

(Free pdf) Bonnie Sherr Klein's 'Not a Love Story' (Canadian Cinema)

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Rebecca Sullivan

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Rebecca Sullivan : Bonnie Sherr Klein's 'Not a Love Story' (Canadian Cinema) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bonnie Sherr Klein's 'Not a Love Story' (Canadian Cinema):

Bonnie Sherr Kleins *Not a Love Story* provocatively examines the first Canadian film to explore pornography's role in society from a feminist perspective. Directed by Bonnie Sherr Klein for Studio D, the National Film Board's women's unit, the film featured both Klein and Lindalee Tracey, an activist, performance artist, and stripper, as they toured the seamier fringes of pornography and sex work in Montreal, Toronto, New York, and San Francisco. Censored in Ontario upon its release in 1981, *Not a Love Story* collided with the escalating Porn Wars that contributed to the tearing apart of the second-wave feminist movement. Using interviews with members of the crew and extensive archival research into the production process, Rebecca Sullivan delves into the creation and reception of *Not a Love Story* to explore the issues of censorship, sexual labour and performance, and documentary practice that the film raised. An insightful analysis not just of the film itself but of the issues which surround feminist analyses of pornography as a genre, Bonnie Sherr Klein's *Not a Love Story* offers a fresh assessment of Canada's women's movement and the politics of feminist filmmaking during a volatile era.

Not only is the author able to provide an insightful reassessment of *Not a Love Story*, taking into account its place in Canadian film history and culture, but she also contextualizes this controversial film well within wider critical debates about pornography, gender and sexuality, and documentary practice. (Claire Hines, Film Studies, Southampton Solent University) This is a fresh evaluation of the success of the feminist deconstruction of pornography that is at the heart of Bonnie Sherr Klein's *Not a Love Story*, and complements existing offerings in the Canadian Cinema Series ... Such an analysis is long overdue. (Gail Vanstone, Department of Humanities, York University) About the Author Rebecca Sullivan is a professor in the Department of English at the University of Calgary.