



what accounts for the enormous success of platforms such as Chaturbate, where we reward other people for having sex with tokens. At a time when we feel atomised, disembodied and unable to grasp experience, what we crave are those acts that force us out of ourselves. Penetration is dying. It's too direct, too involved, too much of a binary. What's hot is that side angle from which we actually have a sense of being present. Choking, par exemple; but also, surprisingly uncomfortable forms of pleasure, such as girls eating out boys and amateur porn.

THE BIG O

The future of arousal, in an age as polarised as ours, will be increasingly political. We've decided to put ourselves behind walls at a time when the Other is one Tinder profile away. Naturally, that's going to mean us fetishising those groups that scare us the most. An age of reaction, it is said, is the prelude to one of liberation. If that's true, I quake at the thought of what ours will bring forth.

In New York, where I now live, no one has sex. It's too messy; no one has the time. It's impossible to fit in between the pressures of work, social life, television and hot yoga.

The future of sex is already here, and it's Netflix. In India, where people are newly liberated, and still have time, things are different. The men may be rubbish at sex, but they're eager. Consider this voice from a metropolis down South: "I'm a chubby guy. I LOVE having my nipples sucked, bitten, licked...I love dirty talk. I have a thing for armpits. I am passionate in bed. I want a man to eat me in bed. Eat my ass, maybe. Maybe do a sexy role play. I will pleasure my man to the core. I'll suck you like I cock hungry slut!" The grammar breaks down towards the end, but no one can deny the enthusiasm.

And so, maybe this is how it will go: as the population bomb explodes in China, ageing the population overnight, and the West sinks into a sexless age of reflexivity, India will shrug off its mantle as the home of non-consensual sex and become the last place in the world where people are still up to fuck.

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