

# XAVIERA HOLLANDER INTERVIEWED



*I can do without a man for about 24 hours . . . [then] I go hunting."* Thus does Xaviera Hollander proclaim herself an exceedingly liberated woman. Moreover we learn that she is a polysexual erotomaniac and—having turned pleasure into profit—a practicing madam, at one time.

The brothel Xaviera operated was in New York City. She arrived in that city by a roundabout route.

Born in Java during World War II, the daughter of a Dutch physician, she spent her first years in a Japanese internment camp. Later she lived in Holland and South Africa. Once in the U.S., her ability to converse in various languages landed her a job with a delegation to the United Nations. At the time, she says, she was sleeping with any man or woman who caught her fancy, and it was an easy transition to combining earnings with yearnings. But it only occurred to her to turn professional when a rich Dutchman gave her \$150 after a night's pleasure.

Xaviera—blessed with a special blend of business flair and sexual fervor—soon seized a chance to take over the goodwill (names and telephone numbers) of a retir-

ing madam. The never-ordinary prostitute became even more exceptional when she collaborated with Robin Moore in writing her outspoken autobiography. Fame, fortune, and even a certain respectability followed the book's publication. She appeared on television shows, went on a college lecture tour, and when *The Happy Hooker* was made into a film, her celebrity attained the first magnitude.

Since 1972 Xaviera has been writing an advice column for *Penthouse*. Shortly before, the magazine published an interview with her—an interview that we believe constitutes an important social document. Highlights are republished here.—The Editors

**Penthouse:** You seem to have experienced most forms of sexual deviation. Don't you draw the line anywhere?

**Hollander:** There are a few people whose scenes disgust me. One man I wrote about in the book had nine girls pee on him, and another wanted a girl to shit on him. Anything with dirt involved is too far out for me.

**Penthouse:** Was that the kinkiest thing that

ever happened in your house?

**Hollander:** No, there was a public official who came regularly to be tied up and beaten, then locked in the bedroom closet to watch my girls with their customers through the keyhole. He got his rocks off by watching other people fuck. Once he fell off his chair or made some noise and my customer rushed to the closet, whipped open the door, and recognized the official inside—who was very well known. It was a big embarrassment but somehow he got a kick out of being embarrassed. That's very kinky. We got other masochists who wanted to wash lingerie and scrub floors as servants, some who wanted to be tied up and made to bark like a dog. It's pathetic, but for them it's excitement, and there's a demand for it. So it's a kind of service.

**Penthouse:** In your experience why do men usually go to prostitutes? Is it because they don't get satisfaction from their wives?

**Hollander:** About half of them. They'd complain that their wives were dead in bed or wouldn't do things like oral or group sex. Also there's often boredom in

marriage, a lack of communication. The wife doesn't compliment her husband's lovemaking after four or five years, doesn't make him feel he's the best. But he loves her, he loves his family, and he doesn't want to go through with a divorce. He doesn't want a regular mistress or an affair with somebody like his secretary because she'd have to be seduced and is liable to fall in love with him and want to get married. So he comes to us. A man might like the excitement and atmosphere of a bordello, the idea that there are girls waiting for him to choose from. He might be married to a skinny little blonde and dream about making it with a voluptuous dark-haired Amazon. Then there are the sexual minority groups, the people who are accused of being freaks and weirdos. I've always been sympathetic towards them.

**Penthouse:** Infection apart, there must sometimes be clients whom a girl finds repulsive. How does she cope?

**Hollander:** First of all, few customers require more than 15 or 20 minutes, depending on what they pay. For that little while the girl has to tell herself that it's all part of the job. She must just shut her eyes and try to imagine she's sucking on an ice-cream cone.

**Penthouse:** Some readers of *The Happy Hooker* were surprised that you refute the idea that prostitutes never climax with a customer.

**Hollander:** Every woman, married or not married, even with the hottest lover, sometimes has to fake orgasm to please and reassure her partners. Women simply do not come every time—often for reasons that have nothing to do with what goes on in bed. Prostitutes are paid for giving pleasure, so if we don't actually come we fake it to make the customer feel happier. But if a man's a good lover we don't have to fake. If a girl has 10 men a day, factory style, or working a convention, that's one thing. But I had a select group of clients spaced out between the girls, and there were very few girls who didn't climax at least once in a while with their customers.

**Penthouse:** You've debunked that myth, and also the notion that a large penis is necessary to a good lover. What about the black man's reputation as a sexual performer?

**Hollander:** All of the black men I've been with have been fantastic lovers. I don't want to sound like a racist, but a white man with a big cock can slam your ovaries out, but with a black man you hardly feel it. The rhythm a black man has in sex is ten times better than a white man's. I had to educate my own boyfriend that way. Incidentally, black men do tend to have bigger penises than white men in the soft condition, but they don't seem to grow as much when they harden. A white man's can grow almost four sizes.

**Penthouse:** How much has the so-called sexual revolution cut into the business of prostitution?

**Hollander:** Not too much. It's a myth that since the pill arrived girls are all giving it

away for free. Some of the younger girls are more promiscuous, but they don't have much know-how. You'd be surprised at how many girls are semi-frigid and just do it because it's a thing that's expected of them these days. One thing that is cutting into the prostitution market is swinging. But as long as there are businessmen on trips, as long as there are men who aren't very attractive or who are too shy to chat up a bird, as the British say, and as long as there are sexual minority groups and couples with sexual difficulties I'm sure there'll be prostitution.

**Penthouse:** Isn't VD always a problem?

**Hollander:** People think prostitutes spread VD, which might be true of streetwalkers—I don't know. But I don't think it's true of higher-class call girls. We're basically hygienic and we check out our clients. Getting VD is one of the worst things that can happen to a girl in a house, because if she gives it to somebody he's bound to be



angry and she'll lose a customer. So she's very careful.

**Penthouse:** In Western society a girl is usually looked down on for prostitution. Doesn't that worry you?

**Hollander:** A lot of it is jealousy. I enjoyed what I did because I like sex and I like money. I think my book opened the eyes of a lot of women to the idea that prostitution is *not* a forced business. I think I was better off as an honest madam saying to a man, "It's going to cost you 50 or 100 dollars to make love to me", than as a secretary kissing the boss's backside, cleaning his desk, fetching his sandwiches, and maybe going to bed with him to keep the job or get a raise. Besides, I don't think you can put me on the same level as a street hooker having oral or vaginal sex with 20 or 30 guys a day, robbing or stabbing guys and getting beaten up by pimps. I think there's a hell of a lot of difference between that girl and me. You can't com-

pare her with a good call girl who does it in a sophisticated and honest way and doesn't have to see more than four people a day.

**Penthouse:** You've written about being good to your girls. How did you operate a happy house?

**Hollander:** I always taught my girls, "Look like a lady and act like a lady and you'll be treated like a lady." No matter whether you call yourself a whore or a call girl or a prostitute you're doing something illegal, and that lots of people think is sinful. But if you look like a whore, wear your makeup like a whore and wear wigs and have everything artificial and act whorish, you'll be treated like a whore. You'll be treated like a doormat.

**Penthouse:** Some of the people who came to you had power of one kind or another; political, financial, legal, whatever. Did they tend to be more straight in their sexual needs and demands?

**Hollander:** I noticed the bigger the politician, the squarer he'd be. Politicians are about as square as you can get.

**Penthouse:** By square you mean sexually ignorant?

**Hollander:** Ignorant, uptight. "Don't put my name in your book, I don't want to be seen by anybody." They didn't want to hang around the place. They didn't want to mingle.

**Penthouse:** If sex is a symbolic act of love and a part of love, did you try to provide your clients with more than just sex?

**Hollander:** All a client really wants is sexual fulfillment. Even so, I always tried to give him some emotional pleasure as well. That's why I never rush. That's why I never wanted my girls to rush like a street hooker. One of the reasons why the price they paid me was high was so that my girls wouldn't say: "I don't make any money because I spend too much time with one man." I would always try to make a man feel like he was a king, like he was the best in bed. However I was honest too. If a man was an absolutely lousy lay I would tell him. I would say: "You're complaining about your wife being bad in bed or being frigid. But look at yourself first." Then instead of just sending him home with a tremendous inferiority complex on how to fuck I would say: "Come back. Let me teach you the next time how to appreciate your own body more and how to appreciate a woman's body afterwards." I would make him into a good lover by teaching him to release his inhibitions.

**Penthouse:** Did men ever thank you for resolving their problems?

**Hollander:** Yes, quite a few times after a man had been through my place he'd say: "My wife is also inhibited and she has read your book." So the wife would invite me, on a social level, for a drink. I'd talk and get into her head and she would come out with her complaints and frustrations. Sometimes if she were broad-minded enough she would go for a three-way scene and ball with me just like her husband. It's amazing that a lot of men get