

## BOOK TIP SHEET

**Title:** *My Inflatable Friend: The Confessions of Rollo Hemphill*

**Author:** Gerald Everett Jones

**Imprint:** LaPuerta

- The genre is *boychik lit*—a counterpoint, alternative to, and parody of the hugely popular female-oriented fiction genre *chick lit*. Boychik lit defies the widely held notion that today’s young men won’t or can’t read. Besides, the audience includes just as many book-buying men of a certain age who fantasize about being young and “on the make.”
- The godfather of boychik was Peter De Vries, longtime *New Yorker* editor and the mostly unsung master of the male-centered comic novel (e.g., *Slouching Towards Kalamazoo* and *Forever Panting*).
- In this book, Rollo Hemphill, a car jockey at a Beverly Hills resort hotel, devises a screwball scheme for making his girlfriend jealous. He dresses up a life-sized sex doll to look like a famous soap star and drives it around town in an open convertible.
- Rollo’s first attempt to construct a look-alike doll from an inflatable rubber sex toy is a miserable failure—the result wouldn’t convince anyone. He achieves success when his buddies buy him an incredibly lifelike lady made of silicone and steel.
- In the real world, such lifelike dolls are manufactured and marketed by RealDoll.com, which is attributed as the doll’s maker on page 74 (trade name used with permission).
- The tabloids pick up on Rollo’s “romance” and confront the real star with their candid photos—blurred shots at 60 mph. To everyone’s surprise, especially our hero’s, the star *admits* to the affair—to conveniently cover up liaisons with her secret lover, a famous politician.
- The gorgeous star summons Rollo and makes an indecent proposal: Live in her beach house and take a job as a top-forty deejay to give some class to their pretend relationship—and continue to be seen with the rubber lady anytime she and her secret lover need a cover story.
- Rollo soon gets everything he’s dreamed about—except the real-life girl and *any sex at all*. Undoing this mess becomes his real achievement.
- This is author Gerald Everett Jones’s second book for LaPuerta. The first was the tongue-in-cheek nonfiction title *How to Lie with Charts*.