

Hate Fifty Shades?

We guarantee you'll like these essays more than the series.

“Every Breath You Take” by Jennifer Armintrout, 83

“Ideally, we would live in a culture where abuse and romance weren’t so easy to confuse, where women could look at a man like Chris Brown or Christian Grey and see them for the predators they are. We would be able to draw a line between what women want in fiction and what they want in reality, and we would be able to draw a similar line between what we feel comfortable fantasizing about and our social consciences. To get there, we have to face some uncomfortable truths about ourselves and our culture.”

“Fifty Ways of Looking at Sex in Fifty Shades” by Dr. Hilda Hutcherson, 111

“Anastasia allows Christian to abuse her emotionally and physically. She does not give consent to the spankings that she receives, so this is not BDSM play, but abuse. She allows herself to be treated poorly by this man simply because she doesn’t want to lose him. What a poor message to send to young female readers.”

“Whose Shades of Grey?” by Sinnamon Love, 223

“I regret to say that this book was perhaps the most daunting literary undertaking of my life. Not because of the poor, middle school style of writing. Not because of its poor example of a BDSM relationship that will mislead ‘vanilla’ people about what kinky people and their relationships are like. I found *Fifty Shades* daunting because of heroine Anastasia Steele.”

“Fifty Shades of Holy Crap!” by Laura Antoniou, 283

“Like. OMG. There he was, so freaking hot. In his leather pants from Dolce & Gabbana and his black silk shirt and really expensive black tie and black jacket and black diamond stick pin through the really expensive black tie and his ink black hair and jet black eyes and his big feet in big black boots. Oh, he was so into black!”

“Fifty Shades Is Where You Find It” by Marc Shapiro, 327

“Fifty Shades and E. L. James are like blood in the water for people who live and die by the next big thing. The interest is not so much about the relative merits of Fifty Shades’ odyssey as it is about what that odyssey means. And the pundits are having a field day with the notion of the books as a lightning rod for the new erotica and the middle aged woman who’s gotta have it. You can almost hear the heavy breathing coming from the enterprising journalist who coined the phrase ‘mommy porn.’”