

You won't see many flower arrangements in porn movies or decorating the lofts where sex parties are held. Strip clubs don't have vases on the tables, and prostitutes rarely receive bouquets at the end of the night. The sex industry is one of the oldest and most profitable in the world, yet the women who work in it rarely get treated to one of the oldest gifts—flowers.

In the vanilla world, the world where exchanging sex for money is not a common occurrence, flowers are a token of love and affection. Men bring flowers when they arrive to take a woman on a date, to apologize when they've done something wrong or when they want to show their love on a special occasion. Weddings and anniversaries are cause for floral arrangements, with brides spending as much time choosing the right flowers as they do the perfect dress.

When it comes to celebration, flowers aren't only for romantic moments. In addition to showing love, flowers are a way to say "Good job" and "Congratulations." Women receive flowers when they've done something considered exceptional. Flowers are gifted, too, when a loved one is ill or has passed away. "Get well," the flowers are supposed to say. "You'll be missed."

In the sex industry, however, none of this happens. In porn films, flowers may occasionally be used as set decoration, but after a particularly good scene, you won't see the XXX starlets getting bouquets of daisies. Strippers and prostitutes typically don't receive flowers, either. These women's services are bought and sold, with little thought given to the person providing the services. While men may find themselves attracted to and in lust with the women who grace the covers of their favorite X-rated films and who put on a show in exchange for a few singles shoved in their G-strings, they feel no affection for them. The women are transformed, at work, into objects, things to be used and discarded. There's no need for flowers.

No matter how good a job an escort does, no matter whether she was hired for a one-night affair or a girlfriend experience, she probably won't be handed a single rose by her suitor. What she provides may look and feel like love on the outside, but to the recipient, she is a simply an item purchased, with cash or credit card, to make him feel better. Flowers are for lovers—wives, fiancées, girlfriends—not call girls.

Professional dominatrices rarely receive flowers. The men who frequent the dungeons where these women work know better than to show up with a handful of sunflowers from the local florist. Tributes, as the payments are frequently termed, are typically offered in the form of cash. While other gifts are accepted, they tend to be more extravagant than flowers. Designer clothes and shoes, new dungeon equipment, and other luxury offerings are deemed appropriate. Often, the mistresses have lists of proper payment available for clients. Flowers never make the cut.

Porn actresses, the true stars of the sex industry, almost never get flowers. On occasion, one of the women will receive a floral offering after a feature-dance appearance at a strip club, but if she gets one bouquet, that's a lot. Though these women are considered some of the most desirable, men don't find them worthy of flowers. They are not women to have relationships with. The men who watch their films and buy their magazines aren't interested in emotional displays or sweet gestures. They want attention or sex, neither of which can be bought with flowers.

The sex industry is, first and foremost, an industry. Women are a hot commodity, meant to be bought and sold, but the means of acquiring their offerings is cold hard cash. Flowers, while beautiful, can't buy sex. And though the men who keep the billion-dollar industry afloat

may claim to love the women who comprise it, money and come-ons will always be their primary offerings, because flowers can't buy sex.