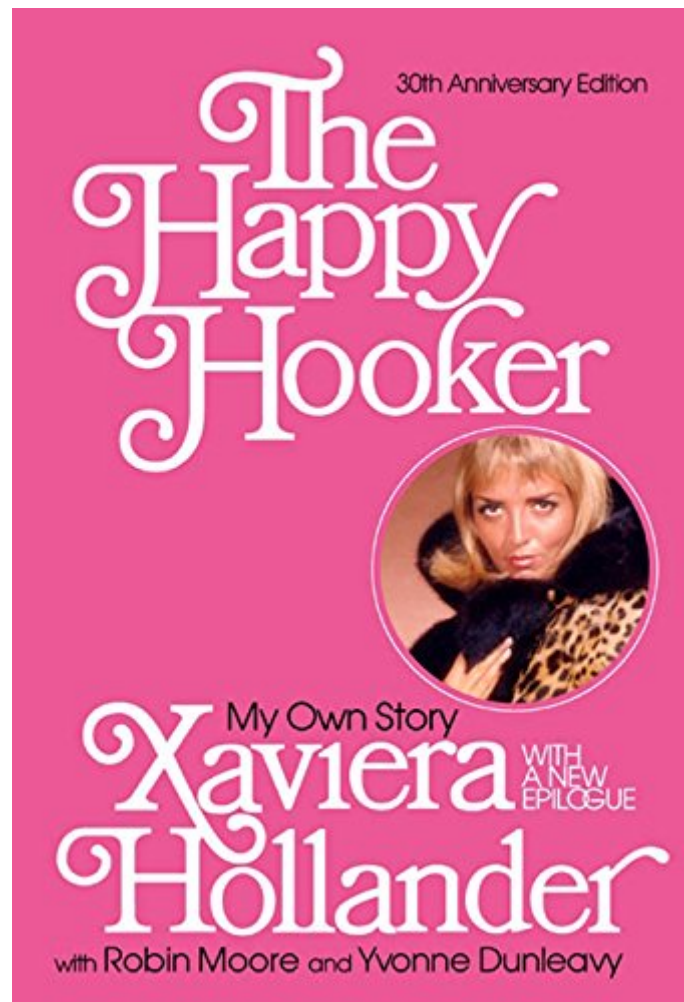


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# The Happy Hooker: My Own Story



## Synopsis

How did you first learn about sex? If you grew up in the 1970s, it may have been from a gleefully lusty tour guide named Xaviera Hollander. In the late 1960s -- that era of sexual chaos, when Playboy Clubs and love-ins were competing for national attention -- a beautiful, intelligent young Dutch secretary named Xaviera de Vries moved to New York, grew swiftly tired of her desk job . . . and soon became the most visible and glamorous madam the city had ever seen. As Xaviera Hollander, she published a shockingly candid account of her life behind the brothel door. *The Happy Hooker* shot straight to the top of the bestseller lists, sold more than fifteen million copies, and made this enterprising young woman an international phenomenon. Thirty years later, these delightfully explicit tales of the '60s and '70s swingers' scene -- including countless jaw-dropping stories of lesbianism, bondage, fetishism, and more -- remain as titillating as ever, charged with the mix of shrewd observation and uninhibited appetite that made Hollander an irresistible storyteller. *The Happy Hooker* is a classic: the world's greatest book on the world's oldest profession.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"How did YOU first learn about sex?" the reviews ask. Even more importantly, when? I'll confess

that I learned about it in the 1970s, and that "a gleefully lusty tour guide named Xaviera Hollander" was responsible. The volume that started it all, "The Happy Hooker: My Own Story" is now titillating a new generation of readers who cut their teeth on matter-of-fact sex guides like "Savage Love" or Dr. Ruth Westheimer's preachy "Sex for Dummies." While many may wonder what all the fuss was about, the truth is that today's twenty-somethings can't begin to imagine how shocking this book was when it first appeared in February 1972, when most of us still gasped after hearing the word "damn" on TV. Reared in the liberal Netherlands, the author discovers early on that she is bisexual -- and ultimately, it seems, sexually insatiable as well. Relating her own personal experiences in vivid detail, Xaviera chronicles how the sexual revolution of the 1960s hit full stride at the beginning of the 1970s. In the days before AIDS, she would regularly meet people of either sex, engage in small talk with them, and take them to bed before the night was over. Many ships pass in the night this way throughout the book, yet the author's first sexual encounter with a man is strangely given short shrift. Presumably it wasn't as memorable as her many other adventures and escapades. Entering adulthood, she migrates to South Africa at a time when apartheid and other repressive laws are still in force. Bored within a matter of days, she seduces her brother-in-law and spices up his previously boring marriage to her half-sister before moving on to the staid Johannesburg club scene, where she promptly makes a name for herself.

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