

11. Anatomy Lessons

Clinical detail is wonderful—for medical textbooks. In erotic fiction, it frequently acts like a bucket of ice water strategically tossed at the reader's libido.

There's a difference between getting down and dirty and providing way too much detail. Compare the next two paragraphs and see for yourself which one arouses you more.

He spread her labia majora in search of her clitoris. Once he explored her mons and found the protuberance he was looking for, he pulled back the hood and started to rub her clitoris. In response, her Bartholin's glands kicked into overdrive, increasing her lubrication.

versus ...

He spread her swollen pussy lips, hunting for her clit. Hunting was half the fun, he realized, as his fingers lingered over her slowly juicing cunt. Finally, they settled on her hardening clit and gradually flicked it until she squirmed impatiently.

The second example is not only more concise, it's also more human. The urgency of his search, the enjoyment he feels, and her reaction give the paragraph a depth that's completely absent from the first example, which is a litany of cold, clinical details.



Most readers know human anatomy well enough to read erotica that doesn't waste too much time being clinically explicit. Let your readers into the minds as well as the bodies of your characters and you'll find that clinical detail does little to move the story along.