

DAWN PORTER *shares...*

EACH WEEK, THE INTREPID JOURNALIST BARES HER SOUL

C'mon ladies - it's time to have an honest chat

The notion of porn being degrading and objectifying women comes from the belief that it only benefits men. But if 30% of women (says a new study by the University of Sydney) are admitting to watching it, then isn't that argument losing its thrust?

So I logged on to Twitter and asked my female followers to email me about how they felt about porn, and whether or not they chose to watch it.

I have never been so inundated with emails so quickly. It seemed a lot of ladies were desperate for the opportunity to talk about it. Many enjoyed watching it with their partners, but what was most interesting (and comforting) were the number of women who watched it alone, just for themselves, to get their kicks without having to please anybody else... and in some cases just to pass some time.

Many of the women who emailed me also admitted to enjoying something very sexual that didn't have to be emotional at the same time. It wasn't about being crazily kinky, more about finding simple pleasure in something visually erotic... my point exactly!

"I asked other women on Twitter what they thought about watching porn and was inundated with emails about the subject"

But, the one thing nearly all of us had in common was the trepidation about admitting this to friends for fear of being given the "porn is disrespectful and degrading" lecture - a surefire way to make you feel like an inappropriate pervert.

Of course there are all sorts of kinds of pornography, good and bad. The most famous is the big bucks studio porn that plays to every sexual stereotype, but that isn't the kind of porn that I and most of the women who emailed me were interested in. We like homemade porn. Most women

said they like the kind that is made by sexual women for kicks not cash. No one has been exploited, no one has been forced into anything and everyone, especially the women, are having a genuinely really good time.

It is ethical porn, and as much as I like to do my bit for the environment by buying my vegetables locally, I also like to get my porn from people who had as much fun making it as I do watching it.

I certainly don't think badly of the women when I'm watching it because for that moment in time I wish I was them. I admire their confidence, sexuality and most significantly their skills! Sure, I see the women in pornography as sexual objects - it's porn. I'm hardly watching it for tips on how to fix a lightbulb am I? It never affects how I view women outside of that moment.

Women shouldn't attack other women for their own sexual choices. The idea that so many women watch porn but don't feel like they can admit

it is horribly old-fashioned.

I feel that women who say porn is degrading are inadvertently degrading other women. They're stopping women from being truly sexually liberated and being able to tell the truth about how they really feel. It is possible for women to come out of porn looking powerful, and if more of us admitted to watching it, then maybe there'd be more of the right kind of adult entertainment to enjoy.

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Here's the thing...



While walking Potato the dog this week I managed to embarrass myself spectacularly. Potato stopped to sniff the bum of a passing dog. Its owner was wearing headphones. I said "Imagine if we went around doing that", thinking she could hear me. She couldn't (earphones, remember?) She took them out, said "What?" and I repeated "Imagine if we smelt each others' bums". She tugged on her dog's leash and walked away. Quickly. Potato and I went home.

O TRAINER WHERE ART THOU?

I have over hundreds pairs of shoes but I never have any shoes to wear. Please explain that. I like walking but my girly shoes are not comfortable enough. I had lunch the other day with a pretty dress on and big clumpy trainers because I wanted to walk there. I need to invest in the perfect pump. Yep, I need a good pump. Something I can walk for miles in that looks really pretty. Does this even exist?



THE PERFECT PUMP. £280, BY CHLOÉ. NO NEED TO THANK US, DAWN