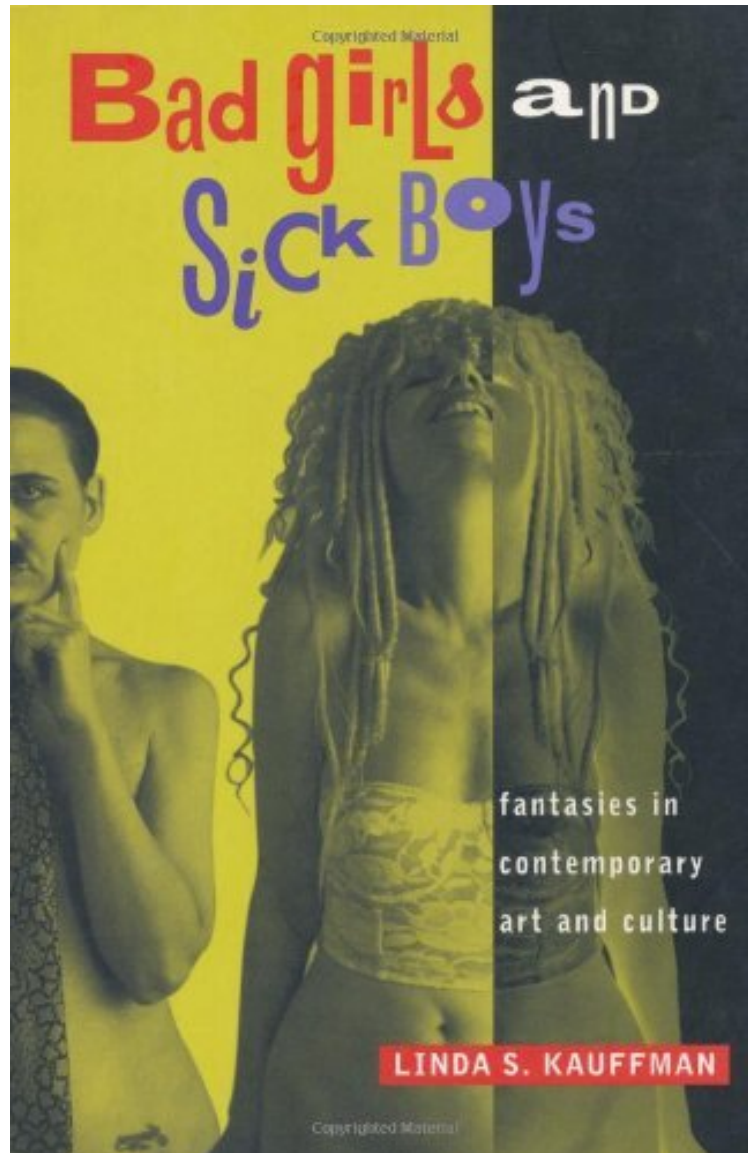


Bad Girls and Sick Boys: Fantasies in Contemporary Art and Culture

Linda S. Kauffman

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Linda S. Kauffman : Bad Girls and Sick Boys: Fantasies in Contemporary Art and Culture before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bad Girls and Sick Boys: Fantasies in Contemporary Art and Culture:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. too credulous but not badBy A CustomerI looked forward to reading this, and it starts well but then becomes bogged down in lionizing unskeptically such performance artists as Orlan, the

woman who continues to have plastic surgery as her "transgressive" "art," and stories of the dated antics of Carolee Schneeman. It's nice that the author doesn't much care for Andrea Dworkin, but she goes head over heels for Bret Easton Ellis and Kathy Acker, whose literary accomplishments I think have been hit and miss at best. The best thing in the book is the attention paid to David Cronenberg and J.G. Ballard, including interviews with each. 5 of 9 people found the following review helpful. An open-minded summary of a controversial topic. By A Customer Linda Kauffman's book would shock an academic or one who reads for pleasure during a quick browse. But upon closer examination, one finds that Kauffman's research presents a solid argument for the anti-censorship stance in the most reliable way possible--through undeniable facts. This book allows radical feminists to be seen in a different light, one that has been shadowed by hypocrisy for too many years.

Linda S. Kauffman turns the pornography debate on its head with this audacious analysis of recent taboo-shattering fiction, film, and performance art. Investigating the role of fantasy in art, politics, and popular culture, she shows how technological advances in medicine and science (magnetic resonance imaging, computers, and telecommunications) have profoundly altered our concepts of the human body. Cyberspace is producing new forms of identity and subjectivity. The novelists, filmmakers, and performers in *Bad Girls and Sick Boys* are the interpreters of these brave new worlds, cartographers who are busy mapping the fin-de-millennium environment that already envelops us. *Bad Girls and Sick Boys* offers a vital and entertaining tour of the current cultural landscape. Kauffman boldly connects the dots between the radical artists who shatter taboos and challenge legal and aesthetic conventions. She links writers like John Hawkes and Robert Coover to Kathy Acker and William Vollmann; filmmakers like Ngozi Onwurah and Isaac Julien to Brian De Palma and Gus Van Sant; and performers like Carolee Schneemann and Annie Sprinkle to the visual arts. Kauffman's lively interviews with J. G. Ballard, David Cronenberg, Bob Flanagan, and Orlan add an extraordinary dimension to her timely and convincing argument.