

# The New Sex Wars

## Towards a Feminism with Teeth

Raechel Anne Jolie

*The New Sex Wars: Towards a Feminism with Teeth* is a sharp, thoughtful intervention into contemporary feminist debates around sex, violence, and pleasure.

This engaging book draws on the history of the feminist sex wars of the 1980s, in which feminists took theoretical and activists stances on how to respond to sex work, pornography, and kink, Jolie asserts that the ghosts of these wars ought to haunt us into more expansive paths forward.

*The New Sex Wars* invites us to consider how faith in the possibility of sexual liberation can help us fight the most dangerous forms of growing authoritarianism.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Raechel Anne Jolie** is a writer and educator based in Cleveland, Ohio. She holds a PhD from the University of Minnesota. Her writing has appeared in *The Baffler*, *Bitch*, *Teen Vogue*, and *In These Times*, among other publications. Jolie is also the editor and cocreator of *The Prison Arcana* tarot zine, made in collaboration with incarcerated artists. Her memoir *Rust Belt Femme* received recognition in NPR's Favorite Books of 2020, was a finalist for the Heartland Booksellers Award, and was the winner of the Independent Publisher Book Award in LGBTQ Nonfiction. She also publishes a weekly newsletter called *Radical Love Letters*, in which she writes about politics, pop culture, and feelings. You can subscribe here: [raechelannejolie.substack.com](http://raechelannejolie.substack.com).

### ACCOLADES

"Against sexual austerity on the left and the right, *The New Sex Wars* advances a politics that is as pro-pleasure as it is anti-harm. To imagine sexual freedom at the end of the world is a radical thing indeed. With their 'mercurial maps,' Jolie's criminal class sex workers, kinksters, trans kids, and survivors show us how."

—Heather Berg, author of *Porn Work: Sex, Labor, and Late Capitalism*

"Raechel Anne Jolie is a partisan in the sex wars and she invites us to join the struggle! With this book, she makes an essential intervention into contemporary feminist thinking and action by showing how we have still not surpassed the heated debates that decide our paths towards liberation. She approaches these questions with nuance, yet gets us to think directly about the futures of feminism in a time when sex and gender are under particularly vicious attack. This accessible book offers a necessary entry point for newcomers to feminist thinking, while also helping those of us committed to feminism escape the common traps that can derail our commitments. And most importantly, Jolie takes a fearless anarchist perspective, something we need more than ever when so many feminists can't escape the endless theorizations that stop us from acting now."

—Shuli Branson, author of *Practical Anarchism: A Guide for Daily Life*

"Raechel Anne Jolie is a bright star in the contemporary firmament of sex-radicalism, care politics, and femme-inist 'lumpen theory.' With learning and panache, *The New Sex Wars* demonstrates concisely why sex work decriminalization, BDSM as an infrastructure of care, trans liberation, collective reproductive freedom, the positive supersession of the capitalist family, and abolitionist approaches to sexual harm are all indispensable to human flourishing. This well-considered political intervention tastes like whatever the opposite of a sex panic is—a mass risk-literate serenity around sexuality?—and I can only hope it seeps into the US water supply."

—Sophie Lewis, author of *Enemy Feminisms: TERFs, Policewomen & Girlbosses Against Liberation*

"Jolie's *The New Sex Wars* is hot in the most rigorous ways. Full throated and engaged with feminisms and movements often overlooked—this text welcomes a more irreverent sisterhood of struggle."

—Brit "Red" Schulte, organizer and author



### SUBJECT CATEGORY

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