ForeWord Reviews

EROTICA

Herotica 6: A New Collection of Women's Erotic Fiction
Marcy Sheiner, editor
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In her introduction, Sheiner reveals that as this sixth in a series of women's erotic fiction collections was being planned, she worried it would never be completed. The reason? The theme—not her choice—is sex within committed relationships. But instead of the clichéd submissions she feared and expected—Wife Rents X-Rated Video To Watch With Husband, for instance—Sheiner received stories that were original, varied, quality, and as she puts it, "hot."

"They don't make the assumption that diminished passion is the inevitable price we pay for comfort and companionship," Sheiner says of the twenty-one authors whose works were selected.

Their stories are about husbands and wives, heterosexual lovers, lesbian lovers, threesomes, bisexuals and transexuals. Within committed relationships, all find they have the security to express and explore the depths of their sexual desires.

One of the most original, in terms of its characters, is "After Amelia." In it, Tracy, a disabled lesbian who has recently given birth, rediscovers her sexuality. One of the most audacious is "Mourning the Peasant" in which the death of a husband and father brings a stepmother and stepdaughter together. On the other hand, also included are stories like "Season of Marriage" a tale of the wedding night of an arranged marriage, and "The Portrait" in which a couple celebrates their twentieth wedding anniversary.

Herotica 6 runs the gamut in its content, and will likely find readers from all walks as well. Both veteran and virgin readers of erotic fiction will find at least a few stories that arouse their interest.

Cari Noga