



Monster/Beauty: Building the Body of Love

By Joanna Frueh

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This daring, intensely personal book challenges both conventional and feminist ideas about beauty by asking us to take pleasure in beauty without shame, and to see and feel the erotic in everyday life. Bringing together her varied experiences as a poet, art historian, bodybuilder, and noted performance artist, Joanna Frueh shows us how to move beyond society's equation of youth with beauty toward an aesthetic for the fully erotic human being.

A lush combination of autobiography, theory, photography, and poetry, this book continues to develop the ideas about the erotic, beauty, older women, sex, and pleasure that Frueh first addressed in *Erotic Faculties*. *Monster/Beauty* examines these issues using a provocative, often explicit, set of examples. Frueh admiringly looks at the bodies and mindsets of midlife female bodybuilders, rethinks the vampire, and revises our ideas about traditional models of beauty, such as Aphrodite. Above all, she boldly brings her personal experience into the text, weaving her reflections on female sensuality with contemporary theory.

These linked essays are as much a performance as they are a discussion, breaking down the barriers between the personal and the academic, and the erotic and the intellectual. Frueh writes passionately and beautifully, and the result is a much-needed exploration of beauty myths and taboos.

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Monster/Beauty: Building the Body of Love By Joanna Frueh Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From the Author

Ever since I was a little girl, bodily beauty has fascinated me. When, naked, I'd put on my mother's fur coat, I loved how it felt on my skin. I remember the delicious way that my feet slid forward in her high heels as I'd do my best to sashay, and the excitement of seeing myself in her scarlet lipstick and nail polish. I loved my own corporeality and spirit and the sensations and appearance of dressing them up.

Sensuality and bodily decoration—aesthetic and erotic self-creation--have continued to fascinate and enlighten me, and today, as a midlife woman, they give me great pleasure. That pleasure motivated me to write *Monster/Beauty*—because so many people feel dissatisfied with their bodies, simultaneously so inundated and disenchanted by the celebrity and fashion images that proclaim perfection as the best, perhaps the only way to be able to experience the pleasure of one's own and others' bodies.

Monster/Beauty embraces bodies of all sexes, sizes, colors, shapes, and ages. The book is more than an antidote to people's discontent and self-rejection. I was thrilled when a friend of mine said to me that *Monster/Beauty* is "revolutionary," "a manifesto." I would love for it to work that way for all of its readers.

From the Inside Flap

"This book is as seductive as the phenomenon that it explores. With courage, love, and joy, Frueh crosses into unexplored terrains of beauty and pleasure, where she finds a grotesquely captivating creature: *Monster/Beauty*. By illuminating her journey with thoughtful insight and engaging prose, she encourages readers to join her in her quest to articulate fresh ways of thinking about the aesthetic and the erotic and of theorizing the flux of lived experience." —John Alan Farmer, senior editor of *Art Journal*

"*Monster/Beauty* is a daringly provocative experiment in personal and erotic writing and an important book for anyone interested in breaking normative codes of beauty, pedagogy, and authorial methodology. In a richly self-revealing text, Frueh proposes nothing less than a Rabellaisian re-ordering of aesthetic embodiments within social relations." —Mira Schor, author of *Wet: On Painting, Feminism, and Art Culture*

"Giving new meaning to "embodied writing," this book goes farther than any other toward getting the body into the text. Joanna Frueh is a performance artist first—she is also an art historian, a singer, a poet, a bodybuilder, a professor, an academic celebrity of modest fame, but her performances collapse these distinctions. Frueh's intensely personal, intensely physical prose brings an aura of presence to the book that rivals the effect she achieves on stage." —Robyn Warhol, co-editor of *Feminisms*

"This book is monstrous--full of gorgeous hypermuscular women, step-mothers, and vampires; full of ravishing muscular sex, classroom erotics, splendid aging. It is a performance in which Frueh explores and celebrates her body, its powers and beauties, and those of her friends and lovers." —Alphonso Lingis, author of *Excesses, Abuses, and Dangerous Emotions*

"A welcome voice in contemporary feminist theory, Frueh's *Monster/Beauty* reminds us of the pleasures of thinking, teaching and creating in wholly embodied, sensual and passionate acts. Frueh poetically enacts the self as an aesthetic/erotic project, affirming the many different and beautiful selves we can become. It is a joy to read." —Marsha Meskimmon, author of *We Weren't Modern Enough: Women Artists and the Limits of German Modernism*

"Joanna Frueh is a hero. I sleep better knowing she's out there writing and thinking." —Michael Cunningham, author of *The Hours*

From the Back Cover

"This book is as seductive as the phenomenon that it explores. With courage, love, and joy, Frueh crosses into unexplored terrains of beauty and pleasure, where she finds a grotesquely captivating creature:

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Haag:

This book untitled Monster/Beauty: Building the Body of Love to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, here is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book store or you can order it by way of online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason for you to past this reserve from your list.

Jacob Roberts:

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Virginia McNally:

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Darrin Russell:

A lot of people said that they feel bored when they reading a book. They are directly felt this when they get a half parts of the book. You can choose the particular book Monster/Beauty: Building the Body of Love to make your personal reading is interesting. Your own personal skill of reading expertise is developing when you similar to reading. Try to choose basic book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the opinion about book and examining especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to available a book and read it. Beside that the publication Monster/Beauty: Building the Body of Love can to be your new friend when you're experience alone and confuse using what must you're doing of these time.

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