

XOXO to all assorted anonymous animals from MumblingSage and Pasiphile! Thanks for checking this out! (Scroll to the bottom for a link to the voting and submissions brainstorming)

1. "Character-Driven Smut": Where the unique traits of the characters are essential to how the sex scenes go down; how the action of sex is essential to the development of the plot (pro-erotica version: "erotic romance" where sex primarily furthers the relationship).

2. "Embodied Sex": *Experiencing the sex from the character's pov, physically, instead of as an objective bystander. That's something I've often come across as something undefinable that's lacking and that makes the whole thing kinda meh instead of scorching hot. And characterisation, yes, no cardboard cutouts pls.*

(emphasis on the body, experiencing)

3. Subverting-The-Cliches Sex: *(also you know the first thing that came to mind (all under the loving accepting umbrella of wild brainstorming) was a subverting-the-cliches thing. I did a Discworld classic evil-suave-lesbian-vampire-seducing-young-innocent-maiden a while back and I deeply enjoyed turning it on its head. While still attempting to keep it sexy. Er, don't mind me, carry on <waves hand>)*

(pasi: examples: classic-love-triangle resolving into happy poly threesome; suave vampire actually being insecure and the shy virgin taking the initiative; swashbuckling pirate being incredibly courteous and polite; pizza-guy turning out to be asexual)

4. "Saying No": An erotica & romance anthology in which each story includes a partner saying "No" to something and showing the results of that (ie: represent negotiation in a healthy, compelling, and sexy manner! I get not everyone wants this in their fantasy, and that's great, but I hardly ever see kink and just plain sex negotiation modeled in erotica and I think it is so, so ripe for exploration)

Advice from [alexandraerin](#): This anthology should include room for non-sexual results, too. Maybe they just want to cuddle afterwards. That's awesome! We will still want to read the hell out of that! (Although whether we should title it "50 Shades of No" is less decided. Actually, that brings up a good point--I worry that if the title of this anthology is unclear, readers will assume it's an anthology of dubious consent fiction. Which is a perfectly fine genre for fantasy material, it just happens to be the exact opposite of what we want *this* anthology to be about!)

Note: "Characters cannot knowingly and deliberately violate each other's consent. When consent is violated, consequences must be shown." That doesn't mean these stories will read like PSAs or that characters will be perfect saints. They might get grumpy at each other, or disguise their real reasons for saying "no" because they're proud or shy, or put negotiation (and their sex life) on hold for a while...but ultimately, they love each other, and they'll work through it. (pasi examples: bdsm scene with safewording and aftercare; a first time being postponed for cuddling; asexual-sexual partners negotiating their sex life, accommodating chronic illness or

disability)

5. Lady Dom POV erotica: non-icky! Non-fetishizing! Can include male, female, and nonbinary subs. (I think it'd be cool to include nonbinary doms as well, but I don't want to give the impression that everyone who doesn't ID as male can be bundled together or that nonbinary people are all secretly women, so I dunno. That may have to wait or go in a different antho)

(pasi examples: Dommies who need reassurance afterwards, dommes who are sadists but not evil - possibly with ethics discussing, dommes explicitly respecting safewords...dommes with physical disability or mental disability)

Note: These ideas can all overlap, too. So the Lady Dom POV anthology can include the characters negotiating after a safeword, and can result in character-driven embodied sex or sensual scenes.

Also, depending on the first antho's success we may well do a second, or third...

Final Vote Tally

Character-Driven Smut: 21

Subverting-the-Cliches: 13

Saying "No," Negotiation: 10

Femdom POV: 9

Embodied Sex: 4

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES (in progress)

Genre: Any. Contemporary, historical, paranormal, epic fantasy or outer space. You can even toss in some horror tropes if you use them according to the guidelines (tentacles that subvert the cliches...or negotiate?). Although the setting and even the sex doesn't have to be strictly realistic, we prefer to see human characters (or at least "people;" elves and vampires count as human under this definition) that readers can relate to.

Pairing: Any. Characters can be of any, all, or no gender, and by no means need to be cis. And it doesn't have to be a pair--there can be as many of them sexually involved in your story as you desire. The one exception would be that the femdom anthology would require a dom who identifies as female (even here feel free to be somewhat flexible), but her partner(s) can be anyone.

Heat: The story will be about sex and sexuality, so it will probably be a bit steamier than you'd be comfortable having Grandma read ;D. However, sex conventionally understood is not a necessity for any of these stories, and the central relationship between the characters involved (whether it is a romance or not) will also be key. Ideally, stories will make readers melt in their seats, if they don't start squirming in them.

Length: Very broadly construed, as long as it takes to tell the story--anywhere between 2,000-24,000 words, give or take 3,000. I assume a -1,000 word story would be a cover letter so awesome we're inspired to write you flash fiction on the spot. Don't count on it, though.

Payment: A royalties split among authors is likely; money to pay advances might be raised through pre-orders in a Kickstarter campaign (volunteers to help with this would be appreciated!)

How to Submit: An email address will be posted in time. Be sure your manuscript has been proofread and looks nice, although MumblingSage is an editor and will be going over all stories before publication.

