The Fussy Librarian

The Fussy Librarian, an ebook recommendation website, asked 103 authors of erotic romance novels:

**1. What gender are you?**

Female: 94%. Male: 6%.

**2. What age are you?**

18-24: 0%.  
24-34: 25%  
35-44: 39%  
45-54: 23%  
55-64: 10%  
65-74: 3%  
75+: 0%

**3. What is your marital status?**

Single: 12%  
Married: 74%  
Divorced: 11%  
Widow/widower: 3%

**4. What is your sexual orientation?**

Heterosexual: 89%  
Gay: 1%  
Lesbian: 2%  
Bisexual: 8%  
Transgender: 0%

**5. Do you use a pen name?**

Yes: 77%  
No: 23%

**6. If you have a spouse/partner/significant other, do they know you write erotic novels?**

Yes: 94%  
No: 6%

**7. If she was still alive when you started writing erotic novels, did you tell your mother?**

Yes: 69%  
No: 13%

**8. If your father was alive at the time, did you tell him?**

Yes: 53%  
No: 47%

**9. Have either of your parents read one of your erotic novels?**

Yes: 42%  
No: 58%

**10. At what age did you lose your virginity?**

13: 4% 21: 6%  
14: 4% 22: 6%  
15: 10% 23-25: 0%  
16: 11% 26: 1%  
17: 16% 27: 1%  
18: 18% 28+: 0%  
19: 13%  
20: 10%

Authors’ average age: 17.8  
U.S. average: 17.1

**11. How often do you have sex each month?**

Never: 8%  
Less than once a month: 12%  
Once a month: 2%  
2-5 times a month: 33%  
6-9 times a month: 15%  
10-14 times a month: 16%  
15-20 times a month: 8%  
21-25 times a month: 3%  
26-30 times a month: 2%  
30+ times a month: 1%

Note: Authors’ responses are comparable to national research of all Americans, according to the Kinsey Institute.

**12. Have you had sex on the first date?**

Yes: 45%  
No: 55%

U.S. research: 44% of all singles have had sex on the first date (Singles in America survey, 2012.) A 2004 poll by ABC News found 17% of all women had sex on the first date. (It’s worth noting that 94% of the authors in our survey were female.)

**13. As part of a threesome?**

Yes: 21%  
No: 79%

U.S. research: About 14% of all Americans had participated in a threesome (ABC News poll, 2004.)

**14. As part of a group of four or more?**

Yes: 7%  
No: 93%

**15. Have you ever practiced bondage, discipline, dominance, submission, sadism or masochism (BDSM)?**

Yes: 41%  
No: 59%

U.S. research: The Kinsey Institute says that less than 20% of Americans had tried BDSM.

**16. Have you ever had sex outdoors?**

Yes: 84%  
No: 16%

U.S. research: 54% of Americans have had sex outdoors (ABC News poll, 2004.)

**17. Have you had sex in a car?**

Yes: 88%  
No: 12%

U.S. research: A 2012 survey for the company Adam and Eve found that 80% of Americans have had sex in a car.

**18. Have you had sex in a plane?**

Yes: 10%  
No: 90%

U.S. research: The same Adam and Eve survey found 7% of Americans are members of the Mile High Club.

**19. Have you had sex in an elevator?**

Yes: 11%  
No: 89%

**20. Have you had sex in an office?**

Yes: 41%  
No: 59%

U.S. research: Only 7 percent of women have had sex in an office (ABC News poll, 2004).

**21. The most unusual place where you’ve had sex is …**

“A church basement.”  
“On a stack of drywall in a home under construction.”  
“On stage at a concert”  
“A slide at a playground at night.”  
“Highway rest area.”  
“On a horse.”  
“On the Haunted Mansion ride at Disney World. Please let them have destroyed the security tape!”  
“A museum”  
‘The bed of our truck in our driveway”  
“In a hospital”  
“Doctor’s office.”  
“In a canoe”  
“A cemetery”  
“The Louvre”

**22. How many sexual partners have you had?**

1: 10%  
2-5: 38%  
6-10: 25%  
11-19: 9%  
20-29: 13%  
30-39: 2%  
40+: 3%

U.S. research: American women are far more likely to have had only one sexual partner (31%) and only 9% have had more than 11 partners compared to 28% of erotic romance authors. (Kinsey Institute).

**23. If you are heterosexual, have you ever had sex with a member of the same sex?**

Yes: 20%  
No: 80%

**24. If you are married or in a civil union, have you ever cheated on your spouse or partner?**

Yes: 5%  
No: 95%

U.S. research: Various studies of American women have found anywhere from 10% to 20% have had an affair, according to the Kinsey Institute. A 2004 ABC News poll found 16% have been unfaithful.

**25. Have you ever based a sex scene in a novel on something that happened in your life?**

Yes: 76%  
No: 24%

**26. Have you ever had sex as “research” for a novel?**

Yes: 46%  
No: 54%

**27. Is writing novels your primary means of financial support?**

Yes: 25%  
No, I have a “day job”: 52%  
No, my spouse’s job pays most of the bills: 23%

**28. Erotic romance book covers should feature … a man without a shirt?**

Yes: 69%   
No: 31%

**29. Erotic romance book covers should feature … a man with a 6-8-12 pack of abs?**

Yes: 60%  
No: 40%

**30. Erotic romance book covers should feature … a man with a “V cut” in his abs?**

Yes: 58%  
No: 42%

31. **Erotic romance book covers should … include an image of a woman?**

Yes: 75%  
No: 25%

**32. On a scale of 1 (terrible) to 5 (great), how would you rate the novel “Fifty Shades of Grey”?**

5 stars: 1%  
4 stars: 9%  
3 stars: 31%  
2 stars: 25%  
1 stars: 33%

Average rating: 2.2 stars.

Research note: The survey was conducted in May 2014.