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**THE SEX
ISSUE**

2023

LA EDICIÓN

DEL SEXO

**MULTILINGUAL
LITERARY MAGAZINE**

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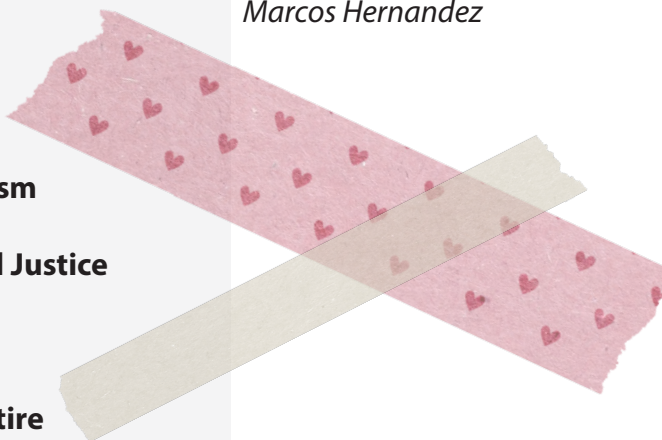


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THE CALLING

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ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AWARD IN CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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JODI STUTZ AWARD IN POETRY

Surrender by Molly the Person

REDWOOD CREATIVE NONFICTION AWARD

Baby Girl by Elaina Rae Erola

RICHARD CORTEZ DAY PRIZE IN FICTION

Chasing Dandelions by Kelsey Lloyd

TOYON STAFF AWARD IN VISUAL ART

Der Kleine Tod (La Petite Mort) by RUNA

FOREPLAY

Well, hello there. And how are you doing?

You look good with this book in your hand, you know that? You made a great choice by picking me up and bringing me home. I hope you don't mind me saying, but I think that we're gonna go good together; I can feel it in my spine. You seem like you're ready to get down to it, but if you don't mind, I'd like to take it a little slowly. Why don't we take a moment to just admire each other? Then you'll be free to take complete control of me if you'd like.

You know, I just thought of something. I haven't even introduced myself to you yet. How rude of me. I'm *Toyon 69: The Sex Issue* and it's such a pleasure to meet you. No, I mean it, the pleasure is all mine. We're about to get real intimate, and I want it to be fun for both of us. We can try out some new things, and who knows? Maybe we can both enjoy something unexpected! I'd love nothing more than to feel you all over my pages. But if I ever try something that you don't enjoy, then be honest with me and we'll move on. I promise you won't disappoint me.

I'm glad we're taking the time to get to know each other before we start to get to know each other. I'm not exactly demisexual, but it never hurts to emotionally connect, you know? Me, I'm just your average 69th volume of a multilingual literary magazine. I love poetry and short stories. Art gets me going, and I'm actually really into creative nonfiction. Don't tell anybody but I've always fantasized about critical analysis. Oh my gosh, I'm getting so worked up just talking about it. If you couldn't tell already, I'm very passionate about sex. It's something that we all have a relationship with but no two sexual experiences are alike. I hope that you'll take the time to really get to know me because I guarantee you'll learn something new. Learning from each other is hot. Haven't you heard that knowledge is sexy?

So yeah, I'm into a lot of things. Did you know that I actually speak a few languages? Yeah, besides English, I can also speak Chinese, Russian, and Spanish. I hope that you

don't mind if I try them out on you. Yo quiero mostrarte cómo uso mi lengua. Тебе нравится, когда я так говорю? People usually find it kinda sexy, you know?

There were a lot of tough decisions that had to be made just so we could be together now. A lot of wonderful people had a hand in deciding what to put inside me. Really, you should thank them for making me so, er, big. And I know I saw you eyeballing me from across the room earlier. In all honesty, I wasn't always such a looker. It took a whole team of people to make me this stylish!

Of course, I'm talking about the authors and translators that made me so experienced. I've explored what it means to be sexual with men, women, and non-binary beauties from all around the world. People of all sexualities and body types exposed me to ideas I'd never dreamed of. I've learned a lot about what it means to own my sexuality and explore beyond my comfort zone. Then there's the wonderful folks in the Cal Poly Humboldt English Department, Cal Poly Humboldt Marketing and Communications, Cal Poly Humboldt Library and Special Collections. Without their support, you and I would never have met. Of course, I've got to thank the *Toyon* student staff. They really whipped me into shape. Oh, and how could I forget to mention Marcos Hernandez, who taught me everything I know, if you know what I mean.

You think you're ready now? I know I am. I just want you to know that you're in control here. I want you to stop me if I do anything that makes you uncomfortable. I think boundaries are, like, really sexy. You get to tell me just what you want, okay? I'm here for your pleasure, whatever form that it takes.

Let's get to it
~ Toyon 69 ♥