions, magazines and other websites that feature erotica, plus details of any payments offered.

The Good Bits

<https://thegoodbits.com/>

Book excerpts and erotic stories to give you inspiration and a flavour of how other people write erotica.

You can read my story "Down by the River" on The Good Bits. It was awarded runner-up in The Good Sex Awards (Best Erotic Touch category) 2021:

<https://thegoodbits.com/good-sex-awards-finalists/best-kink/best-kink-anna-sansom-down-by-the-river>

Have we reached the end? Or is this just the beginning?

Writing erotic stories enables us to explore and express our unique sexual selves.

I invite you to take some time to reflect on your thoughts and feelings as you go through this guidebook and as you write your story. Where do you feel excited? When do you feel daunted or unsure? What are you holding back? And what juicy depths are you ready to dive into?

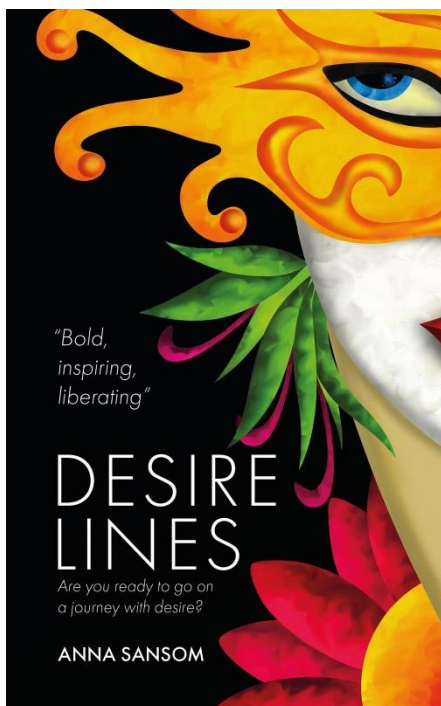
There is so much more to discover.



One more kiss before you go...

I sincerely hope that you've found this guidebook helpful and had a wonderful time writing your own erotic story. I'd like to invite you to continue your journey with me:

Want to explore more of your unique desires and sexual expression?



My book - *Desire Lines* - offers you an inspiring and original look at the unique paths we take when we follow our personal *desire lines*: when we refuse to simply reflect what society expects us to be and, instead, choose our own paths of sexual expression and exploration.

I share stories of my own sexual journey, along with evocative erotica, and reflective questions, to help you explore and create a map of your own desires.

You can read sample chapters and buy your copy here: www.annasansom.com/desire-lines/

Want more erotica to read to help get your imagination and juices flowing?

Find a full catalogue of my books by visiting my author page on Amazon (just search for Anna Sansom).

I also frequently publish erotic short stories on my blog:

www.annasansom.com/blog

Would you like to stay in touch?

Please make sure you have subscribed to my newsletter so I can share latest updates and invitations to explore, celebrate and express our unique sexual selves.

www.annasansom.com

Got a question, a comment or want to tell me how you got on with your writing?

Send me a message:

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