

Year of the *What?*

"YEAR OF THE WHAT?" – ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

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PRESS RELEASE

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Year of the *What?*

For Immediate Release:

Maple Mermaid Publishing Corp. Presents

Year of the WHAT?

Written By: Jennifer Lieberman

Toronto, June 1, 2023 – Maple, Ontario native, actor/writer/producer Jennifer Lieberman’s award-winning solo-show *Year of the Slut* is now the five-time-award-winning and Amazon #1 best selling novel *Year of the What?* This romantic comedy is an outrageous coming-of-age journey and an empowering feminist piece.

More Sex, Less City! Six months after Dana’s first break-up she is single and heartbroken in New York City. At 25 she is a virgin once removed and navigating the Manhattan dating world is daunting. Having only been intimate with one man, Dana feels ashamed of her desires and keeps trying to squash them in order to be a ‘good girl’. With the help of Kelly, her unabashedly promiscuous roommate, Dana embarks on an outrageous adventure of sexual discovery and finds power and confidence while taking charge of her erotic exploration.

“This arousing novel celebrates feminine sexuality through one of the most original adventures of self-discovery written. The primary character – Dana – is surviving her first romantic breakup and the manner in which she not only survives but prospers and grows makes for one of the strongest Chick Lit novels to surface in quite a while.”

- Grady Harp, Top 100 Amazon Reviewer

“The reader gets a front-row seat to Dana’s sexual adventures, and watching a young woman own her sexuality while making her career dreams come true is pure, gratifying escapism.”

- Kirkus Reviews

Lieberman has appeared in over 30 stage productions and produced upwards of 40 film & theatre productions in Canada, The US, Australia and Europe. Both her short films *LEASH* and *DETAILS* screened at the Festival De Cannes Court Métrage among other international festivals. *DETAILS*, her directorial debut was a semi-finalist for Best Female Director in the Art House Festival Beverly Hills in 2022.

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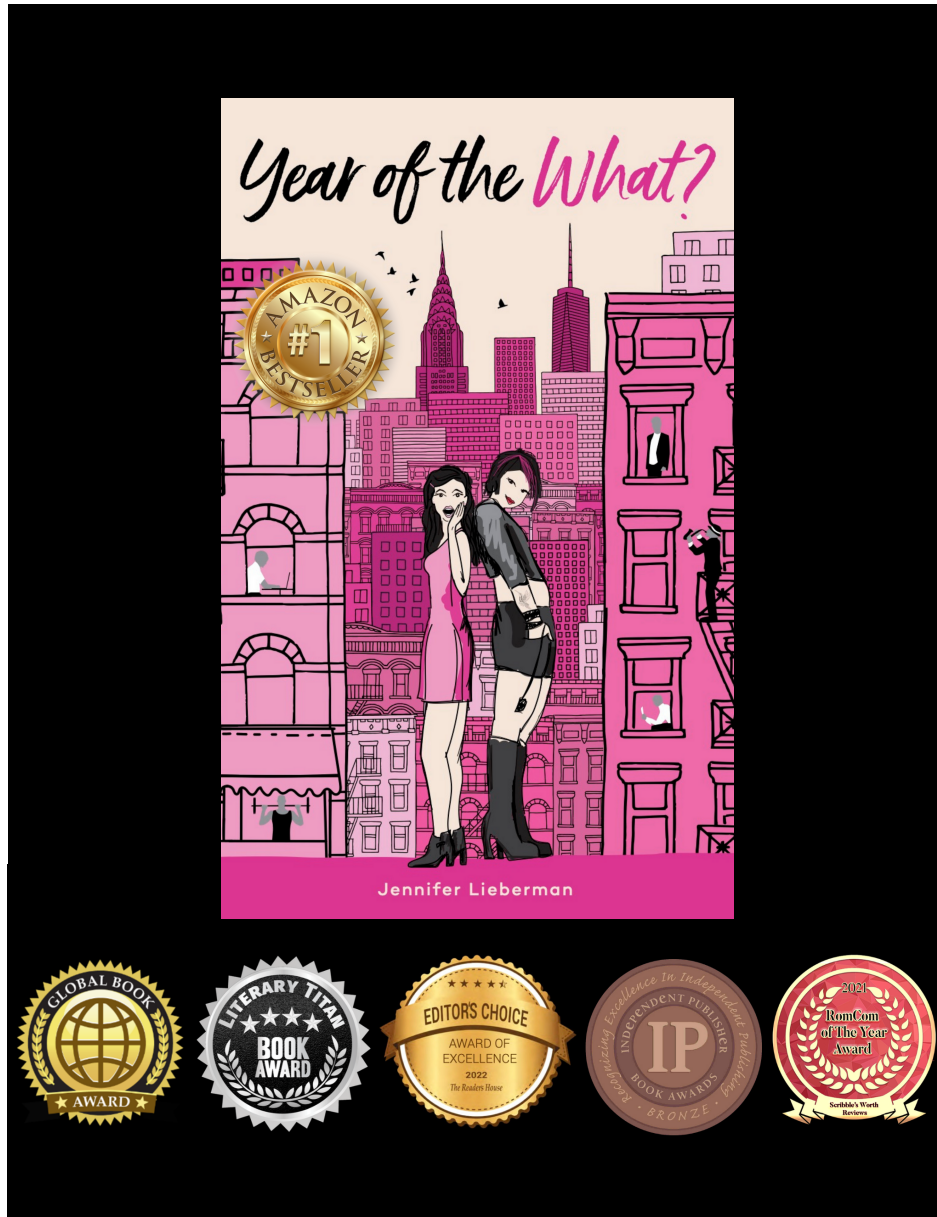
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AWARDS



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SELECTED READER REVIEWS

"This arousing novel celebrates feminine sexuality through one of the most original adventures of self-discovery written. The primary character – Dana – is surviving her first romantic breakup and the manner in which she not only survives but prospers and grows makes for one of the strongest Chick Lit novels to surface in quite a while."

- Grady Harp, Top 100 Amazon Reviewer

"The reader gets a front-row seat to Dana's sexual adventures, and watching a young woman own her sexuality while making her career dreams come true is pure, gratifying escapism."

- Kirkus Reviews

"If you didn't spend your first year after your first major heartbreak making some of the same mistakes, you'll secretly wish you did."

- Stacy Dymalski, Comedian and Bestselling Author *Confessions of a Band Geek Mom*

"This book is a powerful sex-positive statement on modern female sexuality and takes the reader on a rollercoaster ride of emotion."

- Rebecca Rosenblat, Sex Therapist, TV Host, Bestselling Author *Sexual Power*

"A masterful, sensual, and humorously entertaining read, author Jennifer Lieberman's *Year of the What?* is a must-read novel of 2021! The character growth and humor really draw the reader in, and the overall theme of female sexuality and freedom really made this story feel both relevant and innovative in the face of a history of male sexual oppression. If you haven't yet, be sure to grab your copy today!"

- Anthony Avina, Author & Journalist, BookBub Review

"*Year of the What* leaves you wanting more - and in more ways than one!! I didn't want to put the book down and didn't want it to end..."

- Ashley Gianni, Actress and Producer

"Don't read this in public!"

- Barry Selby, #1 Best Selling Author of *50 Ways To Love Your Love*

"I look forward to the major motion picture as the writing screams BLOCKBUSTER HIT!!! Can't recommend this enjoyable read enough!"

- Juan Carlos Miguel, Award-Winning Film and Theatre Director

"*Year of the What* takes you on a captivating journey of longing, desire, lust, love and heartbreak..."

- Dr. K, Sex and Relationship Therapist

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BOOK SYNOPSIS

TWO-LINE SYNOPSIS:

Heartbroken and lonely in New York City Dana embarks on an outrageous adventure of sexual discovery while looking for love...ultimately finding her power and confidence.

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

Six months after Dana's first break-up she is single and heartbroken in New York City. At 25 she is a virgin once removed and navigating the Manhattan dating world is daunting. Having only been intimate with one man, Dana feels ashamed of her desires and keeps trying to squash them in order to be a 'good girl'. With the help of Kelly, her unabashedly promiscuous roommate, Dana embarks on an outrageous adventure of sexual discovery while looking for love, ultimately finding her power and confidence.

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FULL SYNOPSIS:

Year of the WHAT? is a romantic comedy that follows heartbroken and lonely 25-year-old Dana, who is six months off her first break-up and living the single life in New York City. A virgin once removed, she's insecure and on the hunt for *the one*.

Dana has only been with one man and hasn't given herself a chance to explore her own curiosity. She feels ashamed of her desires, and keeps trying to squash them in order to be a 'good girl'. Her roommate, Kelly, on the other hand, has none of Dana's hang-ups.

Kelly is unabashedly promiscuous, with an off the charts IQ and a full ride to NYU. But Kelly can't stand the monotony of school, so she drops out to become a dominatrix and pursue an alternative lifestyle where she makes 'lawyer money' working in a dungeon in Chelsea.

After months of searching in vain for Mr. Right, Kelly's lust for life and insatiable quest for adventure finally rub off...Dana embarks on an outrageous adventure of sexual discovery where she finds her inner power and confidence, all while taking charge of her erotic exploration. Through her exploits Dana realizes she will never find what she is looking for, until she finds herself.

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JENNIFER'S BIOS

TWO-LINE BIO:

[JENNIFER LIEBERMAN](#) is a multi-award-winning and Amazon #1 best selling author, actor, and producer from Maple, Canada. *Year of the What?* is Lieberman's first novel, adapted from her Award-Winning solo-show.

SHORT BIO:

[JENNIFER LIEBERMAN](#) is a multi-award-winning and Amazon #1 best selling author, performer and producer from Maple, Canada. She has penned a number of screen and stage plays including the play *Year of the Slut* which her novel *Year of the What?* was adapted from. Her short films *LEASH* and *DETAILS* both screened at the Festival De Cannes' Court Métrage among other international film festivals.

MEDIUM BIO:

[JENNIFER LIEBERMAN](#) is a multi-award-winning and Amazon #1 best selling author, actor and producer from Maple, Canada and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from York University in Toronto. Lieberman has appeared in over 30 stage productions in Canada, The US, Europe and Australia, including her Award-Winning solo-show *Year of the Slut*, which her novel *Year of the What?* was adapted from. Jennifer was nominated for Best Performance Off-Broadway for her role as the legendary Gilda Radner in "With A Little Help...It's John Belushi" by BroadwayWorld.com. In addition to her performance career she has penned a number of screen and stage plays including the short films *Leash* and *Details* which both screened at the Festival De Cannes' Court Métrage among other international film festivals. *Details*, her directorial debut, was a semi-finalist in the Art House Festival Beverly Hills in 2022. *Year of the What?* is Jennifer's first novel and Book #1 in the *Year of the What?* series. Other books by Lieberman include the Amazon #1 Best Seller *Make Your Own Break: How To Record & Publish Your Audiobook in Seven Simple Steps*.

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SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

Jennifer Lieberman is a multi-award-winning and Amazon #1 best selling author, actor and producer from Maple, Canada. Her short films have screened at the Festival De Cannes among other international festivals. Her solo-show *Year of the Slut* was adapted into the novel *Year of the What?* *Year of the What?* is not only a hilarious coming-of-age story, this empowering and sex-positive book is an important statement on modern female sexuality.

5 Fun Facts You Didn't Know About Me:

1. I slept in a drawer my first few months on earth, before a relative gave my mom a second hand bassinet, my older brother had dibs on the crib.
2. I was a competitive gymnast for many years and coached gymnastics through University, that's how I saved up to move to New York City at age 20.
3. I'm half Tunisian and my North African lineage goes back over 2000 years.
4. My vocals were used in the song *MRI* on the Derek Smalls (Harry Shearer) *Spinal Tap solo album* and I appear in the music video with Harry Shearer and Dweezil Zappa!

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5. At 4 years old my life goal was to be a Moose-Gardener.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How did you come up with the idea for *Year of the What?*

When I was living in Los Angeles a friend suggested I write a showcase piece as a vehicle for myself to invite industry and get my foot in the door. Like in the movie "LaLa Land" No one really came. But the show did go on to win the Audience Choice Award at the Frigid Festival in New York City and is now the novel *Year Of The What?*

2. Is the book a memoir or based on your life experience?

I wish! It would be so cool if my life were the exciting. It loosely started with some of my experiences, namely the heartbreak and then I borrowed some stories from friends and let my imagination run wild!

3. Why did you decide to write the book?

After the show did well in New York I received so much positive feedback about how relatable the story and characters were, everyone kept asking me what I was going to do with it. So it evolved into a novel.

4. You describe the book as *Sex in the City* meets *50 Shades of Grey*, can you explain this?

Well, it's a romantic comedy with a touch of eroticism, it portrays a naive heroine entering uncharted territory like in *50 Shades of Grey* combined with comedy and is set in New York a la "Sex in the City". Dana, my protagonist, is in her early 20's like Anastasia and doesn't have the experience or confidence of a Carrie Bradshaw; but she is single in New York searching for love much like Carrie.

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INTERVIEW QUESTIONS (Continued)

5. What does the word WHAT allude to in the title?

Slut. I wanted to deconstruct the word since it is one of the most common weapons used against women in the English language. What does the word slut mean? A sexually liberated woman? A woman who enjoys sex? A woman who refuses to live her life constrained by the limitations a misogynistic society set out for her? When a woman behaves with purposeful confidence - "like a man" - she is commonly labeled in pejorative terms. Assertive women are often labeled a 'bitch' and sexual women are labeled "slut" for behaving in a way that is accepted as completely normal for a man. I am currently working on part two in the *Year of the What?* Series is *Year of the Bitch*.

6. Do you have any personal experience with 'slut shaming'?

Of course, what woman hasn't? The virgin/whore dichotomy is still living strong in society. We are either categorized as a prude or a slut, there is no middle ground. A former boyfriend would shame me if I dressed a little too sexy or even if I wanted to try something adventurous in the bedroom. I believe it stemmed from his insecurity.

7. Are you a feminist?

Not really. I believe in equal opportunities for men and women in education and the workplace, equal pay. However, I believe there is a place for chivalry and masculinity. I don't believe men and women are wired the same. I know this is controversial - I believe in the sacred feminine and that men and women have different roles to fulfill. No matter how much we want to equalize our intellectual potential or make gender fluid, women are the life givers, period. I don't believe that will ever change and in modern society we have lost respect for this fact and by default what it means to be a woman. Feminism has pushed us so

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hard into the workforce where our male energy has to dominate. I feel we have lost respect for motherhood, and the nurturing nature of femininity.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS (Continued)

8. How does your book *Year of the What?* fit into the #metoo narrative?

As long as society is uncomfortable with a sexually empowered woman, we will always err towards victimhood. For example 'I go to a bar and meet a guy, we have a few drinks and a wild sexy night...if he doesn't call me afterward I can spin the story to make him a bad guy, a predator and a creep. However, if he does call me, he's my new boyfriend.' The issue of consent is the same in both scenarios, but the difference in outcome determines the way many women recount the story. Many women base their experience with a man on the outcome because we are shamed for having an enjoyable and consensual experience without a commitment. Women have a lot more power than we realize, and most men are not the enemy, #metoo and false categorizing of masculinity as toxic has made all men the enemy when that's just not the case. In reality, most men are afraid to come up to talk to us for fear of being rejected.

9. Switching gears for a minute, you've recently directed a short film "Details" that was screened at the Festival de Cannes and Cambridge Film Festival, tell us about the film.

"Details" was a one-act play I wrote many years ago. I had the opportunity to perform the piece on stage a few different times and explored it as a straight piece and as a lesbian piece. I knew I wanted to film it but couldn't decide which version I wanted to do, so I shot the exact same film 4 times with 4 different couples, straight, gay, lesbian, interracial and pieced it together using segments from each of them. The film explores sexual fluidity and the universality of love, relationships and heartbreak.

10. Where can we get the book?

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Anywhere books are sold including Amazon, Kindle and Audible. For more info and updates about the *Year of the What?* book series you can stay tuned on my website www.YearOfTheWhat.com and social media @iamjenlieberman on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter.

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