

# Straight Up | Herman

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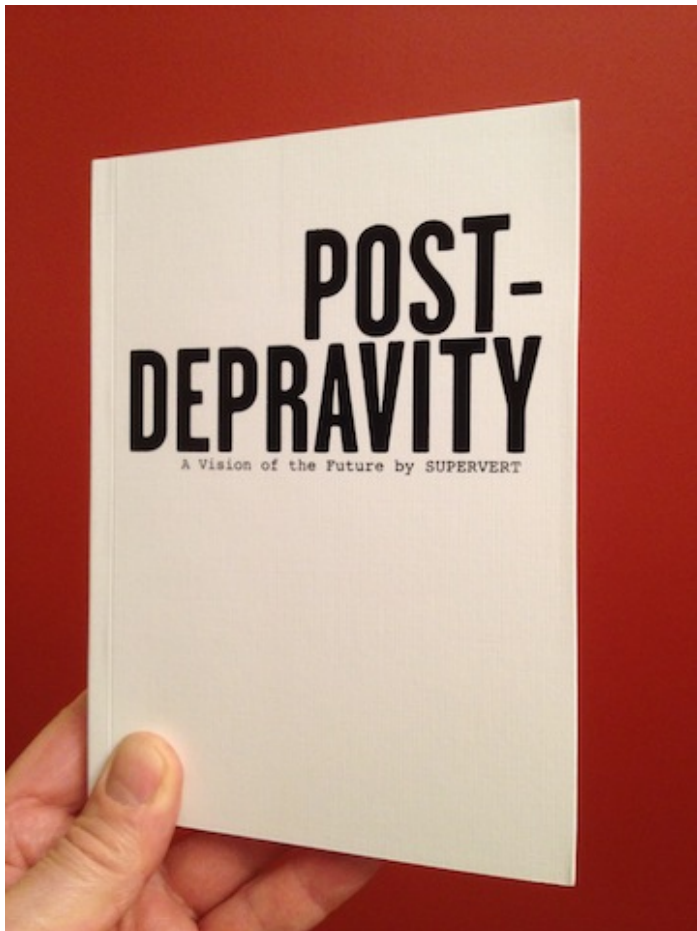
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## Supervert's 'Vision of the Future' Has Arrived

September 18, 2014 by Jan Herman



Ex  
Libris  
Supervert

*Title* Post-Depravity

*Author* Supervert

*Recipient* Jan Herman

*Number* 000002

*Remarks* A swinger's club

all of whose members are

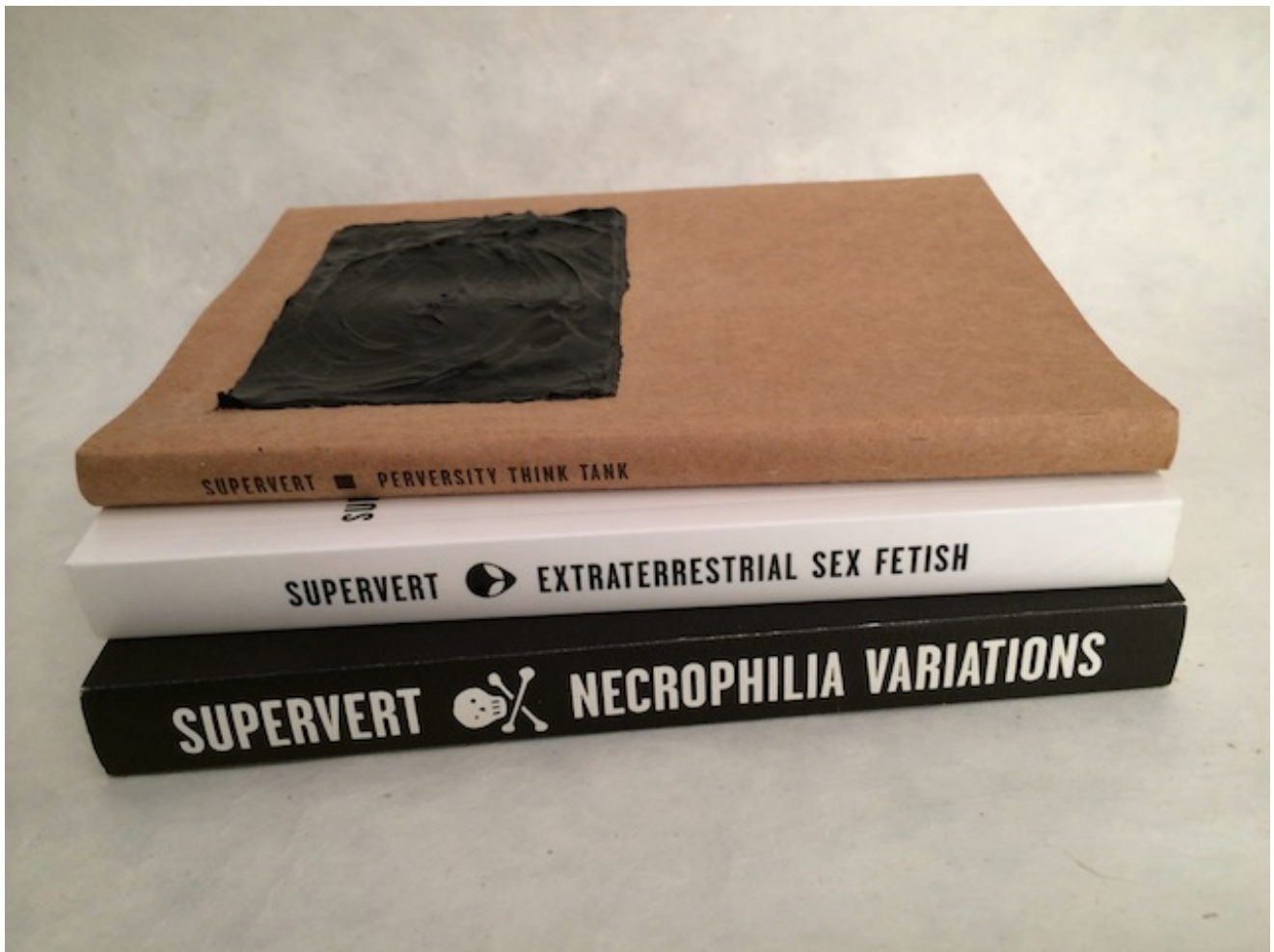
Parkinson's patients.

*Transfer of this book is forbidden.*

It is possibly [Supervert's](#) most impressive book beauty to date, judging not only from the immaculate white-and-black antiseptic look of it and the heft of it – the text comes to 240 pages – but also, obviously, from the read of it. At one level *POST-DEPRAVITY* is a page turner (literally) and at another a densely reasoned philosophical

proposition (indicated by the letters [S&M R&D](#) on the book's spine). Set in a hospital, the story updates notions of perversion beyond Sadean for an age beyond technology with characters like Dr. Francis Malenkov (“a neurosurgeon who has become a prophet or a

madman”) and Kat Harlow (who “takes a job as an actress in a simulated patient facility,” while “recovering from a nervous breakdown”). [Supervert offers his own summary](#) in more scientific terms: The book “uses the method of a cross-sectional study, focusing on a representative population at a specific moment in time.” It yields a story that “describes a near future in which people are little more than vectors for strange desires – and yet the increasing ordinariness of strange desires causes a vicious circle [of] degenerates striving for ever more outlandish forms of sexual gratification. The result, ‘post-depravity,’ is an impending state in which perversity and normality become identical.” If that sounds Ballardian, was J.G. Ballard’s procedure ever as rigorous? On a lighter note, the book is dedicated to “Those Who Are Biologically Unable to Conceive” and, per the back cover, the **Terms to Learn** are: “Anti-Penis / Anti-Vagina, Clone Incest, Creepy Simulations Paradox, Exocortical Perversion, Futuropathy, Neosadism, Neural Deviance, Parthenotherapy, Pornolepsy, Post-Depravity, Psychogynecology, Reincarnation Fetishism, Sexual Oddball Effect.” As little Shirley Temple used to say, “Oh my!”



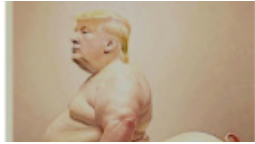
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## JAN HERMAN



When not listening to Bach or Cuban jazz pianist Chucho Valdes, or dancing to salsa, I like to play jazz piano -- but only in the privacy of my own mind.

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## ABOUT

# Straight Up

The agenda is just what it says: news of arts, media & culture delivered with attitude. Or as Rock Hudson once said in a movie: "Man is the only ... [\[Read More...\]](#)

## Books 'n' Stuff



I'm the author of several books, including *A Talent for Trouble*, the biography of Hollywood director William Wyler. It is now available as an ebook at ... [\[Read More...\]](#)

## My Checkered Career

I've been a staff writer covering arts and culture at the Los Angeles Times, a reporter and movie reviewer at The Daily News in New York, a reporter ... [\[Read More...\]](#)

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**Leon Freilich** on [When Trump Hog Called His Cabinet: Sooi!](#)

Burroughs, as always, was looking ahead to a still-nuttier First Disturbed Citizen. Nancy Pelosi said she'd be happy to...

Posted Jun 19, 2017



**Mark A. Vieira** on [When Trump Hog Called His Cabinet: Sooi!](#)

You're reminding me of the hog-calling contest in Life Begins at Forty with Will Rogers and Slim Summerville. Hilarious.

Posted Jun 14, 2017

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**Leon Freilich on Poem for N.O.M.**

Fine, moving poem, Jan. Sorry you lost your friend.

Posted May 30, 2017

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**William Osborne on Please Insert**

It's good to see O'Reilly, Hannity, Beck and their "angry white male" cousins like Limbaugh get a taste of their...

Posted May 22, 2017

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**Alexis Alvarez on As the French Say: Dégoûtant!**

Jan, I agree with you completely. If anyone is "venomous" and "knife-twisting," it's Trump. At least, our inglorious, ignominious president...

Posted May 11, 2017

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**Jan Herman on As the French Say: Dégoûtant!**

Of course I read the column. It's not what it says about Trump that makes it so rotten. It's what...

Posted May 03, 2017

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**Bob Love on As the French Say: Dégoûtant!**

You didn't read the column? the only positive thing Kinsley has to say about trump is transparently tongue-in-cheek: "Thanks to @realDonaldTrump,..."

Posted May 02, 2017

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**Jan Herman on As the French Say:**



**Dégoûtant!**

True.

Posted May 02, 2017

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**Jan Herman on As the French Say: Dégoûtant!**

But in this case contrarian in a dead-wrong direction.

Posted May 02, 2017

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**MWnyc on As the French Say: Dégoûtant!**

I think this is just Kinsley indulging the same contrarian impulse that made Slate (which he founded) what it is.

Posted May 02, 2017

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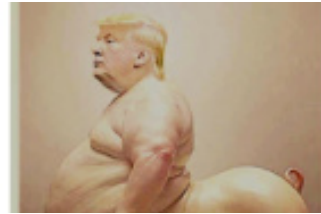
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