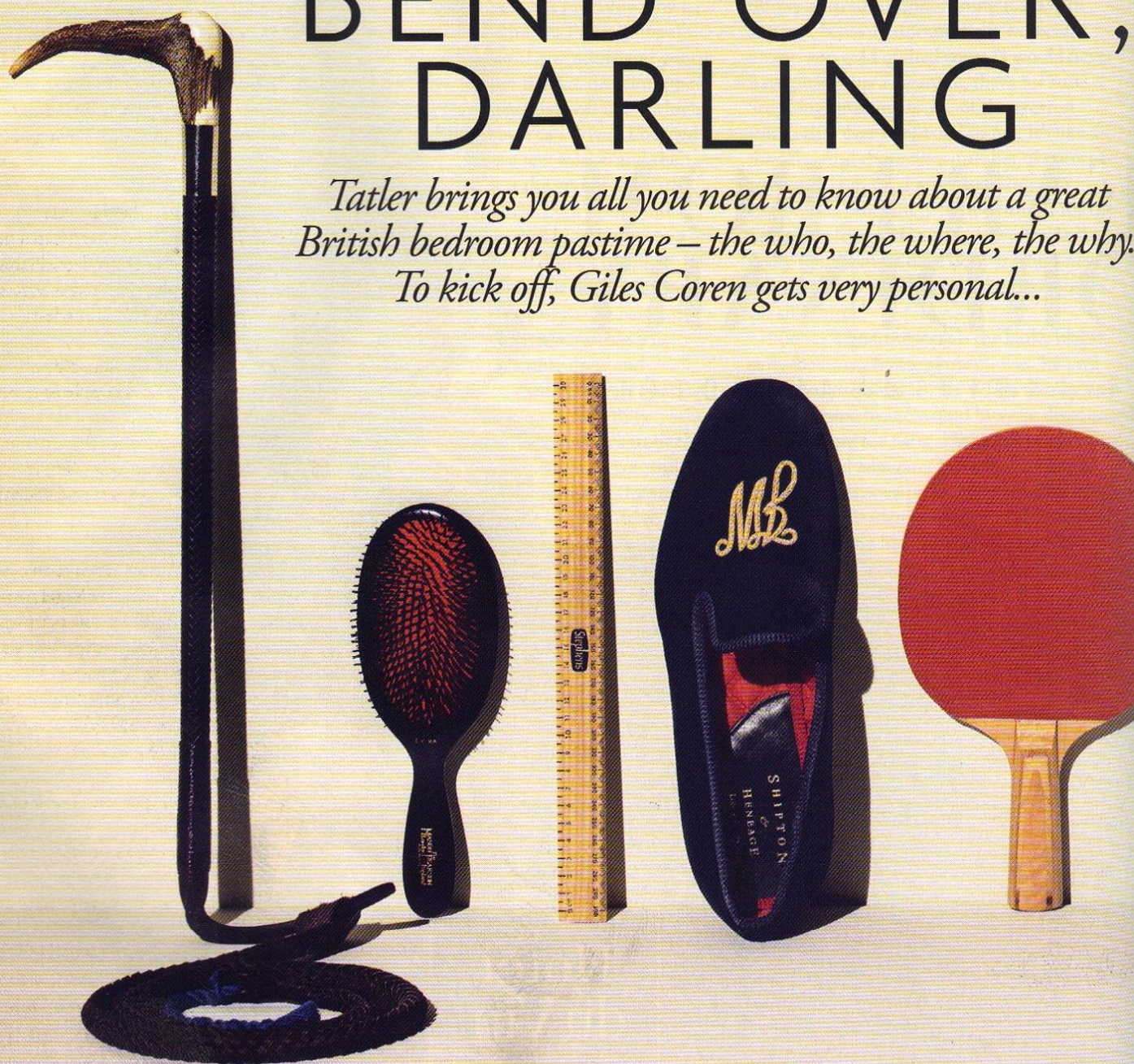


Spanking spectacular BEND OVER, DARLING

Tatler brings you all you need to know about a great British bedroom pastime – the who, the where, the why. To kick off, Giles Coren gets very personal...



My problem is that, as a young man, I had sex with too many feminists. It was the Eighties, I was at Westminster School and then Oxford University, and every girl I went out with wanted to be taken seriously. She dreamed of a high-powered job, cared desperately about homelessness, racism, poverty, abuse, equality and respect. And that filtered into everything.

So my first forays into sex were with girls who:

- Would not do it doggy-style because it was degrading and made her feel like an animal.
- Would not do it against a wall because it made her feel like a slag out the back of a pub.
- Would not swallow because it was disgusting.
- Would not do it outdoors because she was not a whore.
- Would not do it in this position because

I ended up shagging like the husband in some Seventies video for young married couples nervous about the first time



Photographed by SIMON VINALL

she couldn't see my face, which meant I could be anybody.

- Would not do it in that position because it was ridiculous.

And so I developed an approach to sex based on the assumption that women want to feel respected, civilised, clean, loved, connected and sensible while doing it.

Terrible mistake. I ended up shagging like the husband in some Seventies video aid for

young married couples nervous about the first time. I did it silently, attentively, respectfully, politely – preoccupied with her 'pleasure', muted about mine, creating as little mess as possible, saying something nice afterwards.

And it was years before I discovered that women – after a certain age and out of a certain social group – do not want that at all.

They WANT to feel like an animal. They

WANT to feel disgusting. They want, more than anything, to feel like a whore out the back of the pub doing it with some masked pervert.

But only sometimes. And only some of them. Trouble is, I just can't ever tell which one I've got naked in the bed with me.

In my late 20s, coming out of a long relationship and back on the scene for the first time as a grown-up, I was baffled the first time a woman I was screwing suddenly said, 'Hit me!'

'What?' I said.

'Spank me! Slap me! Hit me!'

'Why?' I said. I had never seen a porn film. I had shagged only Oxford graduates with shelves full of Sylvia Plath and degrees in world misery. I had no idea what she was on about.

'Because it's HOT!' she said.

So I whacked her a couple of times and she said, 'Not there!'

So I said, 'Where then?'

So she pointed and said, 'Here!'

So I whacked her there and she said, 'Not now!'

So when?

When she's coming, apparently. So as to involuntarily contract her kegel muscle and make her orgasm more... something.

But then how do I know when she's coming? How dare I presume? What if she isn't coming but only shouting out of politeness or boredom? I'd feel such an arse, whacking a bird like a racehorse when she's only faking it.

But then other girls think of it as foreplay, not orgasm percussion.

'Tell me what I've done wrong before you spank me!'

'But you haven't done anything wrong.'

'Make something up.'

'Um. You've been a very bad girl. You left the fridge open after you made a cup of tea and the butter got a bit soft so I'm going to...'

'That wasn't me!'

'I think you'll find it was.'

'And anyway, what kind of repressed bourgeois psycho are you that you're thinking about keeping the fridge closed when you're having sex?'

'Look, do you want me to hit you or not?'

And then still other girls wanted dirty talk with the spanking.

'Take that you ****ing *****!'

'That's horrible. Don't just call me names!'

'What, then?'

'Tell me what you're going to do to me!'

'Um, right. OK. Well, first I'm going to put my...'

I can't even bear to write it. How do you ▷

<I know what to do when, and to whom? I don't want to come over all vanilla and boring with a girl who's used to being tied up and beaten, but then I don't want to end up ravishing a nice girl and getting pepper-sprayed and carted off by the rozzers.

The scariest girl I ever shagged whispered in my ear, 'If you're going to f*** a woman properly, Giles, you have to hate her a little bit.' You try telling that to a girlfriend who just happens to be the Oxford University Liberal

Democrat Women's Officer.

It's a hanky-panky-spanky minefield. But it is only now, writing about it here, that I have begun to realise how incredibly sexy a proper spanking ought to be. I curse myself for not having applied myself to it properly in the past, and I can't believe that the spank monster has come upon me, finally, at a time in my life when I've got a two-year-old daughter, an infant son and, so far as I can tell, will never have sex again as long as I live. □

GREAT SPANKERS IN HISTORY

The Goddess Isis

She started it. The root of all spanking was actually a sacred duty. Egyptian slaves had their buttocks whipped in temples to honour Isis, the goddess of motherhood and fertility. The Greeks and Romans adopted the habit and held their own spanking parties to promote fertility.

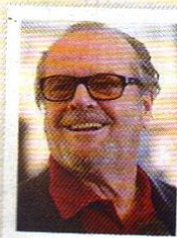


Ian Fleming

Fleming's spanking fetish was revealed in his wife Ann's letters. She was pretty into it too: 'I long to be whipped by you,' she once wrote. Bond's creator lived (and, it appears, loved) as hard as his fictional hero.

Jack Nicholson

'Heeeeeeeere's Johnny!' Just imagine hearing that from a man bearing down on you with a paddle. Famously dubbed 'Spanking Jack' (a sobriquet that caught on in Hollywood) by a Playboy Playmate he thwacked with a ping-pong bat.



Catherine de' Medici

Catherine had a phalanx of serving girls whom she would order to be stripped naked and thrashed in front of her – she declared this was 'for their sport'.



Jean-Jacques Rousseau

In between writing political tracts, the 18th-century philosopher found time to become an erotic trailblazer, documenting a love of spanking in his autobiography, *The Confessions*. The fascination started back in his schooldays, apparently.

Sir Mick Jagger

He may not have quite mastered the technique. In *Mick's Girls*, a 2004 documentary, sex therapist Natasha Terry – who had a fling with him in 1999 – said she had been reduced to giggles by his penchant for spanking.



SONGS TO SPANK TO

'Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick'
Ian Dury and the Blockheads

'Bad Boys Get Spanked'
The Pretenders

'Do Me Baby' and 'Erotic City'
and all the other filthy ones by Prince

'Physical'
Olivia Newton-John



Your parents' bed
Over a bale of hay

The Hell-Fire Caves in Buckinghamshire

A big, big boat



Box 66 at the Royal Opera House, during the three fortissimo chords that open Puccini's *Tosca*

The secret loo behind the dancefloor at the St Moritz Club



GOOD

PLACES TO GET SPANKED



BAD



Your childhood bed

A car, after a party, a bit drunk, when you need to lose half a stone



On a drip

The Imperial War Museum

Your therapist's office. By your therapist

A funeral



SPANKING SCENES IN FILMS

SECRETARY Best one for newbies, because Maggie Gyllenhaal, *above*, is disarmingly sweet throughout.

McLINTOCK The film poster shows Maureen O'Hara slung over John Wayne's knee, with the tag line 'Wallops the Daylights Out of Every Western You've Ever Seen'.

A DANGEROUS METHOD Michael Fassbender (as Carl Gustav Jung) gets to live out every teenage boy's fantasy – a spanking session with Keira Knightley.

KISS ME, KATE Spanking goes highbrow in a Shakespeare-inspired bottom-smacking scene.

LADY JANE Helena Bonham Carter bared her bottom to a cane for her first film.

SPANKING PSYCHOLOGY

Why exactly is it that spanking turns us on?

'It's not so much about pain as it is about power,' says sex therapist Tracey Cox. 'The person being spanked is forced into submission – and vulnerability can be very sexy. Especially if you're of the "good girls don't" persuasion.' For some, it's about being naughty, she adds. For others, it can be related to childhood. 'When something bad happens to us as a child, our protective mechanisms attempt to turn it into something positive. So the shame of being spanked can be turned into an erotic episode, so the child can cope. Later on, a playful slap from a lover can reignite that feeling.' Just don't do it too often – 'otherwise one of you could become reliant on spanking as a sexual trigger'.