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NOW WE'RE TOLKIN' By Helen Marketti

A Conversation with Angie Bowie about her book POPSEX And her children's book CAT'ASTROPHE

Angie Bowie is a writer, rocker, poet and fashion icon. She works to bring attention to transgender, gay and bisexuality rights. Her outgoing personality and well-chosen thoughts take us from the beginnings of her book project and discoveries throughout.

Angie's latest book, POP.SEX (Create Space Independent Publishing, 2014) is a history lesson on sexuality through the ages. It is a page turning book that gives us a history lesson in sex with a wide cast of characters. We go back in time as the book discusses the conquest appetites of kings, queens, pharaohs, emperors, philosophers, presidents, authors, artists, actors and everyone in between. Once thinking that life sure must have been boring "back then" turns out to be quite the contrary.

First, we are going to back up just a bit and find out what sparked this book, which began as an essay. "A man named, Terrance Brown had a record company called Megatone Records that released a song of mine written by Paul Zone. One day Terrance asked me why I had not written a thesis on bisexuality for my web site. I had never thought of such an idea and was quite chuffed," explains Angie. "It took me about a year to write the essay. I took my time and did a lot of research. I wanted to pay close attention to details and did not want to be faulted or criticized. Once I finished writing and put it on my web site, the reaction was enormous. I started getting letters and emails from so many people who were sharing stories and seeking advice. I took some time to answer their questions on my web site, which is still posted in the "archive" section. One morning the thought just came to me, "POP.SEX" and

decided to write a book about the history of popular sexuality. It took me a total of 15 years to get the book finished. 12 years to write it and 3 years to edit."

OP.SEX by

POP.SEX delves into the private lives of Hans Christian Anderson, Edgar Allan Poe, Charles Dickens, Ernest Hemingway and many more! We may know on the surface that Poe and Hemingway had their dark corners but that is all we know until you read the book. "We do revere the great classical writers, painters and artists but it's still OK to know the truth," said Angie. "Pablo Picasso was an evil bastard who hated women and treated them like shit. Surrealist painter, Salvador Dali was perfect and divine yet he was a maniac, how fabulous is that? He didn't have any weirdness, he was just crazy blue."

What are the first thoughts that come to your mind when you think of Eleanor Roosevelt? Yes, she was a former first lady and was married to Franklin Delano Roosevelt better known as FDR. Eleanor advocated for women, African Americans and World War II refugees. She also was in love with her bodyguard, Earl Miller. She wanted to leave FDR after the 1932 elections so she could marry Earl. In spite of FDR's infidelities and her feelings for Earl, Eleanor remained with her husband. Reading this newfound information was a surprise because of the ever so proper image she maintained. "Eleanor never did anything to embarrass her husband," said Angie. "We look at people around us and we notice how they behave or how they don't behave. My parents loved Eleanor Roosevelt. They thought she was the bee's knees and I always loved her, too. She worked on the Declaration of Human Rights for the UN. As I learned more about her, it did not make me like her any less. In fact, it helped to understand her better."

The media bombards us constantly with ads based on sexuality. We see seductive ads for fashions, fragrances, vacations and cars with "perfect looking" men and women. "It's like a common denominator. It's something that nearly everyone can understand and agree on whether it's the attraction between men and women, men and men or women and women," said Angie. "Everyone understands that when you are with someone, you are trying to establish some sort of intimacy and trust. It's an understanding that someone has your back. We can say times have changed but it's still connecting with others and feeling safe. I think some people have given up on their sexuality which I feel makes them older much quicker. It removes them from the idea to be a little vain, to the take the time to invest in their appearance. As my mother used to say, "Put



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Popular Sexuality

your make-up on. You don't want to scare the horses or the children." (*laughs*) I have seen many beautiful older women who always have themselves together before they go out and face society. There are many young people who don't seem to have an interest, self-respect or simply not even consciously aware to think that it matters how they look."

Why is it that many people admire celebrity couples? There were so many leading men and women over the past 100 years. We watch their movies, their role in society and their sex appeal. People still admire and talk about JFK and Jackie Kennedy or Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio. While these couples are examples of why many are curious, Angie offers insight into why that idea still shines. "I think its celebrity worship to take the place of traditional monarchy. We do seem to be drawn to movie stars and their lives. I think there is a character trait that we are seeking. We look to others as role models. Role models are the way we break out of our own parents discourse. It's the desire of searching for someone else who can teach you something new. That's why we cleave to the Marilyns, the JFKs and that whole idea."

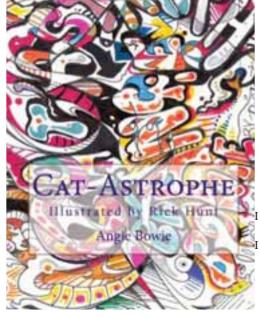
Angie shares more of her thoughts on POP.SEX. "I wanted to write a book that was civil, civic and social comment and put it in a way that people would find entertaining. I did not want anyone to feel that I was preaching. I know if I used the subject of sex, people would read it. I hope they will be swept away but learn something in the process. Nothing has really changed over time as we may have thought. Yes, we do have modern technology and improved ways of living but the character of man is still as crazy as it was 5 or 10,000 years ago. It reassured me. I do not share information with others to be outrageous. I say it because it's true."

CAT'ASTROPHE

CAT'ASTROPHE (Whamco Productions, 2014) is a coloring book illustrating the true-life adventures of Pooh Kitty who was a cat that was rescued by Angie and her partner, Michael. Angie writes the story in a rollicking, frolicking rhyming verse.

A portion of the proceeds from CAT'ASTROPHE will be donated to the Malachi House in Cleveland. The Malachi House is a place for individuals who are terminally ill and have limited or no financial resources. The facility relies on contributions and other fund raising events.

"A few years ago was in Cleveland and a friend of mine took me to see the Malachi House. was very moved by the people I met," said Angie. "I knew I wanted to help, to contribute in some way in hopes that it would benefit their facility. I remember talking with my partner, Michael and he



suggested I write a story. After taking some time to think about it, I decided to write the story about Pooh Kitty. I knew that since the story was simple, it would need illustrations. Rick Hunt provided the marvelous illustrations and shared my enthusiasm."

CAT'ASTROPHE is appropriately titled as Pooh Kitty finds herself in a few catastrophic situations. Angie's creativity and personality shine through. As Tom Cat is wooing Pooh Kitty, we find perfect verse that reads, "...he promised her adventures and spun kitty dreams, lulled her to sleep with Rock n Roll schemes..."

Readers will enjoy the repetitive beat and verse as they read about Pooh Kitty and share in the highs and lows of her nine lives. This book is for pet lovers, cat owners, veterinarian offices, pet supply stores and in your personal book collection. In addition to the Malachi House, another portion of the proceeds will be given to No Kill Animal Shelters.

Copies of POP.SEX and CAT'ASTROPHE are available at Amazon.com For more information about Angie: www.angiebowie.net



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