ForeWord Reviews
**Clarion Review**

POETRY

**101 Reasons To Have Sex: And Just as Many Reasons Not To**
Dianne Wyntjes
978-1-4259-6996-7
Three Stars (out of Five)

There's no doubt this is a title that compels the reader to pick up the book. Between the covers are101 reasons, and 101 not-to reasons to do the deed, paired with promising titles and designed like prose poems. The pieces are sometimes frisky, even risqué, but always conclude with down-to-earth advice.

These simple lines map Wyntjes meandering thoughts on having sex and its repercussions or benefits. Some try to take a look from both sides, as in reason #59: *Have Sex for Old Time's Sake*. Well, mulls the author, it "could be a huge mistake." On second thought, it could start the relationship anew. The poem ends with the line, "How will you know?" The titles themselves are alluring, like, *I Feel Sexy in My New Underwear*, and the reasons not-to, admonishing: *Your Feet Stink*. Titles and page numbers are sometimes difficult to read, however, because of a quirky font.

Wyntjes has grouped the poems loosely in two sections, although it reads like one long musing. She gives advice on relationships and love to all ages, but most of the poems target women in their 30s and up. The writer's style is straightforward and inspirational, although clichés and hackneyed metaphors abound. #78: "When you see clouds, don't think of the blues, / Because, before you can have rainbows, you need the rain. / Find the pot of gold together!" Yes, the poems are sweet, but not very substantial.

Nevertheless, the reader is cheered on by what feels like a happy, spirited friend—one who pulls out some hokey images, but speaks from the heart. "Sex is a great sport. / Every time you make love, / feel like a winner. / Be in the game! / And remember, in your relationship, / Don't keep a scorecard of who's right or wrong." (#54)

Encouraging her readers to love life and plunge in to healthy sex, Wyntjes also cautions to be wise and prudent. She coaches people to believe that everyone deserves love, “Accepting yourself is sexy. / Someone out there will be fascinated. / Be you.” (#9). If only the author had written some great stories on these topics that get past the truisms into some real, poignancies about this much talked about, sung about, written about topic of having sex, or not.