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Stripped Book Review

In her research monograph, *Stripped*, Bernadette Barton gets an inside look at the world of strippers through a series of interviews with dancers and first-hand observation of strip clubs. She focuses on the tolls of stripping, especially the social stigmatization dancers face, the perpetuation of emotional and physical abuse in clubs, and the double-standards surrounding femininity and sexuality inside and outside of the industry.

The central concept of Barton's piece lies in her analysis of female sexuality and the androcentric "raunch culture" found inside and outside of club settings in the United States. Through her research, Barton finds that strippers' experiences reflect experiences of women in everyday life. Women must live up to "...the expectation that [they] be sexually available, self-objectivity, look—but not necessarily feel—sexy, and conform to a homogenized, highly groomed, patriarchal standard of pornified beauty" (Barton, p.26) Raunch culture, popularized in