

<http://www.redroom.com/publishedwork/desire-women-write-about-wanting>

Synopsis:

Lisa Solod Warren's new anthology explores the intense wants women rarely confess. Wanting to be loved, to get married, to have children, and to have a successful career are the stereotypical goals and dreams women are expected to indulge. But what if women want more? What if they dream of something profound, something visceral, something extraordinary, something REAL?

Warren compiles 23 essays on the often deeply internal and disregarded desires of women. Unlike the typical and mundane longings women commonly discuss, this anthology is comprised of complex and taboo desires that cover the whole spectrum, from the intimately sensual to the surprisingly morbid. Even though some of these essays may be culturally unacceptable or socially inappropriate, they have the power to motivate readers to vocalize and pursue their own desires.

The authors in the collection explore passions of the body, the soul, and the real concrete desires. During sex with her "Regular Guy," instead of thinking in the moment, Connie Baechler's mind fantasizes a whole host of people providing her with orgasmic pleasure. Maggie Bucholt realizes in "Death and the Desire to Live Deliberately," that she wants to die with the same strength and courage as her friend Annie. Until she had a daughter, Janice Eidus never thought money would be a craving she would thirst for. The topics within the essays, although provocative, are written in a way women can easily understand. Some are humorous, others are heartfelt, but all are honest and sincere. They make you blush, make you laugh, and make you want to cry. This mixture makes *Desire* an irresistible and appealing book.

<http://www.connectsavannah.com/qyrobase/Content?oid=oid%3A5630>

Desire: Women Write About Wanting

Edited by Lisa Solod Warren (Seal Press)

When Virginia-based author and editor Lisa Solod Warren asked 22 writers for essays exploring desire, their responses covered a far-reaching spectrum of physical, spiritual, personal, and universal wants.

The authors who responded ranged in age from 31 to 78. While most live in the United States, at least one is Canadian. They are married, unmarried, partnered, unpartnered, straight, gay. Some essays are intimate, emotional recollections. Others are more detached, some even with footnotes. The common trait among them is that all of the writers are women.

Warren collected these essays and one of her own into *Desire: Women Write About Wanting*, an anthology published this month by Seal Press. Two Savannah writers, Rosemary Daniell and K.W. Oxnard, are among the authors whose essays appear in the book.

Earlier this month, Warren participated in a reading from *Desire* at Daniell's Zona Rosa writing group in Savannah. Joining her were Daniell, Oxnard and Connie Baechler, an Atlanta writer with an essay in the collection.

"Being in an anthology with people is a great way to make friends," said Daniell to the gathering of 25 women in her Eastside living room.

"Many years ago I read a book called *Fatal Flowers*," said Warren, referring to Daniell's 1978 memoir of her sexual self discovery in the South. Warren called Daniell "one of the iconic writers" that impacted her during her early writing career.

"It's funny to make that journey from reading Rosemary as a young woman to sitting beside her here on this couch," said Warren.

Daniell is not the only iconic writer included in the collection. Erica Jong and Joyce Maynard are among the contributors.

Daniell's early work explores her emotional awakening while in several marriages and even more sexual liaisons. "The Ring," Daniell's essay in *Desire*, pulls back the curtain on a less well known side of this pioneer in the sexual revolution, exposing personal details of the ebb and flow of tenderness, romance, and strong physical attraction she's shared with her husband in their decades-long marriage.

"I read this essay to my husband a few weeks ago and he did not flinch," said Daniell at the Zona Rosa event.

Most of the essays in *Desire* reveal wants experienced by both women and men, yet informed by each writer's womanhood. One exception is Oxnard's "BabyQuest," exploring the emergence of her desire for pregnancy and mothering a baby--a yearning that, although not shared by all women, is uniquely female.

"It took a long time for that desire to emerge in me and then to let it out," said Oxnard. Now in her early 40s, the essay ends with Oxnard "fat with this urge to procreate...wondering if and when the new life will emerge, or if I will have to reach in and take matters into my own hands."