

Taschen  
SANTILLO. LA PETITE MORT (INT)

Will Santillo, Dian Hanson

VA

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## SANTILLO. LA PETITE MORT (INT)

### **The ultimate intimacy**

#### **Self-stimulation in front of the lens**

The title means “the little death,” a euphemism for orgasm, but the women who exuberantly masturbate for Toronto photographer **Will Santillo** in this book are as lively a bunch as you’ll ever meet. Santillo conceived the project eight years ago to include a thorough cross section of women: young to old, slim to thick, perfect beauties to those not considered beautiful until seen through his lens. The one constant would be that **each would decide and direct how she masturbated to climax while he captured the moment.**

From previous projects with amateur subjects Santillo had come to believe that masturbation is a far more personal act than most sex play because it is conducted almost exclusively in private. He set out to **reveal the diversity and creativity with which women approach self-stimulation, and to portray the beauty of ordinary women in the throes of orgasm**—a beauty far richer than the male oriented depictions seen in pornography. Santillo says he seeks to uncover the hidden face of his subjects, and indeed, it’s the faces that best show the intensity of response in these artfully explicit photos.

Framing these lush, sepia-toned pictures are **Dian Hanson’s interviews with 37 of Santillo’s models.** Their candid insights discuss **overcoming inhibition, giving in to exhibitionism, and achieving orgasm in front of a stranger with a camera.** For all who are curious about just what the woman next door—or one’s own wife—gets up to in her private moments, *La Petite Mort* is a breath of life.

#### **The photographer:**

**Will Santillo** studied photography at M.I.T. under Minor White and has worked in the fields of fashion, corporate, architectural, and intimate photography. His photos appear in the *Mammoth Book of Erotic Photography*, TASCHEN’s *New Erotic Photography*, and in the monograph *Flagrante Delicto*. He lives in Toronto.

#### **The editor and author:**

**Dian Hanson** produced a variety of men’s magazines from 1976 to 2001, including *Juggs*, *Outlaw Biker*, and *Leg Show*, before becoming TASCHEN’s *Sexy Book* editor. Her 60+ books for TASCHEN include *The Art of Pin-up* and *Psychedelic Sex*. She lives in Los Angeles.

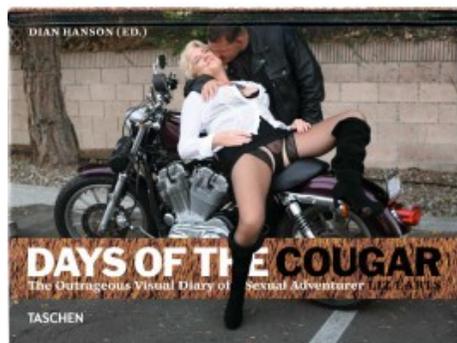
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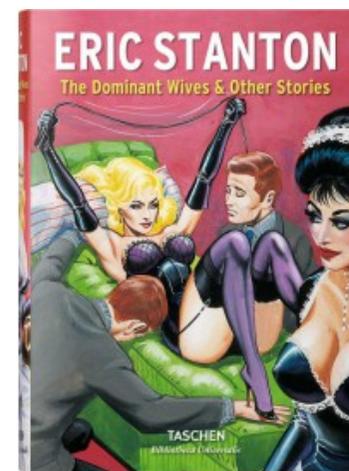
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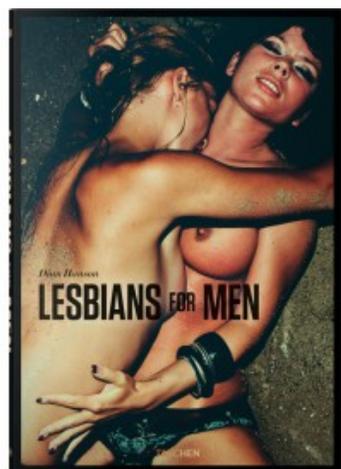
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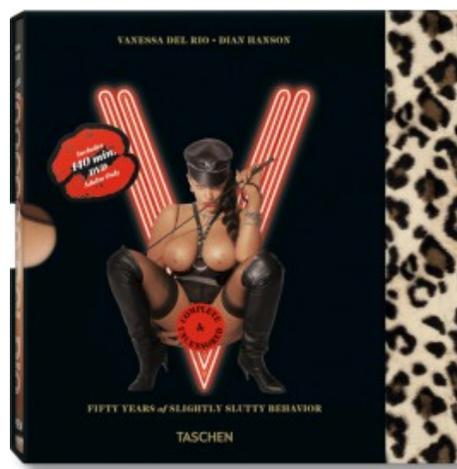
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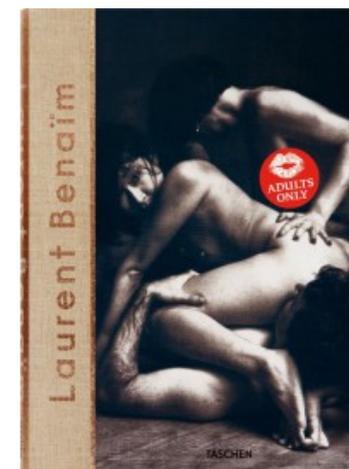
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