Desire and Coercion: An Analysis of Rape Fantasy in the Erotica of Anaïs Nin

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Anais Nin

Little Birds

- Sexual fantasies
- Prominent theme
- Psychological implications of rape fantasies
• Erotic rape fantasies
  – Type of consent
  – Physical attractiveness of perpetrator
  – Relation to perpetrator
  – Motivation of perpetrator
  – Level of violence
  – Critelli & Bivona (2009) study
Aversive rape fantasies

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- Physical attractiveness of perpetrator
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Critelli & Bivona (2009) study

“Irreversible” 2002 film shown at Cannes film festival

Artist’s depiction of rape 1992
Erotic-aversive rape fantasies

- Type of consent
- Physical attractiveness of perpetrator
- Relation to perpetrator
- Motivation of perpetrator
- Level of violence
- Critelli & Bivona (2009) study
Rape Fantasy Theories

• Sympathetic Activation
  • Physiological functions of anxiety on arousal
  • “Fight or flight” reactions
  • Palace & Gorzalka (1990) study
    • Physiological v. subjective arousal
  • Role in erotic and aversive rape fantasies

David & Victoria Beckham
Rape Fantasy Theories

- Adversary Transformation
  - Basis inspired by romance novels
  - Characteristics of male/female characters
  - Desirability
  - Violent confrontation and main challenge
Conclusion

• Rape fantasies are normal
• Situations of sexual coercion as themes to excite readers
• Bombardment of rape images
• Taboo and dangerous
• But successful because rape fantasies are so prevalent
• Questions?