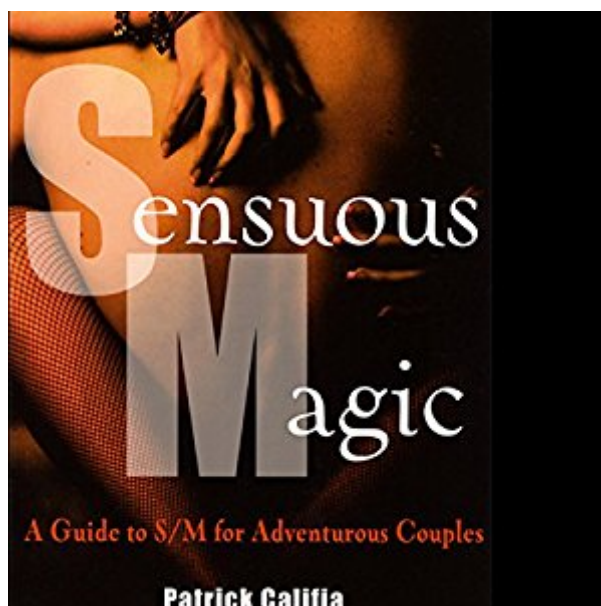


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# Sensuous Magic: A Guide To S&M For Adventurous Couples, 2nd Edition



## Synopsis

Mixing erotic vignettes with practical how-to advice and personal insight, *Sensuous Magic* is the author's guide to sadomasochism for couples. For readers who harbor fantasies of erotic dominance and submission, *Sensuous Magic* demystifies S/M, explaining terminology and technique. Experienced players will appreciate the author's knowledge of S/M safety and his insight into S/M psychology. Novices will be reassured by the book's honest, frank approach. This new edition discusses myths about S/M, the psychology of bondage, communication and negotiation, techniques of pleasure and sensation (including tickling, pressure, temperature, impact play, and whipping), and sex in S/M scenes. Also included are a glossary, updated bibliography, and resource guide.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This second edition of this book takes the material in the previous edition, updating it in certain spots and adds new material. As another reviewer has pointed out, this book is not a "how to do BDSM manual," instead it covers more of the emotional and mental aspects of doing BDSM. And each of the chapters finishes with an erotic SM story, one that fits the topic just discussed in the chapter. Topics the author covers include myths about SM and demystifying them, communication & negotiation, impact play, developing role preferences, different SM relationships, finding community, and even a chapter on edge play. Although some of this chapter some might feel is not necessarily edge play. Your mileage may vary. Califia also takes a realistic attitude about doing SM throughout the book, pointing out for example that what may really hot in your mind (like a full on

24/7 D/s relationship) may not be practical when it comes to things like doing shopping or picking up the dry cleaning, or holding down a 9 to 5 job every day. Or that your Top may have a bad day or not be perfect at all times. Reality rears its ugly head. Califia even includes a glossary of terms in the back, a resource guide, and further reading material. While the book is aimed primarily toward people new to BDSM, there's enough material here that even so-called "veteran" SM players will enjoy reading. Califia is a long time community member and his experience shows in the writing of this book.

Sensuous Magic is my favorite intro to BDSM book. The book covers all of the basic areas of BDSM in a way that both demystifies and normalizes. Patrick Califia approaches the topic in a way that emphasizes the emotional and spiritual aspects of BDSM play first, and the technical aspects second. Our brains are our biggest turn ons and he knows it. And, he manages to tuck erotica into each chapter - hot, hot, hot. One of the other things that I love about this book is the inclusion of all genders and sexual orientations. Mr Califia knows how important that is on a very personal level. He used to live as a woman, and now identifies as a man. The perspective of someone who has lived in multiple parts of the gender continuum is valuable, especially when playing with power. If you don't have this book, and you are thinking about BDSM play, you need it. Happy playtime!

Whenever someone asks about information about the SM Community, I have two required readings...Sensuous Magic and the Leatherman's Handbook by Larry Townsend. I think Pat does an outstanding service to the community with this publication. This first edition was very difficult to obtain, so with this second edition, a new generation will benefit from her knowledge. As she says..if we don't take care of ourselves, who will.

All the reference material is 18-20yrs old. No work has been done to update any of the references or confirm any of them are still around. To me, this is a lazy author and editor for a book that has been updated. I would give it 1 star, for the above 'mistakes'. The content in the book is ok. I would have expected something a bit more in depth since it was originally written for married couples (in LTR). I do like some of the step by step instructions (how to talk to your mate to discuss wants and needs). So for a couple that is looking for a little kink, this would be good. Keep in mind, a little bit of kink. For this the content gets 3 stars. I was seriously expecting the resources to be updated to find more info. Some books are out of print, some are not available, and some, there are better books out there than the 'old' ones he is referencing. I'm very disappointed.

I can't believe it took me so long to find this book, although I think I understand why: allegedly, Califia's works have been some of those most seized by customs outside the US as pornographic, and maybe that's the reason why there's no real explicit reference to sex or kink in the title or description of this book. Which is a damned shame, because it's literally the best beginner book on BDSM you could possibly read and yet you probably won't come up with it unless you're looking, like I was, specifically for his work. I came to know Califia's work through essays in other books - his piece "Jessie," in *Coming to Power: Writing and Graphics on Lesbian S/M*, 2nd Revised and Updated Edition, was one of my absolute favorites from that book, and his essays on fisting and masochism in *The Ultimate Guide to Kink: BDSM, Role Play and the Erotic Edge* were hot, funny, and dead-on accurate. So, our boy nails it yet again, so to speak. Here's what's awesome about *Sensuous Magic: IT'S ACTUALLY WRITTEN FOR BEGINNERS* but doesn't treat 'em like they're stupid, either. It contains information about BDSM based on how people actually do it, and how you'll probably actually do it. And the interludes of fantasy/erotica are an absolutely brilliant touch - definitely inspiring. I have read many, many books on BDSM, and this is absolutely, without a doubt, the first one I would hand to someone who I wanted to educate about that particular lifestyle. It literally could not have been done any better.

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