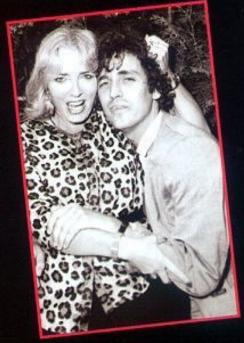


ack when I was eighteen vears old. I read a book called The Happy Hooker, by Xaviera Hollander. It was the first time I'd ever seen "happy" and "hooker" together in one sentence. That gave me a lot of hope for the future of my sex life, and for sexual liberation of women in general. Xaviera was someone I'd always wanted to meet and get to know. Then, what luck! I recently went to the theater, and who sat down next to me but the living legend herself! Xaviera was in New York for a few days on her way back to her native Holland. She was everything I'd imagined her to be: funny, intelligent, and-oh, wow, is she gorgeous! Xaviera speaks six languages. Happily, she agreed to do this interview with me in English. I think you'll be as thrilled as I was to meet Xaviera Hollander.

BC: Why did you write The Happy Hooker?

XH: That's an interesting story. I was approached by Robin Moore, the author of The Green Berets and The French Connection. He actually was a client-a weird client. The first time he came to my establishment, he was characteristically late. By the time he got there, my next client had arrived and I was in the middle of a very heavy S/M scene. I was dressed in black leather, swearing in German and whipping a slave who was crawling on the floor like a dog. Someone had left the door to my room open just a bit, because we always liked a bit of voyeurism. Robin must have stood there and watched and been fascinated. I had no idea he was writing a book. All I knew was that he was paying me a measly \$50 and he never took his clothes off! All he wanted to do was talk to me. After four or five sessions, I thought, Hey! Shit! This guy's a writer! So, I frisked him and he turned out to be bugged. He was taking all my stories from me! He



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had everything ready — even the title! I said, "Look, you won't look good on television saying, 'I'm the Happy Hooker.'" We came to an arrangement.

You know, I never did make any money on that book. I wrote eighteen other books that helped me survive.

BC: Isn't that ironic? One of the biggest-selling books about sex of all time paid you virtually nothing. Your prostitution sounds far more profitable than your writing.

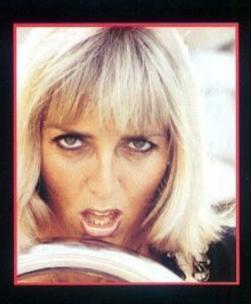
XH: Right! I made more money horizontally than vertically. Now I'm making more money as a writer, of course. And, unlike prostitution, there are no payoffs and bribes.

BC: You're a superstar. Actually, you've gone beyond that. You're a legend. Does that make you feel like you've got certain responsibilities? Does that give you certain privileges?

XH: It is fabulous to be famous. It still opens doors wherever I go. And it's fun. In Los Angeles, recently, I went to the cosmetic department at Saks Fifth Avenue. The little gay boy who served me didn't recognize me, but when I handed him my credit card, he said, "Oh, Miss Hollander, it's you! What a pleasure to meet you!" I said, "How do you know who I am? You're all of what—twenty-eight?" He said, "Yes, but I grew up with your books. I found them on my mom and dad's bedside table." It's still nice to be famous.

BC: You paid a price for that fame, didn't you? Weren't you thrown out of the U.S.?

XH: I was busted three times in the course of one year. I was in the middle of testifying about police corruption for the Knapp Commission when I got tossed out of the country. What was so annoying was that I had been a witness on the govern-



ment's side! After that experience, I never divulged the names of any of my clients unless they were dead, like (she names an incredibly famous celebrity.)

BC: Whoa! (incredibly famous celebrity) was a client of yours?

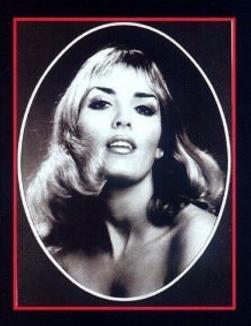
XH: (Coyly.) Well, he was interesting because he (or his secretaries and bouncers) would make every hooker, no matter what she was paid, sign a release so that she couldn't file a paternity suit against him later. She could never say, "Yes, I slept with (incredibly famous celebrity) and I'm pregnant by him."

BC: I know that you are no longer in the business of prostitution, but you are still in contact with a lot of working women. How has prostitution changed in the last 25 years? *Has* it changed?

XH: It's pathetic, the way the police are still pursuing those poor girls! I have seen American television shows here in Holland-real life police stories-where a harmless guy gets approached by a hooker, a hooker who's really a female cop. She entraps him! She takes him to a hotel room, he pays his money and suddenly, out of nowhere, four big guys jump him, arrest him, handcuff him and treat him like he's the scum of the earth. A girlfriend of mine from Canada, a sweet girl, she's in jail for five years for running a little escort service. She was only sending three girls out on dates! That's why people like Norma Jean Almodovar are so good. They are really fighting to decriminalize prostitution. Not trying to make it legal, just fighting to take the crime element out if it. Prostitution is like social work: a guy wants to get laid and he's willing to pay, so a girl offers her services. If there are bad aspects to it, it's the bad pimps. Or, it's the guys and girls who steal, or pass diseases around. But I think there are more men picking up diseases from non-hookers than from prostitutes. Hookers have



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themselves checked regularly. That hasn't changed over the years. If anything, they are more careful now.

BC: You have learned so much over the course of your life and your career. What advice would you give to a young woman today who wanted to be a really outstanding hooker?

XH: (Laughing.) I'd tell her to read The Happy Hooker! I'd say put as much positive energy into it as you possibly can. That's true for any job. I always enjoy listening to people who say, "I really love my work." Being a prostitute is a great job if you like sex and a variety of partners. And if

you can do a job you love lying down in bed, why should you sit up in an office? Lastly, I'd say, don't stay in the business too long. Save some money. I know hookers in Toronto who own whole streets of apartment blocks and are making lots of money as real estate agents. But remember, I've been out of prostitution a long time. In this day and age, I really wouldn't recommend it to anybody. It's just too dangerous. There is always the temptation not to use safe sex.

BC: We know that hooking made the Happy Hooker happy. What makes her happy today? What's your greatest joy, your greatest passion?

XH: I love that famous four-letter word, "work." I like keeping busy. I can keep busy just emptying a drawer or learning a new computer program. I'm also an E-mail junkie. I'm heavily into communication. I like to keep my friends up-to-date with what's going on. Ten years ago, I liked to travel the world. I loved exploring the ruins in Mexico, Brazil, and Guatemala. Now I'm 55 and I'm somewhat overweight and that sometimes has it's effect on my



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BC: It doesn't sound like you've slowed down that much. I read that you have two lovers.

XH: Oh, yes. One is a girl, a lesbian. She is a swimmer, a very beautiful woman who has a marvelous boyishness about her and she has a fabulous, curvaceous, feminine body.

And recently I acquired another lover. He is Israeli, twenty-six years old and he's been a general in the army for five years. He's all male, hairy and strong, but he's shy at the same time.

BC: (Laughing.) You've got it all! Were you always bisexual by nature?

XH: I think so, yes. I have always been fascinated by people with good soft skin and feminine features. Although the girlfriend I had in New York, Frannie, was very masculine. She's been my slave for 30 years now. That's a different aspect of me—that's the S/M side.

BC: Who's sexy to you?

XH: (Dirty laugh.) Jack Nicholson! I also like Madonna. She is very original, and she's a very sexual person. If someone were to play me in another movie, I think she could do it. Richard Gere has the sexiest hair.

BC: That's funny. We could just take

body: my hips are starting to wear out and my back aches and my eyes get sore when I'm at the computer ten hours a day. I should really take it easier.

BC: Me, too. My work day seems to start the moment I'm awake, and it doesn't seem to stop until I fall asleep at night.

XH: But you're still young. Wait until you are fifty-plus! When you are in your forties you still have a lot of zest and stamina. That can change after you have had the change of life. Plus, I had a hysterectomy. That was very traumatic, being a happy hooker and all, until I realized I could still enjoy sex. It's just that the drive for the next orgasm is gone a bit. One gets more selective as one get older. Now, I like the anticipation. If I have a date with someone five days from now I really look forward to it, whereas before I would get impatient and moody if I did not have that orgasm at least once every two days.

