

‘Laura – an *extra*ordinary life, totally shameless’ by Peter Blok

“At my very first gang bang, I had 73 men.”

Laura tells it as if it’s completely normal to say a thing like that. Well, to her it is, actually. She’s totally and utterly shameless. Prudery is something that belongs to the past.

From Bible Belt to garter belt: that’s Laura’s life in a nutshell. Raised in the conservative, God fearing environment of the isles south of Rotterdam, the kind of area where black stockings have got nothing to do with fun, she started adult life as a decent girl, studying at university in Delft and, soon after, working as a chemical engineer in Eindhoven. Unfortunately, something terrible happened there, which meant the end of her scientific career - and the beginning of a completely different one.

But first there was fishing. Thanks to her first husband, an English butcher, she learned how to catch carps. Big ones, even, in the rich waters around [Belgian tavern] De Goorhoeve, Belgian for: The Swamp Farm. Although ‘Goor’ doesn’t just mean ‘swamp’, it also stands for ‘sleaze’. And it wouldn’t take long before ‘The Sleaze Farm’ would be a more appropriate name for the place...

Together with her second hubby, party animal Maurice, she decided to take over De Goorhoeve, at some stage. It was still a fisherman’s paradise at that time, although after a few years Laura had to face that fact that selling coffee and toasted sandwiches to hungry anglers didn’t pay all the bills. So something had to change.

An experiment with pole dancers was the breakthrough. Once again it was proven: sex sells –and out went the fishermen, to be replaced by anglers from a very different kind. Laura and her female friends became the bait and De Goorhoeve was rocking. The Sleaze Farm expanded and it soon became the epicentre of Belgian porn. Lots of films were shot at its premises, many of them featuring the former chemical engineer.

But that is just one side of Laura. Apart from the insatiable, sex-crazed, self-proclaimed slut, there’s also the loving and totally devoted mother. After the birth of daughter Eva – totally unexpected, as since she’d been working with chemicals for years, Laura had always thought she was infertile – the sleaziness was put aside from time to time. Despite all the adult fun she had (and still has), little Eva became the most important thing in Laura’s life. A life that, from then onwards, was divided into an ‘18+’ and an ‘under 18’ part. Eva has never been allowed to enter the ‘18+’-side; in her world Mama Laura would take her to horse riding lessons – and assist her before, during and after her first Holy Communion.

Film maker and former award winning photographer Peter Blok followed Laura at a crossroad in her life. He filmed the dismantling of De Goorhoeve, as a new, fish-loving owner had taken over the place, and the erection of Stout!, an erotic

bar in the Belgian village of Turnhout. In between, Blok shows how Laura and Maurice shoot Netherporn – with helping hands from characters like Alexis Fox and Vienna. We also see the entire, half-naked lot at an erotic fair, images that form a huge contrast with the scenes shot at the church, where Eva is preparing her first Communion.

Contrasts galore, in ‘Laura – an *extra* ordinary life, totally shameless’. It is, quite literally, an all-revealing portrait of a strong woman who is always herself, no matter the circumstances. It is exciting, sometimes shocking but extremely funny and sweet at the same time.

Just as sweet as she is herself.

- *Michiel Blijboom*