

Erotica: cuckold

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“Cuckold” is an Old English term for a man whose wife has sex with other men. The original spelling, “cukewold,” borrowed from the Old French “cuc-cault,” which derived from the “cuccu,” or female cuckoo bird’s practice of laying eggs in other birds’ nests. The pejorative suffix “ault” indicates that the “cuccault” is being taken advantage of by his adulterous wife, as by a lady cuckoo bird (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/cuckold>).

The word “cuckold” has fallen out of everyday usage, and the unwitting cuckold is no longer the butt of jokes that he was in Chaucer’s day. Rather, in the twenty-first century, there has been a surge of popular interest in cuckold erotica and cuckoldry as a fetish. A cuckold fetishist is sexually aroused by the fantasy or reality of his wife, girlfriend, or a woman he finds attractive having sex with another, usually an extremely virile, well-endowed man. Cuckold erotica caters to this fetish.

In the old meaning of the term “cuckold” the wife deceived her unsuspecting cuckold husband. The modern cuckold fetishist is very much aware and involved. In Old English, a husband who supported his wife’s philandering was more accurately termed a “wittol” (one who “knows”), but modern fetishists commonly use “cuckold.” Typical Euro-American cuckold erotica involves a husband/cuckold, his “hotwife,” and the other man, sometimes called a “bull.” The hotwife has sex with the bull, usually while her cuckold/husband watches. Sometimes she dominates, or the bull dominates the hotwife and the cuckold. The cuckold is usually submissive, often humiliated, “forced” to watch, and sometimes sexually services his wife and her lover. He may wear panties, shackles, or a chastity device, perhaps performing oral sex on his wife before or after the bull ejaculates inside her, eating her “cream pie.” He may orally pleasure

the other man or receive anal sex from him. Cuckold erotica takes many forms. Interracial cuckolding usually plays to stereotypes, featuring a nerdy-looking Caucasian or Asian cuckold and a well-endowed African-American bull.

While most cuckold erotica emphasizes humiliation, real-life cuckolding couples are not necessarily shame-oriented. The cuckold/husband sometimes acts more like a pimp than a wimp. In most cuckold erotica, the husband masturbates instead of having intercourse with his wife. In many real-life cuckolding scenarios, the cuckold/husband has passionate sex with his hotwife after the bull leaves (Gould 1999).

There are various explanations for the appeal of being cuckolded, despite the jealousy it often entails. The “sperm wars” theory—stemming from evolutionary biologist Robin Baker’s (2006) research, wherein one man’s spermatozoa compete for the egg with another’s—provides one possible reason why a cuckold’s seminal volume may increase, creating greater arousal when he perceives “competition” for his hotwife than when he has no known rivals.

A study by Gordon Gallup and coworkers (2003) concluded that one evolutionary purpose of the thrusting motion characteristic of intense intercourse is for the penis to “upsuck” another man’s semen before depositing its own. The cuckold’s urge to thrust, through intercourse or masturbation, is often enhanced by the presence of the bull, whether real or fantasized.

The modern cuckold syndrome may go beyond those who specifically choose cuckold erotica. In a sense, most basic “boy–girl” porn appeals to cuckold sensibilities, for when a man views typical male–female erotica, he is watching a woman he finds attractive having sex with another man.

SEE ALSO: Adultery (Biocultural Aspects); Adultery and Fidelity; Coolidge Effect, The; Domination and Submission (D&S); Erotica: Phone Sex; Fetish; Marriage; Polyamory; Rights, Sexual and Reproductive; Voyeurism

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FURTHER READING

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