

Trading Tupperware for Pleasure Ware Fantasy Parties

by Shona Boisvert

A number of months ago, a friend of mine extended an invitation to a romance party she was throwing — GIRLS only. I was told to bring my favorite aperitif, my credit card and an open mind.

Mmm... I was intrigued by this naughty sounding affair and graciously accepted the invite. My imagination was whirling and I had many questions.

The purpose of the hostess' party (aside from being a great excuse to have the girls over) was to raise enough money through sales commission to buy herself a long desired, luxury sex toy... the swing!

The gathering would work much like a Tupperware party, except we were going to be examining a different kind of ware.

The day arrived and I hopped into the car with some lady friends and headed off to toy land. Upon our arrival, we were greeted by our host, Joy Martin. She was a strong and beautiful woman heaving huge, unmarked containers into the house.

We followed anxiously. Inside, we found a room filled with twenty something women, each in her own shape, color and size, sitting around sipping drinks and chatting, and each with a gleam of curiosity in her eye. Most of them were strangers, but their welcoming smiles gave me a sense of belonging.

Martin began by having us line up for our own personalized name-tags, and I really mean personalized. The tags were in the shape of crude looking penises and bore silly alliterations like "Slippery Susan" and "Kiss Me Kate." I'll leave the details of my tag to the imagination.

After the giggles had subsided, Martin started in on a pep talk to introduce us to her world. She spoke about the shame many women feel towards their bodies and their sexual cravings and she touched on the value of emotional, spiritual, and intellectual self esteem.

She also stressed the importance of learning to drive our own "Furraries" before letting anyone else in behind our wheels. It was an empowering lesson about feeling comfortable and learning the joys of safe and healthy fantasy play.

She also used a lot of scary words like vagina, penis and masturbation to warm us up to the hardware that lay ahead. It was time for the goods!

Martin had covered the tiny apartment with packages, videos and thingamajigs. She chose about 20 of the most popular items to talk about specifically.

Each piece was introduced by name along with a synopsis of its functions, pleasure factors, and price. It was then passed around for us to explore. We fondled dildos, flicked switches and asked tons of questions.

As I looked around the room at all of these young women, I took a moment to appreciate the bond that was forming. Here we were, mostly strangers, all exchanging advice and sharing the most intimate details of our fantasies and relationships. It was freeing and exhilarating to feel safe and open inside this small community of women.

Amongst the items, we found dildos that looked like oversized bullets, and others that were formed from erect penises for that "life-like" simulation.

To arouse the taste buds, there were flavored lubricants and jellies, honey love dust and chocolate body paint. There were vibrators that moved in ways no equivalent body part could, and remote control toys for pleasure on the go.

We were all impressed, we all bought something, and the hostess earned enough to get the swing of all swings, which is now hanging like a trophy in her bedroom. Of course, it does come down before guests arrive.

Martin also owns the Romance Shop (located at 2022 Douglas) and I later went there to investigate their most popular products. The shop is filled



with everything from sexy lingerie and studded corsets to explicit videos and magazines, as well as floor to ceiling toy displays.

For first-timers in a shop like this, it can be intimidating and a little embarrassing. It is not recommended to pick up the three-foot super cock for your first purchase. For beginners, Romance Shop employee Linda Balagus suggests going with the Jelly Delights.

"It's a thin vibrator, it's non-intimidating. The most popular one is a waterproof version of this. We usually go with the waterproof version as being the first time buy; they are smaller and don't have as many gadgets," says Balagus.

"The Dolphin Erection Arouser is another first time toy. It can be used just as a clitoral stimulator, so even if you don't have a partner you can use it yourself. Or with a partner, if he puts it on top of the penis, then it gives the woman clitoral stimulation. If he turns it around and puts it on the penis backwards, it gives him prostate stimulation," she says.

The three most popular vibrators include the Rabbit, the Tarzan, and the Insatiable G-spot Vibrator.

For a more secretive and personal pleasure, the Benoit

balls are a great way to enhance your day. They consist of two small metal balls that are inserted vaginally. The internal stimulation creates a heightened sense of sexuality and has been compared to the stimulation enhancement of clitoral piercing. Similarly, the Jelly Love Beads can be used on men and women. They are string-like apparatuses with spaced plastic balls, inserted anally or vaginally, and slowly removed during climax to enhance the orgasm.

Balagus recommends using waterproof and easily washable hardware for proper hygiene and health standards. Prices on items range from the 99 cent condom to the \$250 swing set.

On the lighter side of sex, lots of treats, gags, games and novelties are available to invoke laughs and giggles amongst friends and lovers.

Whatever your budget or relationship status, however timid or bold your demeanor, there is something for you at the Romance Shop.

If you can't afford your preference, just call up some girlfriends. Tell them to bring their favorite aperitif, their credit cards, and an open mind.

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