



**Minestyle**  
**01/03/2010**  
**Page: 58**  
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**Section: General News**  
**Region: National Circulation: 5000**  
**Type: Australian Magazines Lifestyle**  
**Size: 135.00 sq.cms**  
**Frequency: Bi-monthly**

**Kink**

**By Stephanie Clifford-Smith**  
**Allen & Unwin \$29.99**

What happens when a fetish fledgling embarks on a journey to unveil the carnal fixations of Sydney's suburbs? You get a 290-page ripper of a book that will make you gasp and giggle, cringe and contort facial muscles you never thought you had.

So gripping is the subject matter of *Kink – A Straight Girl's Investigation*, and presentation of journalist-author Stephanie Clifford-Smith, that turning the page to reveal the next explosive K-bomb is a given.

The author covers every possible kink out there – from bondage parties and voyeurs to amputee aspirants, nappy fans and foot devotees.

But it's not just the sexual nuts and bolts of fetishes that will enthrall readers. The human angle explored by the author is equally, if not more absorbing.

How does one person's fetish affect a relationship? Do marriages crumble under the weight of these desires or do the fetishes remain veiled, frustrated desires?

There is also a particular focus

on the practicalities involved and Clifford-Smith asks the questions foremost on the readers' mind. Don't the sheets get soiled? How do you hide welts from the wife? How do you tell someone you want to lick their eyeballs?

Wedged between several amusing and at times, disturbing encounters with fetishists, are references to historical works of literature and art – a potent reminder that sexual kinks aren't just a trend of the 'Now' generation.

**JANINE MARTIN**

