



# Aphrodite's Pen

The Power of Writing Erotica  
After Midlife



## Pen Gets Closer!

*Pen* is all signed off and in production. That makes me very happy. Just above the image, you can see how long there is before you can get hold of *Aphrodite's Pen: The Power of Writing Erotica After Midlife*.

You can [PRE-ORDER](#) now and get it on September 24th, the date of publication. The link on that page will let you order from all the usual suspects, but I'd like you to think about your local bookseller too - give them a call!

We now have the finished full cover, with terrific endorsements on the back, like this one from [Joan Price](#), author of [Naked at Our Age](#):  
*"Writing erotica is powerful – it can entertain, empower, and excite the writer as well as the reader. If you're over 50, you have wisdom and experience to share, and you'll find Aphrodite's Pen a lively and motivating erotic writing course. This book offers instruction, prompts, interviews with published post-midlife erotica writers, and samples of erotica to inspire you and help you create your own."*

– Joan Price, senior sex author, and advocate for ageless sexuality.

Launch date events are now set for West Coast (Oakland) and East Coast (Chapel Hill) detailed below.

Pre-order Information

Like the newsletter? Please Share it!



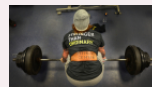
## Recent Blog Posts.

Here's what I've had to say over the last month or so. Check out these articles, leave comments, share them on social media or email a link to a friend. Please!



### See It Then Be It

[Geena Davis](#) did not worry about all those stories of movie roles drying up for women in their forties, until it was her turn. After making a movie every year throughout her career, and starring in huge box office hits like [Thelma and Louise](#) and [A League of Their Own](#), the actress made one movie in all of her forties. Just one. And, [she says](#), it was not because she was fussy.



### Power And Madam Pelosi

We watched with interest as [Nancy Pelosi](#) fought to regain her role as House Speaker when the Democrats took the House after the November 2018 election. No matter what we think of their politics, it is clear that Pelosi's age is brought up more frequently as a reason for her to step aside than it is for male leaders in her age group. Pelosi, like [Hillary](#)

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## A Sex Goddess For Older Women

Last year I asked a friend who is a mythology buff to name an erotic goddess for older women. He was stumped.

“The closest I can think of is [Baubo](#),” he said. “She was a figure in Greek mythology who cheered up [Demeter](#) after [Hades](#) stole Demeter’s daughter, [Persephone](#), and took her to the underworld. Baubo raised her spirits by raising her skirt and showing Demeter her vulva.”

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[Clinton](#), carries the combined burden of sexism and agism that weighs down the careers of older women in power.

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## Making Women Visible After Midlife

The anthropologist [Margaret Mead](#) married a series of men, each one a researcher about to travel to a place she wanted to study. At the end of an assignment, she divorced and married anew. An extreme method, perhaps, and yet it enabled Mead to examine and write about cultures all over the world. Decades later, when her work was already famous throughout the first world, it amused Mead that her invisibility as an older woman enabled her to visit remote cultures on her own and ask a thousand questions while hardly being noticed.

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# Let's Party!

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Our West Coast launch party will happen on publication day, **September 24, at 6 PM**, at the [Octopus Literary Salon](#) in Oakland, California. Many of the women who appear in the book first met at Octopus, reading at [Dirty Old Women](#) events. At our launch party, I will tell the tale of how our movement got started and introduce the contributors to the book. They will read from their interviews and their fiction, and we will all sign your copy. Good food and great company. Come celebrate launch day with us!

The East Coast launch party is set for **October 2nd** at [Flyleaf Books](#), in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. I will share writing activities, stories, and interview excerpts from the new book, and explain how writing our erotic stories pushes back on ageism and sexism by making us vividly visible. It promises to be a fun and thought-provoking evening! Hope to see you there.

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## Stella is Listening...



*Brilliant Charming Bastard* is on my list to write, as a screenplay and a novel. It's about three Women of a Certain Age who are each, they believe, in a "monogamous" relationship with the same lying dilettante. They discover each other and their common lover and start to chat. What emerges is a creative collaboration among the women, proving once again that living well is the absolute best revenge.

First up is the screenplay. The plan is to write a full draft in time to submit to [The Writer's Lab](#) next March. This is a screenwriting workshop endowed by [Meryl Streep](#) for women screenwriters over forty. Doesn't that sound inviting? Really, we should all submit our work! [Check it out.](#)

So far I have an outline and a playlist that could become the soundtrack of the movie. Check out these songs about lasting life and passion:

"[Feel it Still](#)" by [Portugal. The Man](#) ("I'm a rebel just for kicks, now / I've been feeling it since 1966, now")

"[Fool if You Think It's Over](#)" by Chris Rea ("Save your tears / Got years and years")

"[Touch of Grey](#)" by the [Grateful Dead](#) ("Oh well, a touch of grey / Kind of suits you anyway")

"[Pink Cadillac](#)" by [Bruce Springsteen](#) ("Some folks say it's too old, and that it goes too fast / But my love is bigger than a Honda, it's bigger than a Subaru...")

The first song is my favorite - the only one sung by a woman. Which brings up another point: We need more songs by older women about being strong and sexy and old. If you have other favorite songs on the theme (or if you have written one!), [please drop me a line.](#)

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## Calls for Submission

The [Image Theater in Lowell, Massachusetts](#), is seeking submissions for their annual Naughty Readings event in November. They are looking for short plays (ten minutes or under, four characters or fewer), as well as prose, poetry, and original songs with a sexy or seductive theme.

Each writer is permitted a maximum of two submissions, which must be [emailed](#) no later than noon Eastern time on ~~August 31st~~ **July 31st**.

"Naughty Readings 2019" should be the subject line of the email, and that you include your contact information on the title page of each submission.

Wouldn't it be lovely if Image Theater ended up with lots of choices by and about women after midlife? I plan to send in two of my own favorites - won't you please send them two of your pieces?

**I will keep you informed of new calls for submissions as I learn of them. And please [send me](#) calls for sexy submissions that you learn about.**

*Postscript: It turns out that Image Theater have so many submissions that they will close submissions a month earlier than planned. I guess that is good news in one way: lots of interest in our topic.*

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Like the newsletter? Share it!



**This is the very first Stella newsletter. We'll send one every month or so. Please help me by sharing with your friends via email and social media.**

**Or they can register [here](#) if you forward this newsletter to them. Thank YOU!**

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