

Spotlight

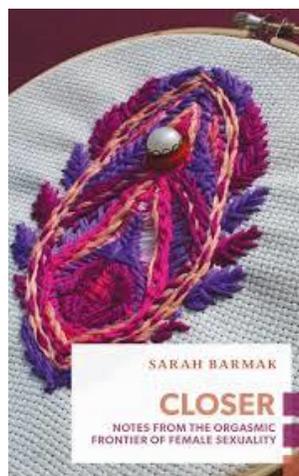
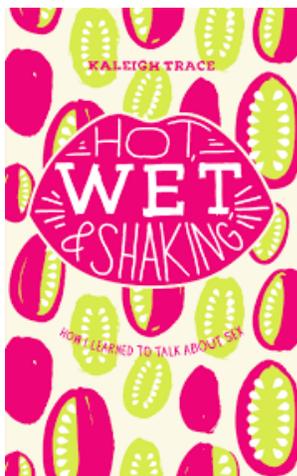
Wednesday, August 15th

This week's Spotlight picks are inspired by the absolutely fabulous Queerlesque performances that took place in Yellowknife this past weekend. Leaving the event with the glow of the wide variety of campy, sexy, and playful performances had me reflecting on the importance of safe, inclusive, and welcoming spaces. At Yellowknife Public Library we strive to ensure that these spaces exist within our collections as well so this week I am sharing two of my favourite sex-positive books from the last couple years. Both titles are as bold as they are welcoming and are written in honest, sometimes raw but always respectful, voices. They are also both published by notable small Canadian presses, Coach House Books in Toronto and Invisible Publishing in Halifax/Toronto.

Hot, Wet & Shaking: How I Learned to Talk about Sex is written by sexual health superstar, Kayleigh Trace. Trace is a queer, disabled, feminist sex educator and former employee of Halifax's sex-positive store, *Venus Envy*. Trace's memoir tells the story of her journey to not just acceptance but celebration of her body and identity. At the same time, the book reads like a workshop to sexual and mental health given by your best, brashest, and most brilliant friend.

Closer: Notes from the Orgasmic Frontier of Female Sexuality by Sarah Barmak drew most of its initial buzz from its eye catching cover but the book will likewise hold your attention. Barmak, a journalist by trade, has written an engaging and accessible collection of essays about the always changing and complicated relationship between science, culture, and women's bodies. The topics range from fascinating investigative journalism to wonderfully strange excursions to the fringes of contemporary culture.

Both of these titles are excellent examples of some of the best sexual health writing coming out of small Canadian presses today. As Trace's bio reads, and is applicable for both titles, these are works that are about "safe and shameless sex of all kinds, for all kinds."



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