



America swings

STUFFING ANYONE?



This Thanksgiving Day tableau captures a Minneapolis-based swingers' party. Swinging – or consensual extramarital sex – is one of middle-class America's fastest-growing hobbies. Participants want to experiment sexually with their partners by their sides. Naomi Harris spent four years photographing different groups across the US

FOR WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE...

Stephanie and Matt, centre, from Minneapolis, host an annual Thanksgiving dinner-cum-love-in. 'We invite people we like, and who like to have sex,' says Stephanie. 'It overshadows all gender, race and size issues.' She and Matt, now in their mid-thirties, have been together since they were 19. 'He's always the love of my life, but I'm also an animal, you know? We're sexual beings.' ►

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TO LOVE, CHERISH AND SWING

The 18th annual Swingstock at Duxbury, Minnesota, was the first to be held at Toni and Glen's new campsite. A highlight of the swinging event was the marriage of Rick and Diane, above and top. Glen, above centre, an ordained minister, officiated in front of hundreds of the happy couple's closest friends. What better way to celebrate your honeymoon than with group sex?

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CROWNING GLORY

This couple had been nominated as king and queen of the swingers for three years running, so they were moved to tears when, this year, they finally won and reached the coronation stage at the 18th annual Swingstock in Duxbury, Minnesota. The event had a *Gilligan's Island* theme and was attended by 500 piratical hopefuls. ►

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WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS...

The Lifestyles Convention held in Las Vegas, Nevada, is the original swingers' gathering and advertised its 35th anniversary in 2007 as a '96-hour non-stop party'. It was held at the Tuscany Resort, which turned out to be an unfortunate choice, as the small three-story buildings dotted around the property made it difficult to meet people, although the pool saw quite a bit of action.



STARS AND STRIPES

A couple attend the All-American Pool Party, which is held on 4 July every year in a converted house in the avocado groves near San Diego, California.



ONE THOUSAND AND ONE ARABIAN NIGHTS

Revellers get in the mood for a 'harem night' at the annual four-day swingers' party held in the Quality Hotel and Suites at Niagara Falls, New York State. There are themed parties at night and seminars, mainly focused on S&M, during the day. Five hundred people turned up to the party, the biggest event of the year for this slightly dilapidated hotel in the town formerly known as 'America's favourite honeymoon destination.' ■

America Swings by Naomi Harris, with contributing author Richard Prince, is published by Taschen (Taschen.com) and is available in two editions. See mariedaire.co.uk/americaswings for more details.

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