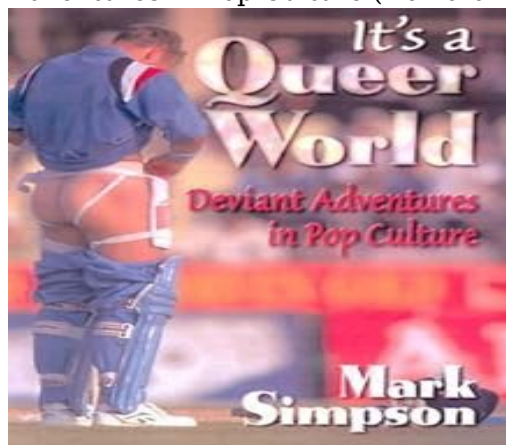


It's a Queer World: Deviant Adventures in Pop Culture (Haworth Gay & Lesbian Studies) By Mark Simpson

English author and journalist Mark Simpson is credited/blamed for 'fathering' the metrosexual in 1994 predicting with terrifying accuracy that the future belonged to the male desire to be desired. "SIMPSON WRITES WITH ENOUGH PANACHE TO MAKE MOST OF HIS PEERS TOSS THEIR LAPTOPS INTO THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND WEEP" - Independent on Sunday "THE GAY ANTI CHRIST" - Vogue "I ALMOST HATE TO AGREE WITH ANYTHING HE SAYS" - LRB "AN AMUSED DETACHED VOLTAIRE" - Independent on Sunday "ERUDITE INCISIVE SASSY... FRESH HILARIOUS" - Publishers Weekly "ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST WRITERS AROUND" - Time Out "BRILLIANTLY BUCCANEERING" - Spectator "SERIOUSLY FUNNY" - Scotland On Sunday In this hilariously perverse collection of essays celebrated British writer and satirists Mark Simpson takes a wittily warped look at a fin de siecle world of pop culture where nothing is as straight -- or as gay -- as it seems. Along the way Simpson goes in search of straight sex in London's Soho interviews Oscar Wilde and discovers that he's perplexed by all those rumors about his private life and would like to set the record straight; gets trashed with some U. It's a Queer World: Deviant Adventures in Pop Culture (Haworth Gay & Lesbian Studies)



It may be that this collection of essays/articles from Attitude contains the first text where the word Metrosexual was mentioned. I'll restrain myself to one example a stag night performance lesbian act between the two female performers (no simulation): The men are so rapt that they forget to laugh and crack jokes. In a dazzling essay on the Ideal Home exhibition (Home Truths a dissection of British class distinctions) Simpson jokes that the traditional purpose of [the exhibition] is to remind men who's boss. (Boxed into a Corner: Daytime TV) And he ends the first essay (The Cost of Loving: Soho Sex) a screamingly funny description of London's hetero sleaze (peep shows hard-core porn video stores etc: Marines in Tijuana and discusses with them the cultural significance of foreskins. And watches a groom being buggered by lesbian strippers at his stag night party: Anyway Mark Simpson brilliant as always on his quest in understanding and explaining the modern masculinity etc. Mark Simpson As an American woman I sometimes feel as if I'm the only person on this side of the Atlantic who knows how brilliant Mark Simpson is--or who he is, In his own country of course he's recognized as funny clever honest irreverent (Laurence Phelan in the Independent reviewing Simpson's Saint Morrissey). Even our own Good Gray Times (New York) celebrated Simpson's coinage of sporno (my absolute favorite Simpsonism) back in 2006 in its 6th annual Year in Ideas, Simpson doesn't just write consistently hilarious material (which in itself would be worth the price): he's also saying something, And to add the third layer of implausibility he's writing about men and masculinity about the concepts of gay and straight and everything in between: To say something meaningful and new and funny on these subjects all at once all the time--that requires an expert and that's what Simpson is: a gay Brit. To put it another way about another British superstar: Nobody does it better, If you haven't read Mark Simpson before It's a Queer World a collection of columns he wrote back in 1994 and 95 mostly for Attitude magazine is a great place to start, And if you have read other Simpson works don't miss this, *Every* one of these pieces is worth the three dollars of

the entire collection. Some of them are so brilliant that I want to quote the whole thing but that would be stealing: If it weren't for the backing track the only sound would be the swallowing of Adam's apples, (Shag Night: Stag Parties) Simpson is the real deal: a man's man: He knows men from the inside out (sorry) and he's not merely funny and insightful he's sympathetic, There's no BS no sentimentality and there's a refreshing lack of faux feminism. Simpson knows we're not all on the same side that gay men and women are not necessarily natural allies. He refers in passing to that other sixties female-dominated male Bill Clinton. After enduring one scam after another Simpson has agreed to a thirty quid hour-long session with a real woman. I'm so fed up with the rip-off voyeurism SEX that I want to try some of the hands-on stuff: She looks like the girl that might have made me straight, After Simpson decides to chicken out Julie looks genuinely disappointed: But how can you tell? Believe me Mark: if you appear in person anything the way you do in print (or on the screen reader) she was heartbroken. And for the rest of us: you won't get a better deal than this for three bucks. He is the author of several critically acclaimed books. S. Why isn't he even more popular it's beyond me. A piercing mind. Something original or true or interesting or thought-provoking. Usually all of the above. This is serious. They look like stray dogs at a butcher's shop window.) with a disarmingly honest encounter with a prostitute. Expecting the worst he meets Julie: She's gorgeous. Suddenly I'm frightened. It's been a long time. You don't even have to turn straight. Mark Simpson.