

1. ANONYMOUS I said, lustily to David, my boss. Ever since I'd joined the publishing company where I work, I'd secretly fancied him. David was handsome and in his fifties, which I, as a woman, think is a really good age. It's when men are at their physical peak.
2. DAVID If you carry on like this, you'll end up sleeping on the desk.
3. ANONYMOUS Laughed David. I laughed too, allowing my skirt to ride up over my shoulders.
4. DAVID Whoa!
5. ANONYMOUS I mean knees, over my knees. Sorry, I was getting carried away.
6. JANE I'm just reading that science fiction manuscript that was sent in.
7. DAVID And?
8. JANE It's really good. It's actually proper literature. I don't know why there's such a stigma attached to science fiction.
9. DAVID I agree - it can give very interesting insights into our own society. In a way, science fiction writers today are what Henry James was to the Victorians. But Jane, I'd like you to have a look at this.

1. ANONYMOUS I decided the random approach wasn't working and began again, reading several sentences in order. It was hot stuff but really well written. The author was a 21-year-old girl, just like me,
2. MALE AUTHOR Maria looked longingly at the bandit leader's protruding maleness. His muscles rippled like swarthy own-brand ice cream as he took her by her long, Mexican hair and pulled her on to his throbbing...
3. JANE Wow! That really is very well written erotica.
4. DAVID Look, Jane, I feel a bit awkward saying this, but...
5. JANE You want to smear me in butter and then slowly lick it off?
6. DAVID No...
7. JANE Margarine?
8. DAVID No.
9. JANE Lard?
10. DAVID No.
11. JANE I Can't Believe It's Not Butter?

1. DAVID No. Look, the company is thinking of publishing this book but before we do, we want to find out what kind of people would buy it. I've got a hunch it's not just pervy old men in raincoats – and when I say old I mean older than fifties. Fifties isn't old...
2. JANE No, no it isn't.
3. DAVID Exactly. I suspect that erotic fiction is read by a whole range of people because it's actually just literature and is easily as good as Andy McNabb or... Ben Elton.
4. JANE So, David, what do you want me to do?
5. DAVID Read as many of these as you can. Research the subject. And if that means going on a startling erotic odyssey of sexual awakening which opens your mind to a world of sensual pleasure in all its myriad forms then... that's a plus.

6. FX BUSY LONDON STREET ECD 2 / 5 (OR TK 8)

7. JANE Taxi!

8. FX TAXI PULLING UP, LUCY CD OR ECD 14 / 9

9. TAXI DRIVER Where to, Miss?
10. ANONYMOUS David's words were still ringing in my ears.

11. DAVID DISTORT: ECHO Research the subject.

12. JANE Take me to a bookshop.

1. TAXI DRIVER What sort of books is it you're after?
2. ANONYMOUS I coloured. I couldn't believe I was going to say this to a complete stranger.
3. JANE Erotica. Really dirty erotica.
4. TAXI DRIVER There's nothing to be embarrassed about love. Lots of people read erotica. In fact, I often have an erotic audiobook on whilst I'm driving. I've got *Legacy Of Lust* at the moment from the Lace Fantasies series. It's read by Martin Jarvis. He's very good – does all the voices.
5. ANONYMOUS The handsome powerfully built cab driver dropped me off outside the big Weatherstones in the centre of town.

6. FX STREET ATMOS ECD 2 / 5 (AS BEFORE)

7. TAXI DRIVER There you go love, hope you didn't mind me playing the audiobook.
8. JANE No, it was fine. At least you weren't racist.
9. TAXI DRIVER No, I love ethnic minorities. My next blue audiobook's set in Africa – Sex Safari. Read by Kenny Lynch.

10. FX FROM STREET TO SHOP ATMOS (ECD 49 / 11?)

11. ANONYMOUS I could hardly contain myself as I entered the shop and searched for it's erotic fiction department.
12. JANE Excuse me?

1. ANONYMOUS I approached the shop assistant behind the counter. She was probably about 21 like me and a woman like me too. She had long dark hair and tanned golden skin the colour of breadcrumbs. I'd never had any lesbian feelings before but I couldn't help running my gaze over her tightly fitting blouse, imagining myself unbuttoning it and pouring yoghurt over her ripe body, like she was some sort of fancy muesli. It was strange, I'd never had those sorts of yearnings before. I don't even really like yoghurt. It gives me mucous.
2. JANE Sorry to bother you...
3. SHOP ASSISTANT Oui, how may I help?
4. JANE Wow. Are you French?
5. SHOP ASSISTANT No, Belgian.
6. JANE How romantic. Like Tintin or... dodgy mayonnaise...
7. SHOP ASSISTANT Yes. How may I help you?
8. JANE I feel embarrassed asking, but do you have an erotica section? I'm not a pervert.
9. SHOP ASSISTANT There is nothing perverted about erotica. In Belgium, we study erotic novels in school.
10. JANE Really?

1. SHOP ASSISTANT Yes, I myself will often read erotica. I use it as a palette cleanser between Dan Browns.
2. ANONYMOUS I felt like such a prude talking to this clearly massively sexually liberated and deeply Belgian young woman. And, I couldn't shake the stirrings of my Sapphic longing for her. But I wasn't a lesbian, was I? Maybe I was. Maybe all women are a bit. If they'd just go with it.
3. SHOP ASSISTANT Here you are. This is the erotica section.
4. JANE So many titles... *Sinful Services...* *Dirty Sheets...* *Doctor Hot Stuff...* *The Corrections* – is that about Sado-Masochism?
5. SHOP ASSISTANT No, that's Jonathan Franzen. Someone's put it back in the wrong section.
6. JANE Gosh. There's something here for everyone. As long as they like erotica.
7. SHOP ASSISTANT Yes, it is proper literature. Why else would we keep it next to the science fiction?
8. JANE So it's true – erotica isn't just an unconvincing series of badly written sex scenes strung together across a banal plot that doesn't even work as pornography because it is so badly written that it's forced to use ridiculous words like 'orbs' or 'love-mounds' because you can't just keep repeating the word 'breasts'?
9. ANONYMOUS I noticed that the shop assistant's ample orbs were heaving and her cheeks were flushing an arousing red.

1. JANE Are you alright?
2. SHOP ASSISTANT Oh, yes. It's just a little hot in here.
3. ANONYMOUS I watched as she fanned herself with a copy of *Rampant Submission*.
4. SHOP ASSISTANT Would you mind if I undid some of my buttons?
5. JANE No...
6. ANONYMOUS She let the book fall to the ground...
- 7. FX PAPERBACK BOOK FALLING ON FLOOR SPOT**
8. ANONYMOUS ...and her erotically tense fingers fumbled with the buttons on her tight blouse.
9. JANE You alright there? Do you need a hand?
10. SHOP ASSISTANT No, it's fine. My fingers are a little tense, erotically.
11. ANONYMOUS I couldn't believe this was happening. That morning I had been a normal virginal publishers dogsbody. Was I now going to lose my cherry to a rampant bookshop assistant from Belgium? Right here. On the floor. In front of these copies of *Red Hot Nurse* and *A Suitable Boy* by Vikram Seth.
12. SHOP ASSISTANT Oh, who keeps putting these back in the wrong place?
13. ANONYMOUS She groaned as she let her Weatherstone's name badge drop revealingly to the floor.

1. JANE Emmanuelle, what a pretty name.
2. SHOP ASSISTANT Thank you. My mother gave it to me. She was French, my father was Flemish.
3. JANE Too much yoghurt?
4. ANONYMOUS Her trembling hands reached for a bucket of ice cubes that was helpfully but for no good reason on the side by the cash register.
- 5. FX ICE CUBES TAKEN FROM BUCKET. 6020 / 60**
6. ANONYMOUS As Emmanuelle seemed about to apply the icy ice cubes to her insistent nipples, our secret lesbianic reverie was broken by a smooth male voice.
7. ADAM Don't mind me, ladies.
8. SHOP ASSISTANT Oh! Someone is watching! How shaming, yet exciting!
9. ANONYMOUS Our coitus interrupted, Emmanuelle hurried away in shame and excitement while I took in the man who had disturbed us. He was tall and handsome, and in his fifties.
10. JANE We weren't doing anything wrong.
11. ADAM You didn't need to stop, I rather liked it. It was quite fitting - in front of my books.
12. JANE Your books?

1. ADAM Yes, my books that I wrote. I'm Adam Adamson. The first name in erotic fiction.
2. JANE You're the best-seller?
3. ADAM No, it's more of an alphabetical thing. So, you like erotic stories?
4. JANE Yes, I mean, I don't know, I mean, yes... Oh it's all got me so confused. It's opened up a whole new world for me.
5. ADAM Well, perhaps we could go back to my dungeon and talk about it.
6. JANE Did you say 'dungeon'?
7. ADAM No, I said 'house'. Come on, it'll be fun. I'll open a bottle of moderately expensive wine and put some Walkers Sensations in a bowl.
8. JANE It sounds wonderful, but I don't know...
9. ADAM Come on, what have you got to lose?
10. JANE My virginity. And possibly my phone if I get too drunk. And then I'd have to send an email out for everyone's numbers.
11. ADAM You're so uptight.
12. JANE I am not!

1. ADAM Easy, tigress.
2. JANE Don't call me a tigress. Now, if you'll excuse me, Mr Adam Adamson, I have to go home and have a soapy bath, in the nuddy.
3. ADAM Suit yourself, I'll be here if you need me, browsing through the science fiction. I'm thinking of going cross genre. An erotica set in space – Touching The Droid.
4. JANE (DEFIANT) Good-bye!
- 5. FX BUS ATMOS. ECD 14 / TK 14, 6 SECS IN**
6. ANONYMOUS I couldn't stop thinking about Adam Adamson's offer as I took the bus across town to my house where I lived. I flipped open the manuscript David had given me and read some more. I couldn't believe how adventurous the author was.
7. MALE AUTHOR Maria had surrendered to the general's deepest desire. That she dress as a clown. Her big shoes slapped seductively against the floorboards as she felt his hot gaze on her...
8. CONDUCTOR Fares please.
9. ANONYMOUS There weren't many people on the bus – just me and five men. I fantasised about taking them all home and having an orgy. But I didn't do it; I have to save something up for the end of my erotic odyssey. And anyway, two of them were very elderly and one was wearing pyjamas and talking to himself.

- 1. FX BUS ATMOS OUT. KEY IN DOOR. ECD 3 / 12**
2. ANONYMOUS I slipped my key into the lock, which is actually quite a nice literary metaphor. For sex. Suddenly inside my flat I heard a noise.
- 3. FX MUFFLED GLASS SMASH. 6004 / 88-94 (6039 / 67)**
4. JANE What's going on? Who's there? Oh...
5. ANONYMOUS I couldn't believe it – there in the middle of my front room was a burglar. I should have been really angry and called the police, but all I could think of - what with me being a 21 year old sex starved woman and all - was that perhaps this man could be the start of my erotic awakening. I decided to flirt with him.
6. JANE Is that a gun in your pocket?
7. BURGLAR No, it's some of your jewellery and CDs.
8. JANE I've got something else you could steal. Me.
9. BURGLAR Nah, that's kidnapping – you can get ten years for that. I may be a crack addict, but I'm not mental.
10. JANE Why don't we talk about it... upstairs. I'll run a bath and get my kit off.
11. BURGLAR Yeah, you do that and I'll... leave. These Dido CDs aren't going to fence themselves.
12. JANE No, come back! No! I need awakening! No!

1. ADAM Jane! Are you alright?
2. JANE Adam Adamson? What are you doing here?
3. ADAM Please, call me Adam... Adamson... the first name in erotic fiction.
4. JANE But what are you doing here?
5. ADAM I was worried about you, so I followed you home. It's the sort of behaviour that's quite normal in erotic novels, but that in real life would be creepy and menacing. Like me grabbing your orbs.
6. JANE Oh! Adam Adamson, the first name in erotic fiction!
7. ANONYMOUS He grabbed my love mounds with his intense, manly hands.
8. ADAM I need you.
9. JANE I can feel you kneading me, like a randy baker. Mmm, your hands are so soft and warm.
10. ADAM Yes, I have hairy palms.
11. ANONYMOUS Adam swept the coffee table out of the way...
- 12. FX ENORMOUS CRASH OF TABLE. 6010 / 95**

1. ANONYMOUS Our bodies were touching now like two rivers meeting in an estuary of love. I couldn't believe it. This was better than anything I could have read in a book, because it was real. It was really happening. To me. Jane. A real 21 year old publisher's assistant. With real orbs. I was tired of fiction. Tired of detective stories where the hero drinks too much and is divorced. Tired of those books about people who feel the need to inflict memories of their unhappy childhood on the rest of us. Tired of books about punctuation or the history of salt or how clouds were invented. Tired of brightly coloured paperbacks from the three-for-two pile. Tired of anything by Tony Parsons. The only thing I wasn't tired of was science fiction. But even that could wait right now. Adam had lead me out of my world of fiction and was about to show me some hard fact.

2. JANE Oh...

3. ADAM Mmm...

4. ANONYMOUS I, Jane, was finally about to get...

5. ANNOUNCER That was Chapter One of *Forbidden Fire*, read by the author, Anonymous, with help from Alex Lowe, Rebecca Front, Michael Fenton Stevens, Mel Hudson and Dan Tetsell. Paperback Hell was ghost-written by Danny Robins and Dan Tetsell and the producer was Lucy Armitage.

[END]