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Posted on 05 August 2019 By Nicholson Baker

So the entire novel is a phone conversation held between a man and a woman who found each other on a sex hotline. It's supremely unsexy, so if you're looking for porn, look elsewhere. But it is at times an interesting conversation to eavesdrop upon. I've seen other reviewers who say things like, the conversation isn't very lifelike or there's far less Christian Grey in this than I'd prefer, to which I'd say I don't think you get it. Nicholson Baker is a weird dude who likes to tap into the weird parts of people's sexuality. I think he probably does find a conversation like this really titillating, but the average reader won't. Hopefully you're not as much of a weirdo as Baker. But there are still times in the book where there are real insights into the human condition. Those moments are reminiscent of the moments in David Foster Wallace's *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men* where a hideous man lays bare his soul and the reader identifies with something universal and, if not powerful, then precious or pitiful. Interesting tidbit to me, at least the characters mention at one point that the call is 95 cents per half minute. The audio version of this book is 4 hours and 44 minutes long, making it assuming the audiobook is a reasonable representation of the actual amount of time spent on the phone a 556.64 phone call. For their sake, I hope it was really worth it. It seems like it was fun for them, but I wonder if it was really that fun. I liked this. Right now it's 11.51PM later when the review is complete and I would rather be munching a shellfish platter than writing this review, but here goes. That was not an innuendo, in case you were worried. However, it is a little known fact that men are attracted to oysters as it's the

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closest they can get to cunnilingus in food form I was told this at a marine snack shack in Orkney So Two people dial a sex chat line, switch to a private room, and have a natural conversation that culminates in mutual masturbation That is Vox. I think we can safely say, without a moment s hesitation, this book is Romeo Juliet for the postmodern age Right It s now 11.54PM I m off to bed I liked this. The format and premise of this book is definitely going to be memorable for me I read it because i m currently in monkey brain mode after restore me and I can only handle easy, quick, smutty books This book certainly delivered My main thought about this book is I wish I would ve read it for a book club I have so many thoughts and questions bumping around my head, and I almost wish I had a professor teaching it to me so I could fully delve into the subtleties and read in between the lines Jim was such an interesting narrator, and even by the end of the book, I couldn t decide if he was creepy or respectable My only complaints are that sometimes the anecdotes the characters share are too dragged out and become cumbersome, and also for a book that takes place equally between two callers, it seems very male centric I wanted Abby s sex life to be fleshed out just as much as Jim s, but he took up a lot of the real estate on the call Maybe i ll lower my rating of this book the it settles, but I did enjoy my reading experience I underlined a lot of quotes about sex and porn that made me think. I m sure this high rating probably reflects poorly on me, but I don t care I enjoyed the hell out of this smutty little book Perhaps it s only modesty and some form of self conscious restraint that prevent me from awarding it the final star The structure and dialogue reminded me of Richard Linklater s Beyond Sunrise Both have this awkward, yet somehow too perfectly scripted flow, but nevertheless possess an endearing, unashamed honesty, which, despite the unrealistic nature of the fantasy, manages to capture something essentially sweet and human in this case the simple need to talk, and to make an honest personal connection Both Linklater and Baker wonderfully capture those anxious, beautiful moments of connecting profoundly and unexpectedly with someone for the first time Maybe I m just a softie, but this kind of thing just makes me effusively happy Oh, and the sex stuff was pretty good too. What surprised me about this book was just how boring it was I d purchased it in

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Anthology of Original  
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Bound Anthology

The Endlands

Angels Cried

Verse for Ages

Road to Serendipity

Blue Moon Enchantment

The Faery Reel: Tales  
from the Twilight Realm

college, after having gotten to know as much as one can know someone you can't trust over several months of almost daily calls the random phone sex caller at my college And, as happens in this book, our talks ranged in subject from his religious views which I found quite odd, considering how he'd found me to philosophy to my negative views of myself And so my expectations were very high when I found out about this book I wanted to relive the experience I'd had or come to a better understanding of it Instead, I got tiresome and unlikely dialogue between two dowdy and poorly dressed adults I knew it was safest not to visualize In a book about a phone conversation, couldn't Baker have paid attention to how conversations usually unfold Why did the characters go into monologues each time they spoke, with the other patiently waiting their turn or transfixed by what I could not believe was transfixing This is a speech exchange between two very patient, very boring individuals Good luck. Do you know why emoticons exist The theory in psychology is that a large portion of communication is nonverbal and an even larger portion of this is actually specifically facial So what happens when you take seeing someone out of the picture I liked your voice What are you wearing which hand and that sort of thing I am left to wonder if perhaps phone sex party lines might be the reason men can no longer read body language Gentleman, crossed arms means don't approach This book is interesting in the sense that it takes place in a very small moment of time Perhaps I missed the long craze but growing up I remember chat rooms and phone lines becoming a very big deal, and I mean they actually do still exist I totally see commercials for them, but people don't use them in the same way Not that people stopped hooking up, what with skype and all it seems silly that they shouldn't get a nice view as well So this book carries with it a sense of nostalgia and innocence, yeah I said that There is something pure about the characters stepping away from the men asking about bra size, and yes the book is one long sexual fantasy but it isn't one that is terribly out of the ordinary, except perhaps the part about the painters Where the french attempt to go bigger, brasher, and Baker gives us only what truly exists for two people in the moment they exist This is something anyone could have done maybe ten years ago Before ASL and suicidegirls On the other hand this is one of

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those books I take on the subway and then pray that someone isn't reading over my shoulder. It happens. I had to stop reading *de sade* on the subway because of it. Vox! If you are a slang and vocabulary junkie who can read inappropriate adult material, then I very highly recommend Nicholson Baker as your new favorite author. I laughed so hard out loud and alone while reading this book. I learned so many new terms for body parts and acts of sin from Vox. Of course, ten years after the book came out, they're common terms. Not between you and I, of course. We're too polite when we speak on an adult chat line to each other. Vox is a very short book, less than a hundred pages, I believe. The whole book is one, just one, telephone conversation between a man and woman on an adult telephone chat line. Yet another book that I found a free copy of at Earthworks Recycling. Probably a first edition, because mine is a hardback. I never would have found this book otherwise. God, I am so lucky. The junk business rules. This book surprised me so much. One conversation for the whole book. Very direct vocabulary. The two characters are not shy and neither should you be if you read it. Give me a call and we'll talk about Vox. Sex is part of life, and it is no surprise that virtually all writers write about it one way or the other, including Africans. Achebe, Ekwensi, Zakes Mda. Just two illustrious writers who have done so. Phone sex, which even now remains unpopular in Africa, is the theme of this book written many years ago by an American writer. At the time, smartphones were not the vogue, so this work comes across as old-fashioned, and even awkward many times. The author did well to write a whole work of fiction weaved around what is, after all, imaginary sex. The topics indicate intellectual mien and attention to minutiae, though I daresay many might find it tedious and overworked. At the end, there is some sort of catharsis, if it can be called that. Vox. Sounds almost like an expletive. It's Latin for voice. But also a US news website. A children's book I read to my then eight-year-old. Vox pop. Ultravox and so back to voice. This short book reads as the transcript of the conversation between two strangers, Abby and Jim, who connect, one to one, via a sex line in the early 1990s. The brain is the sexiest organ, and the voice is a conduit from one mind to another. Pitch, timbre, accent, and intonation determine the hearer's response at least as much as the words themselves. The right voice can raise

one's spirits, heart rate, and libido than any oiled six pack As Marshall McLuhan said, The medium is the message But reading about voices talking about intimate things what's that like It excites me quite a bit to tell you that I'm going to tell you. It is inherently prurient and voyeuristic but probably tame compared with Fifty Shades , and everything is at least one remove you read about the fantasy of hearing, or reading about, or watching other people talk about or act out their fantasies This is not my usual fare, and I'm too conflicted for my star rating to have any meaning Hence, two short reviews in contrast Feeble Smut for the Body When I come inside it feels mystical but muffled it's as if I don't feel the perimeter of my cock any, because that's merged with her, it's melted away and all I feel is the technical interior conduit structure of the thing and the bulb of come swelling and all that I lose a sense of outer boundaries. Ugh. Abby mentions yeast infections four times in thirty pages How is that sexy And there's a long list of things that Jim is not aroused by, including poolside shots, wet t-shirts, women's feet, Victorian style lingerie, pigtailed, and having men nearby They both have a distaste for certain sexual words, including breasts, ass, masturbation, and horny, for which they use alternatives frans Kleins, tock, dither fiddle strum, and porny gorny yorny. Much of what Jim and Abby do, and the fantasies and past experiences they describe, are both banal and or slightly strange, but not necessarily in an arousing way The comical impracticalities of making an image of one's cock on an office photocopier were diluted by the fact it's such a cliché And pass too, now that almost everyone has a smartphone with camera and SnapChat. At first, I was a little frustrated at how slow it was Nicholson Baker's obsession with tiny details is captivating in the largely non sexual The Mezzanine see my parody review [HERE](#) , but in this context, it is often of a distraction than an enhancement Things did heat up, but towards the end, I was feeling impatient again a little bored even I wanted Abby and Jim to hurry up, so I could move onto something else Something better An oxymoronic anticlimactic climax And if anyone can explain or give me a link to thin Europop electronic sex music , which is apparently dimensionless , I'd be fascinated and grateful It might even be of a turn on Slow Build Steamy Thrill for the Mind Most of the conversation felt natural and plausible by turns, cautious,

playful, intimate, mundane, jocular, and erotic Abby had almost equal time, and it crescendoed nicely, with little dips along the way I enjoyed the shower scenes, the oil, and even the fringed blanket I m not so sure about the circus elephants, though There are interesting musings on porn This one made me smile dubbed videos are better, because you ve got layers you ve got the graphic stuff going on, but you ve got mouths saying Italian sex words and then American actors going ooh and aah. But better than videos is written porn it gives your brain a vaginal orgasm it records thoughts rather than exclusively images Telepathy on a budget Well, in theory What I liked most was the recurring exploration of vicarious pleasure something Abby and Jim both indulge in many permutations And then there s Jim relishing second hand romance novels They weren t identical, because every one of them had been read They looked handled All of their pages were turned Turned by women I felt as if I were lifting a towel that was still damp from a woman s shower Hundreds of female orgasms could be inferred from the books themselves You didn t need to invade anybody s privacy It was all there in the pliability and thumbbedness of the book My copy is second hand, pliable, and thumbbed, but with no sign of intimate interaction before or after I read it Image Sources Phone cable Box of tissues Phone with knickers Used books A Man And A Woman, Strangers To Each Other, Residents Of Distant Cities, Have Both Called An Adult Party Line Finding Each Other S Voice Attractive, They Soon Switch To A Private, One To One Connection Their Seduction Through Conversation Begins Hesitantly And Then Becomes Erotic

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"A BRILLIANTLY FUNNY,  
PERVERSELY TENDER  
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A NOVEL BY NICHOLSON BAKER

VOX