

## SHARON TIERNEY

After nine years in advertising and public relations, Sharon Tierney opened her own waxing salon on the Gold Coast. During her five years as a "wax therapist" specialising in brazilian waxes, she became aware of the taboo and lack of knowledge surrounding the vagina. After returning to Newcastle and having her daughter, she has focused on self-publishing her first book, *The Vagina Buffet: Bite-size Tales of a Brazilian Waxer*, which is available from amazon.com and at local book stores.

### Why did you decide to change careers and become a "wax therapist"?

I met my husband [Mikey] while overseas in London. I had some really bad waxes there so when I came back home, I said, "I just want a decent wax" and it's as simple as that. I always wanted to be a business owner but I didn't know what I wanted to focus on. There was that sense of wanting to provide a service that in my experience was lacking. It went from there. From week one, the business took off.

### How does one become a waxer?

I paid another waxer to teach me and I did a course. I didn't want to be a beautician and do facials and pedicures; we didn't offer those services. It was always about specialising in waxing although I also did spray tans and make-up.

### I thought you were brave to write this book, but after reading it I think your husband is braver. I don't know many men who would agree to have their nether regions waxed – twice!

(Laughs) He is unbelievable, he's my biggest supporter. We needed to train a couple of staff to wax men so he was kind enough to volunteer to be our guinea pig. I secretly think he likes the attention.

### After waxing people's genitals for five years, you mustn't be easily shocked.

Nothing shocks me, nothing surprises me. I've seen everything, I've heard everything. Even in the tanning room, you're in there with naked women. You know what women are like about their bodies, they beat themselves up the whole time. The models were the worst. They'd come in looking like race horses, not an ounce of fat on their bodies and they'd be like this (covers up with her arms). It would take me 10 minutes to convince them to take their clothes off, whereas women with normal builds were more comfortable in their skin. To me, they were sexier than the models.



### In the book it's clear that you became a confidante to many clients. Is that because of the intimacy involved in your job?

As soon as you put your hand on someone's skin they start talking. I was a relationships counsellor, the psychologist, the mediator. It was madness! I would be absolutely drained at the end of the day. I called it the couch; as soon as a client laid down for a treatment, they'd tell me everything that was going on in their life. I don't know if it was me, or the fact we were next door to a cafe so a lot of my clients would have a wine before their treatment (laughs).

### You write that most women are scared of their vaginas. Why?

We're so disconnected to that part of our bodies. It could be because of how we're brought up. A lot of my friends are quite conservative and they're horrified I've even put the word vagina on the cover of my book. I've been brought up in a family that has always been open about their bodies, so it's hard for me to relate to being embarrassed or ashamed. I don't think it's healthy to be terrified of a part of your body.

### I imagine you're taking the lead in educating your daughter?

I don't think you can just leave it to classes at school to inform your children about how their bodies work. I've actually written a book for young girls about their body and that's my next project. Girls are developing much earlier and it's important as mums that we know how to talk to our daughters. You can't just leave it to the playground; that's far more terrifying.

Rosemarie Milsom

## YOUR STARS

### JOANNE MADELINE MOORE



#### CANCER JUN 22-JUL 23

Are you having problems at work? Relax, crabs. Help is at hand – from a most unlikely source. When it comes to a financial transaction, make sure you read the fine print thoroughly.



#### LEO JUL 24-AUG 23

Make the most of the positive aspects this weekend, lions. You're in the mood to work; creative ideas are flowing; and others will listen closely to what you have to say.



#### VIRGO AUG 23-SEP 23

Saturday is a slow-down and chill-out kind of day. Attached Virgos, don't let a loved one pull the wool over your eyes. Singles, love, work and travel are linked in unexpected ways.



#### LIBRA SEP 24-OCT 23

Don't get stuck in a rut. It's time to apply innovative new solutions to stubborn old problems. You'll get the best results if you combine logic with intuition; and intellect with imagination.



#### SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

What a fabulous weekend for work and business as the moon, Saturn and Pluto send fortuitous opportunities your way. You must be a smart Scorpio to capitalise on them, though.



#### SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

Positive Jupiter/Uranus aspects encourage you to shake things up and think outside the square. Find novel ways to communicate, as you draw exciting new ideas and people into your life.



#### CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

Don't get bogged down in details, goats. The stars favour thinking on your feet and making some exciting snap decisions. Plus put aside time to nurture your overseas contacts.



#### AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

Your romantic, compassionate or spiritual side is stimulated and you're in the mood to create, console or contemplate. Beautiful dreams now will turn into practical projects later.



#### PISCES FEB 20-MAR 20

Are you worried about money? Jupiter and Uranus encourage you to find novel ways to boost your cash flow. Singles, sometimes there's a fine line between being romantic and being unrealistic.



#### ARIES MAR 21-APR 20

Adventurous Aries, let your imagination run wild this weekend. It's the perfect time to tap into your playful inner child as you throw yourself into fun projects that are exciting and different.



#### TAURUS APR 21-MAY 21

Appreciate the beauty around you and enjoy life's little luxuries. Whether it's a walk on the beach, a relaxing massage or a stroll in the garden, make sure you do something special this weekend.



#### GEMINI MAY 22-JUN 21

An intriguing new person or peer group could enter your life, bringing a breath of fresh air to tired old routines. Be adventurous – go for excitement and change and you won't be sorry.