

"I know how you like your girls clean shaven, so before we meet, I will have to shave my chest and back for you."

Get Your Asian Brides Somewhere Else:



The Wonderful World of Bigbadchinesemama.com



LOTP Award

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"I am a generous Caucasian man looking for a loyal, soft-spoken, and dainty Asian woman (sorta like the exotic Suzy Wong in "The World of Suzy Wong"). Can you assure me that you will find me such a demure creature on your site?"

If you are the kind of creepy dipshit surfing the internet for 'delicate' Asian women to exploit, exoticize, or even purchase, you may have come across the



bigbadchinesemama.com site, dedicated to debunking the myth that all Asian women are 'loyal, soft-spoken', etc. while at the same time shaming the people who perpetuate those myths into rethinking their role in the corporate capitalist monolith that reduces entire cultures to 'flavor of the month'.

The Big Bad Chinese Mama herself is a former SoCal student who began the project for her thesis and then found it growing into art.



When you're not checking out the potential brides, you can even buy t-shirts and underpants and look pretty, like the lovely and demure ladies on the site.

We got Kristina to play almost 20 questions with us in between bouts of smashing the state and building giant vaginas (read on for an explanation).

Kp: what's new, pussycat?

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Issue 5: No Sleep 'Til Brooklyn

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I just finished my first real solo venture in performance art. It was a solo piece called, "Miss Chinatown 2nd Runner Up and other Reconstructions." The piece was about learning about my body as a kid. I had a big vagina lowered from the ceiling and menstruated it on myself. it was awesome.

Kp: who, who, who are you?

i am the girl that everyone in middle school called "perverted" to "weirdo" to "dork". I look at them now and say, "Look at me! I'm still a dork! But now I have a following!".

Kp: and what is big bad chinese mama? and where did it come from?

ugh, it's all on the webpage. or read my essay in the yell-oh girls anthology published by harper collins. i swear i am sick of talking about it.

Kp: and why is it so fucking cool?

it's so fucking cool because instead of wanting people to come to the site and love me, i make the site very easy for dumbasses who will hate and stalk me find it (i market it as porn).



Kp: have you gotten a lot of emails from really disappointed idiots who thought they would get a little Asian lovin' from your page?

Yes. I am used to it. For some reason a lot of guys with foot fetishes. I think it is because my "Memoirs of an anti Geisha" has pics of me and my feet. Lots of men offering to suck my toes and shit.

Kp: if you had the ability to stop everything and everyone in the world except yourself the way that chick on "out of this world" could, would you take advantage of it to change icky situations?

Yeah. I would be evil. Probably freeze time, smack people while they were frozen then unfreeze them when I've run away.

Kp: why are you so super-rad?

Because I'm nuts.

Kp: what annoys you (besides 20 questions :)) ?

When people write me and tell me I am angry. Or add me to their "Asian American watchdog listservs" where they urge me to boycott ads and products because they "perpetuate stereotypes" and they are usually ads and products that I really don't think are that offensive, it's just a matter of these people being a little too sensitive. I'm annoyed that they would think that because what they saw was me being angry would mean that i would jump along with them and join all their causes to boycott the world.

Kp: be my prom date?

ok.

Kp: who wrote the book of love?

there is no book. it's a fantasy.

Kp: does rattlesnake really taste like chicken?

i am a vegetarian. but i ate some snake soup in Taiwan a few summers ago



just to see what it would taste like and it tasted like what i remembered to be chicken soup.

Kp: does victory really taste so sweet?

yeah. so does revenge, but it also

burns in your heart and makes you feel empty.

Kp: if you had \$300, a jetpack, and an hour to spend the money, where would you go and what would you do with it? i'd pay some rent and sell the jetpack on ebay.

Kp: why do you get up in the morning? because my back hurts if i sleep too long.

Kp: does feminism exist in 21st century america? is this a fair question?

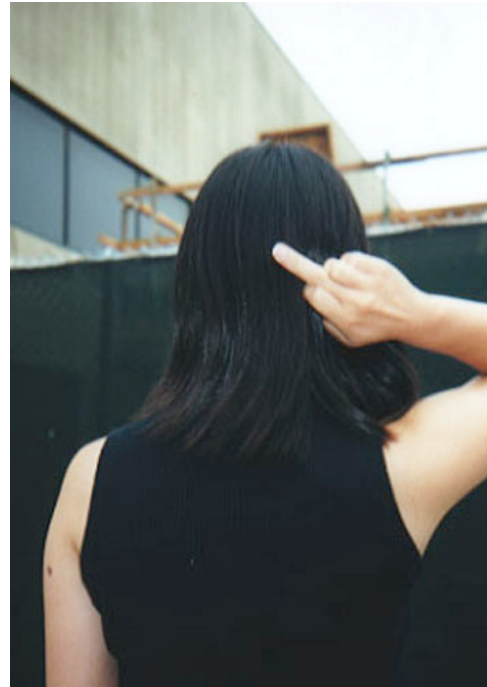


most definitely. And it is a

construction of popular culture so it has its built in flaws. Notions of "Girl Power," "You Go Girl" and "Chicks Rule" have been neat sloganistic, and marketable approaches to rewording a word synonymous with hairy armpits and ugly angry white women. I think the word "feminism" still carries a lot of baggage that young women of color shy away from. I work with high school kids and they freak out at that word. I think some of these new slogans have built in "unempowerment"-- like "girl power"-- if I said "Woman power" then it's not cool sounding, because it because all serious feminist and stuff. "Girl power" is cuter as a slogan because it conjures images of someone small doing something big-- but not something big doing something big. But at least it is a step at empowerment. Unfortunately for feminism to educate others out of the classroom in a women's studies course, to the rest of the world, it needs to be packaged in pop culture. Example: So Destiny's Child is the muse of Women's Rights by showing that independence and emotional strength is best achieved by dressing in undies and dancing all sexy? It's a step at least. But why can't we be ugly and independent? Not to toot my horn, but that's why I have so many ugly pics of

myself. I am actually not that bad looking in real life. But I didn't think that doing the "Chun Li Streetfighter" thing and have sexy pics of myself kicking white male ass was as effective in challenging the gaze as having myself with no makeup and raging nastiness oozing from me as I kicked ass.

Kp: when you first discovered those buy-a-bride websites, how did you feel? because they don't make me angry at first, they make me sad. then angry, just because i can't imagine devaluing another human being to the point where they become something you can buy. also you have to wonder how much agency the women on those sites have - do they know what's happening to them? i mean, they're not idiots.



when I first saw the sites, I was mad because they were so horrible. the text, the images, and the portrayals of the women as exotic and obedient were so outlandishly ridiculous but made to seem very convincing. there is this one site for a sex tour in Thailand and this girl looked about 14 and was pictured very unhappy, naked and mounted on this guy. I was disgusted and felt helpless that I couldn't do much about this. My site isn't about so much me wanted to "help" or "rescue" these women. Nothing I do with my site is going to

stop the existence of those sites, only provide an alternative voice. It can also poke fun at how ridiculous the expectations of men who visit the sites and their formats. I was also confused because I am not an "anti-porn" person. I am not totally disgusted by pornography. i have willingly watched pornography and have sometimes found enjoyment in it. I do think pornography has a place in society. I do think that the majority of porn that is out now male-centered and framed to a white male eye and can be difficult and threatening for me to watch. Sometimes I find the aesthetics in pornography ridiculous, and laughable because of how they so blatantly cater to masculinity. So my site is not so much about "fighting for justice" as teasing the "gaze" of sex sites and how they frame culture. I am not an expert on the sex industry and it gets irritating when my visitors want me to offer stats and opinions on the mail order bride industry because that's not my area of studies. But since you asked. I think many of the women willingly enter the sex industry but keep in mind that the choices and notions of "freedom" that they have in their countries are very different than ours. Some I think have no choice, and some I think are forced into it because of circumstances of poverty.

Kp: do you ever find yourself worried about the slippery slide from activist to academic? the divide is so narrow...

wah? huh? i created my site to counter what i saw to be the overly militant activism on my campus and inaccessible ethnic studies academic culture--



turns out its the

activists and academics who like the site the most. so i figure, whatever, the personal is political, and that's the only way I am going to make this all make sense. i function best as an artist.

Kp: (fill in the blank) when I grow up...

i am not going to work. just live off
of ebay and inspire women and people
of color to do art and cross
boundaries.

**Check out bigbadchinesemama.com for
lots of 'brides'
and feminist fun. ***