

September 21, 1973

Word

- 24 More reasonable
- 25 Behaved
- 26 Milk —
- 27 Volumes
- 28 Cartoonist Arno
- 29 Prepare dough
- 30 Storehouse
- 31 Cowboy
- 33 Grandma —
- 36 Kind of steel
- 40 Ecological factor
- 42 Roam about
- 43 Slimmer
- 45 — 1, 2, 3 or 4
- 46 Guardhouse
- 47 Routine
- 48 Aid's partner
- 49 Pack for storage
- 50 Britain's Anthony
- 51 Capital of Italia
- 52 Dilatory
- 55 Anger

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Johnny Trudeau



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The Happy Hooker

Xaviera!

Letters To The Happy Hooker

By FORREST ORSER

Do you like books with lots of sex? You'll like these books.

How's that for the beginning of a review? Catches everyone's attention, right? I don't think these books are that simple, though. There are lots of books with lots of sex, but there are very few best sellers. [By mid-October 1972 there were close to four million copies of *The Happy Hooker* in print.]

You could say that *The Happy Hooker* is like *Love Story*. How many people bought the novel *Love Story* because they saw the movie and heard Andy Williams on the radio half a dozen times a day singing the theme from the movie? How many people read *The Happy Hooker* because they saw her on "Under Attack", go to hear her speak in person, listen to her record, or read her column in "Penthouse"? [There may also be a movie, *Happy Hooker* games, *Happy Hooker* lingerie, *Happy Hooker* perfumes and colognes, and *Happy Hooker* cookbooks.] But is this why the books sell so well, or is it just the result of their popularity?

The books are unusual types of books. Most autobiographies are written by famous persons, but *The Happy Hooker* is an autobiography by some one who is famous mainly for writing her autobiography.

It's not a bad book, really. It's well written and she seems to be an intelligent, likeable person. It tells about her childhood, the men she has loved, the technical problems of running a brothel, and her observations on life and people. Most of all, of course, it describes her making love with many, many men and women [don't forget the German Shepherd] and her rather tolerant moral beliefs about all this.

Xaviera! is very much like *The Happy Hooker*, except that it is over a hundred pages longer and only covers a period of about a year. Mainly it is about her promoting *The Happy Hooker*. It is interesting to see how a best seller is sold, but again it is the description of sex that is the predominate part of the book.

To me *Letters To The Happy Hooker* is the most interesting of these books. As well as recounting several of her more recent adventures, it contains hundreds of letters reacting to her first two books. The range from: "I just got done reading your new book and it was FANTASTIC! I read your first book and it was COSMIC;" to comments on the fact that Hollander was not totally satisfied with the title of her first book: "'You say you don't like the title, 'hooker.' Would you prefer 'public toilet?'"

If you want to see why these books are so appealing to the general public the answers are probably here.

REVIEWED

There are several general types of letters. Some simply say they loved or hated her books.

Many ask for advice. A wife wants to know what to tell her husband because he feels he can't have orgasms often enough. A husband is unsure how to react because his wife has half a dozen orgasms every time they make love. A girl with a boot fetish wants to know how she can meet other lesbians with a similar fetish. That type of thing.

Some want to be reassured that everything in her books really happened. "Four Prosperous Prostitutes" write that they "have found it impossible [humanly impossible] to believe that all this happened to one person".

Many write saying they know she gets far too many letters to answer, but they would be very happy if she would answer theirs. Others write saying they know she is very busy, but they are very attractive individuals, so if she ever gets a chance they'd be very happy to get together with her sometime.

None of Hollander's answers to any of these letters are printed, but four of her most recent "adventures" are recounted in the usual detail.

In "Virgin Spring" she tells of receiving a letter from an incredibly shy nineteen year old male virgin. She invites him up to her apartment and gives him lessons in love making.

In "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Tennis Matches", she tells of a woman who phones her from Winnipeg in the middle of the night and ends up a few days later making love with her.

She openly considers sex to be something like playing cards, only a lot more fun. It's a good pastime, but nothing to get emotional about. Not that she is opposed to deep emotional involvement with others, but she sees sex and love as separate things. She seems to write her books this way, because it is the way she feels, not because it is what will sell. She believes hers is the proper attitude toward sex, or at least that it is a more honest one that is commonly held by most of our society.

The picture that emerges from these books



is of Xaviera Hollander, a type of therapist. As one person writes: "I cannot write something like this to Dear Abby." She is a kind of liberated Dear Abby. She lives her life according to her beliefs, helping those she meets who have not been able to cope with their problems as successfully as she has. Write her a letter and she might write back. She might invite you up to her apartment. Meet her at one of her lectures and she might invite you up to her hotel room. She does that type of thing all the time in her books. Another letter sums up what seems to be the reaction of many to Xaviera Hollander: "To you everyone is an individual who needs a little praise, attention, respect, with all the honesty and cheerfulness that it can be given. How tremendous that this main character doesn't live only the pages of your book"

Xaviera is the only common denominator among these books and records and cookbooks. Her attitudes seem to be just what many people want. Personally I read *The Happy Hooker* because I heard she was coming to UNB to lecture. I read the other two only because I was going to review them. They're not bad books, but maybe I'm a little old fashioned — I like sex to be more than playing cards. All those descriptions of love scenes are getting a little boring, I find. Harold Robbins holds your interest better, but then of course his main characters aren't alive.

At the same time I can't help but respect Xaviera Hollander. As a fifteen year old from Bakersfield, California says, "I'm glad you are honest about your sex life, because it takes a lot of guts to say you jacked off a German Shepherd." I respect her, but I don't totally agree with her. I thought her books were alright, but nothing to write letters about.

Do you like books with lots of sex? You'll like these books.

The Happy Hooker, by Xaviera Hollander, with Robin Moore and Yvonne Dunleavy; Dell, \$1.50.

Xaviera! by Xaviera Hollander; Warner, \$1.50.

Letters To The Happy Hooker, selected by Xaviera Hollander; Warner, \$1.50.