

East Coast Launch of Aphrodite's Pen

What a special night!

Our East Coast launch of *Aphrodite's Pen* on October 2nd featured marvelous co-host [Mya Thomae](#), great marketer/photographer [Graham Bird](#), a terrific venue ([Flyleaf Books](#) in Chapel Hill), and a fabulous interactive audience. The evening included Mya and me in conversation, as well as writing exercises and a Q&A session with everybody in the room.

It was generous of Mya to travel from her home in Wisconsin for the launch. She and I have known each other for decades (we were both technical writers for [Chiron Corporation](#), an early biotech company in California). We quickly agreed that writing erotica is a lot more liberating than writing FDA submissions.

Mya is a new erotic writer, who first tried her hand at one of my [day-long workshops](#). In her *Aphrodite's Pen* interview, she encourages other women over fifty to give it a try. Mya herself keeps on sizzling. She recently published a story called "Chemerotica," about the erotic experience of a cancer patient while in clinic. Her reading from "Chemerotica" spurred us to talk about the interweaving of health issues and joyful erotic experience, in our stories and in life. My story about a woman's return to sexuality after hysterectomy ("The Scotsman's Birthday" in *Aphrodite's Pen: The Power of Writing Erotica After Midlife*) is another example.

The audience tried out the Character Generator game from the book, with amusing results. Then Mya and I fielded questions from the audience. Here are some highlights:

- **Do you think writing erotica comes more naturally to European than to American women?**

Mya recounted a conversation she had with a French woman, who was surprised it was at all controversial for older American women to write erotica. So it seems the answer is yes.

- **Does women's erotica tend to be about something else, as opposed to erotica written by men, which tends to be more like a plumbing manual?**

Stella referred to Joan Price's anthology, *Ageless Erotica*, as an example. The book is a collection of erotica by people over fifty, about half women and half men. Stella claims that if you read the stories without looking at the author names, you can almost always tell the stories by men because they pay more attention to mechanics.

- **Do you worry that your grandchildren will read your book?**

Stella said yes, a tiny bit; that's why Stella is a pen name. And then there's Stella's mother, who is reading *Aphrodite's Pen* at age 93 and is apparently not embarrassed! Mya, on the other hand, is using her real name, and her daughter is fine with it.

- **Is there a line between erotica and porn? If so, what is it?**

Stella explained that in erotica, sexuality is part of what drives character development and plot. In porn, sex is the point of the story.

- **Do you use whether or not you are/become turned on by your work as a litmus test?**

Mya said yes, she can tell how good an erotic story is by how aroused it

makes her when she writes it. Stella said writing anything is libidinal for her.

- **How do I figure out what I like?**

Try it and see! It's just like how you get to Carnegie Hall: practice, practice, practice!

- **How do you decide what to call sexual body parts?**

Stella said this is a dilemma for many women who write erotica. Some of the clinical words have harsh sounds, while poetic terms can be unintentionally humorous. What you choose depends on the tone of your piece. Mya, on the other hand, favors anatomical terms.

Buy Aphrodite's Pen from THESE stores

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Learn How to Write A Sexy Story in a Week.

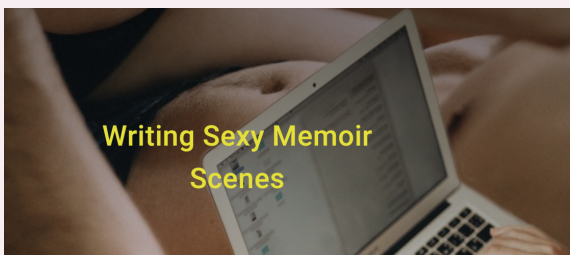
I've recently launched a **FREE** mini-writing class online to develop a sexy story from start to finish in a week.

Each day Monday through Friday, you'll get an email prompt to write about a different story element – character, setting, sensory experience – and then at the end of the week on Saturday & Sunday, instructions to bring together the elements into a finished story.

It's a fun and easy way to write story, and you can [enroll here](#).

Please share [this link](#) with any friends who'd be interested.

New From Stella's Blog



Writing Sexy Memoir Scenes

You may be tempted to skip over sex when you write your memoir, for all kinds of reasons, chief among them being, *What would the grandchildren say?* Which is ironic, because the grandchildren would not be here if you'd never done the deed. But if you would like to try writing about this aspect of life (and I hope you will), the very first thing to do is write a draft that neither the grandchildren nor anyone else will ever see.

Your first draft is a safe space, like a play room full of favorite toys that you never need to share. The toys in this case are memories,



Starting an Erotic Writing Group

"I wish that for other groups, they discover within themselves and each other a wild mystery, an untamed imagination." - Billie Berlin

Imagine meeting each month with a circle of older women as co-creators, joining together to celebrate our power and creativity. What could be more fun, and more liberating, than that? And there is no reason - none - why you and your friends, and your friends-to-be, should not have that in your life.

When we explore erotic writing from our vantage point as older

which belong only to you unless you decide to present them in memoir.

[Read More.....](#)

women, we draw on a rich life experience. We can look honestly at what we desire, and how our desires have played out through our lives.

[Read More.....](#)

More Blog Posts

You know that fifteen minutes of fame thing; well it seems to be happening! I'm so delighted to partner with all these wonderful women and their web sites.

Thanks to each and every one of you.

Stella in the media



Crunchy Tales Article

Aphrodite's Pen is attracting notice in the press. Michela Di Carlo of [Crunchy Tales Magazine](#) had this to say on her Facebook page:

"If you ever played with the idea of writing erotica for seniors but don't know where to begin, you can find inspiration from the first book of its kind

for aspiring middle-aged and older women writers: *Aphrodite's Pen* by [Stella Fosse](#) . Be Wise, Age Playfully!"

Listen To Stella

I also enjoyed being interviewed by Marcia Meier for her podcast, "[Girl Talk: Women, Aging and Sex](#)." We had a wide-ranging discussion about why and how to write erotica after midlife. Marcia's own book, *Unmasked: Women Write about Sex and Intimacy after Fifty*, is one of my favorites. And, it being a small world, Marcia's co-editor, Kathleen Barry, wrote one of the endorsements on the back of my book.



Goodreads Review

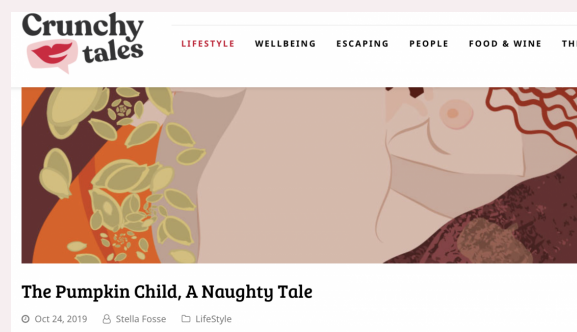
One of the great things for authors about the internet era is that each reader has the power to add their thoughts to the conversation. Here's [a reader review](#) of *Aphrodite's Pen*:

"If you're a fan of the Kensington Ladies Erotica Society or the 'Best Women's Erotica' series, and you ever wondered whether you, too, could craft writing that sizzles, this book is for you. Although targeting women who are past mid-life, this book's step-by-step writing advice and memorable examples serve as excellent guides for writers of any age. Empowering and thought-provoking, 'Aphrodite's Pen' encourages the reader to let her imagination soar and her inhibitions fade. Pour a glass of your favorite beverage, grab paper and a pen, and settle in for a fun read."

A Halloween Story on Crunchytales

My guest post on [CrunchyTales](#) (twice in one month!) is published for Halloween. It's an erotic short story - The Pumpkin Child - that I specifically wrote for Halloween.

[Check it out](#), I think you'll find it amusing.



Joan Price
Author, speaker, and advocate for ageless sexuality

The Joy of Writing about Older Sex, guest post by Stella Fosse

By Joan Price | October 22, 2019 | 1

Many assume that erotic writers are young people who write about young characters, but more and more people over 60 are discovering the joy of erotic writing.

Recent Posts

- On Turning 76
- The Joy of Writing about Older Sex, guest post by Stella Fosse
- The Vagina Bible by Jen Gunter: book review

The Joy of Writing about Older Sex

Joan, a fireball of activity who is about to turn 76, invited me to write about the joy of writing erotica. You can read the article [here](#), and if you don't already

follow Joan and her advocacy for senior sex, you should. She is on [Facebook](#), or check out her fabulous new [website](#).

Erotica for All

I was asked to write about **why** we should write erotica as mature women. for another UK publication, [Erotica For All](#). This is the third UK blog guest post in as many weeks, I wonder if they somehow sense that My Other Half is a Brit!

eroticas for all
for readers, writers and everyone in between

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Why You and I Should Both Write Erotica by Stella Fosse (@stellafosse) #erotica

October 27, 2019 By [Lucy Felthouse](#) — [Leave a Comment](#)

I spent a quarter century writing submissions to the FDA for new medical products. In my late 50s, I

Power of Pleasure

HOME ABOUT WORK WITH ME RESOURCES **BLOG**

STELLA FOSSE ON HOW TO WRITE EROTICA AFTER 50

0 Comments

HUMANS ARE THE ANIMALS WHO PLAY THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES.

And women's lives are long, far longer than our reproductive years.

The world tries to sexualize girls too young and unsex women too early, yet many of us continue to celebrate our creative sexual power long after menopause.

As Maggie Kuhn, founder of the Gray Panthers, proclaimed: "Learning and sex until rigor mortis."

So why write erotica after midlife?

The essence of writing is play. Playing with words, and also playing Goddess. Anything can and does happen on a page. Expressing our desires through story is joyful, creative and empowering—an especially delicious form of play. And, too, the community of women who write Elderotica is a marvelous sisterhood.

How to Write Erotica After 50

Xanet Paillet, who has a fascinating [web site](#) and marvelous blog, asked me to submit an article for publication. I love how this one turned out, a few simple steps that can transform your erotic writing.

The article is [here](#).

I would love it if you would consider writing an honest review of Aphrodite's Pen [on Amazon](#), [Goodreads](#), or wherever you review books. Believe it or not, this really helps to get the word out!

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This is Stella's monthly newsletter. Please help by sharing it with your friends via email and social media.

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Thank YOU!



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