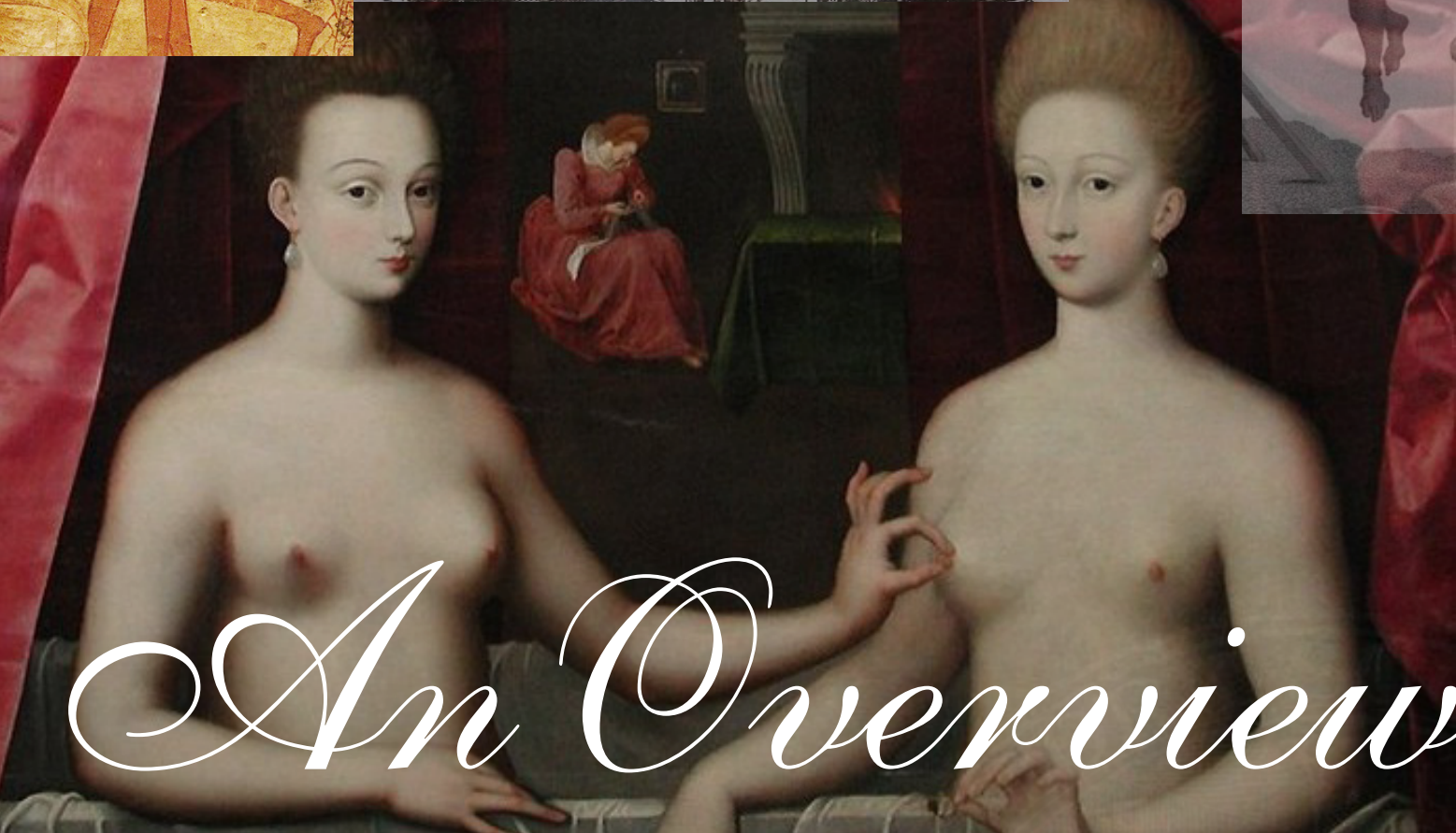




SEX PUNISHMENT

FOUR THOUSAND YEARS OF JUDGING DESIRE.

by *Eric Berkowitz*



An Overview

of a truly groundbreaking book.





The “raging frenzy” of the sex drive, to use Plato’s phrase, has always defied control. However, that’s not to say that every civilization has not tried, using its most powerful weapon: the law. At any given point in history, some forms of sex were condoned while others were punished mercilessly. Jump back or forward a century or two, or cross a border, and the harmless fun of one society becomes the gravest crime in another.

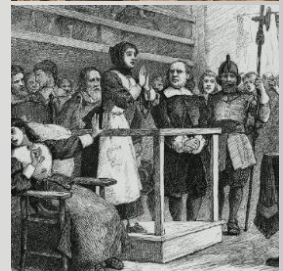
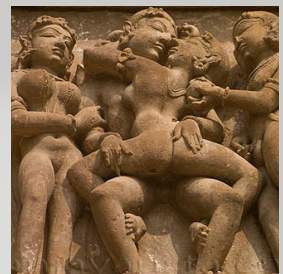
Sex and Punishment tells the story of the struggle to regulate the most powerful engine of human behavior. Writer and lawyer Eric Berkowitz has accomplished what no scholar has yet achieved: to use flesh-and-blood cases—much flesh, even more blood—to evoke the entire sweep of Western sex law, from the savage impalement of an ancient Mesopotamian adulteress to the imprisonment of Oscar Wilde in 1895 for “gross indecency.”

The cast of *Sex and Punishment* includes royal mistresses, gay charioteers, medieval transvestites, misbehaving government officials, lonely goat-lovers, priests, prostitutes, and London rent boys. Each had forbidden sex, and each was judged—though justice, as Berkowitz shows, rarely has much to do with it.

About The Author

Eric Berkowitz is a San Francisco-based writer and public-interest lawyer with a master’s degree in journalism from the University of Southern California. He has published investigative pieces in the *Los Angeles Times* and the *LA Weekly*, among other publications, and has written for the Associated Press. He was also the legal editor of the West Coast’s premier daily legal newspaper, *The Los Angeles Daily Journal*.

Accolades about the book can be found on the next page



Accolades about the Book

"It's rare that a book so well researched and provocative is also so downright entertaining -- Sex and Punishment will have you gripped and fascinated (and sometimes laughing out loud) at how legal systems over the millennia have attempted to regulate mankind's unruly carnal desires."

- Tony Perrottet

Author of *Napoleon's Privates: 2,500 Years of History Unzipped* and *A Journey Through the Historical Underbelly of Europe*

"A wonderful exposure of the illogicality of so much legislation that attempts to regulate sexual activity ... from the age of consent to adultery and sex on college campuses."

- Mary Beard

Professor of Classics at Cambridge University and Classics editor of the *Times Literary Supplement*

"Sex and Punishment is an illuminating and deftly told account of the two urges that have done so much to define civilization: humanity's appetite for sex and its concern to regulate the consequences. As Eric Berkowitz shows, both impulses have been in flux for centuries, and his colorful history serves as a timely reminder of just how arbitrary -- and ludicrous -- the moral certainties of one era can appear to the next."

- Sadakat Kadri

Author of *The Trial: A History, from Socrates to O. J. Simpson* and *Heaven on Earth: A Journey Through Shari'a Law from the Deserts of Ancient Arabia to the Streets of the Modern Muslim World*.

"In *Sex and Punishment*, Eric Berkowitz leads us through the inventive and ultimately futile ways that mankind has tried to tame its most troublesome pleasure. His comprehensive tour is sometimes funny, more often scary but always entertaining."

- A. J. Langguth

Prize-winning journalist and author of *Patriots: The Men Who Started the American Revolution*

"Sex and Punishment is very interesting, very enlightening, very well written, and very timely; and it performs an important service to a nonspecialist audience."

- Richard A. Posner

Professor, University of Chicago Law School, judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, author of *Sex and Reason* and *America's Sex Laws*

"Eric Berkowitz has done an excellent job of showing just how far from certain any of us should be that we really know what is 'normal' or 'ethical' when it comes to sex. *Sex and Punishment* is built on solid scholarship and spiced with plenty of sordid details that will make you the hit of any cocktail party."

- Christopher Ryan Ph.D

Co-author of *Sex at Dawn: The Prehistoric Origins of Modern Sexuality*

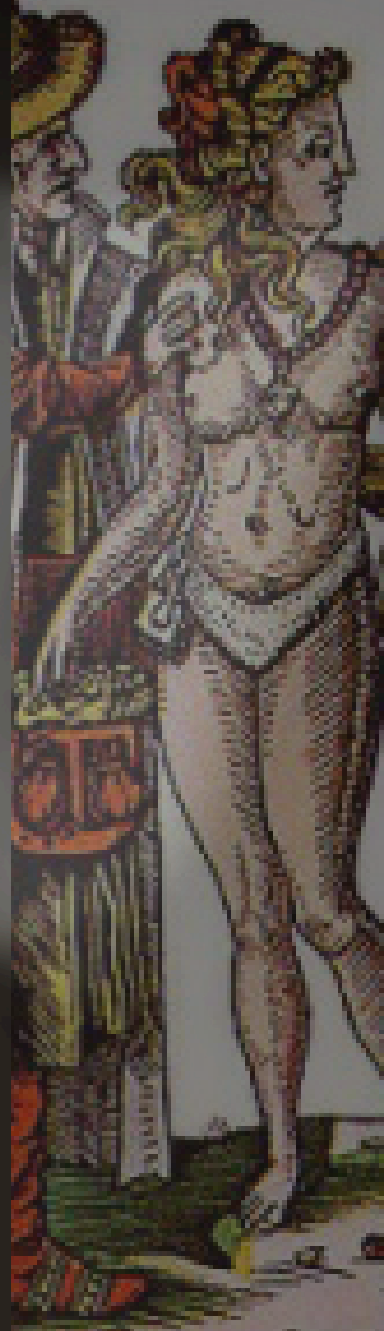
Release Date of the book

The book is scheduled to be released on May 14, 2012. The book may be pre-ordered at the following online retailers:
Amazon.com (The US & North America) **Amazon.Co.UK** (England & Europe)

News And Information about the book

For the latest information about *Sex and Punishment*, including recent reviews and commentary on the book, as well as upcoming book-signing dates and locations, please visit us at [facebook.com/SexandPunishmentTheBook](https://www.facebook.com/SexandPunishmentTheBook).

www.sexandpunishmentthebook.com



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