

**GTI Mk V dragrace**  
 Go head-to-head in a paddle shifting, torqued out, turbo-charged, wound-up, 200 horsepower GTI Mk V.  
**START RACE**

- [Free Previews](#)
- [Top 10 Features](#)
- [Video on Demand](#)
- [Playboy TV](#)
- [Shop Playboy](#)
- [Special Editions](#)

# PLAYBOY.COM

BOOKMARK US »

[Members log-in here](#)  
[Not a member? Click here](#)

- [Playboy Magazine](#)
- [Playmates](#)
- [Cyber Girls](#)
- [Features](#)
- [A&E](#)
- [World of Playboy](#)
- [Sex](#)
- [On Campus](#)

## FEATURES

[guy 101](#) | [playboy.conversation](#) | [wheels](#) | [blueprints](#) | [playboy gaming](#)

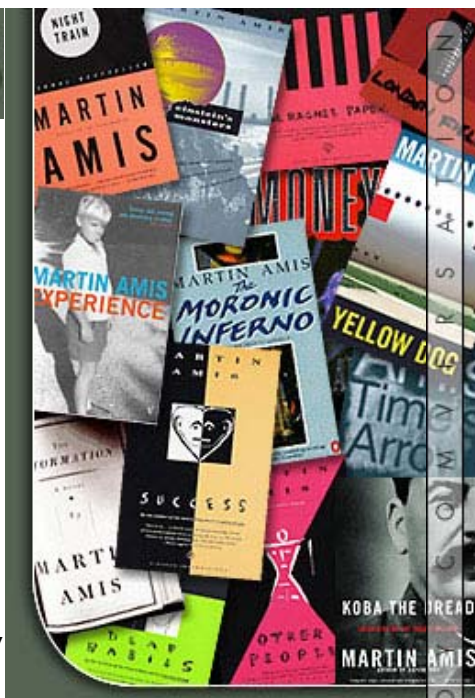
# MARTIN AMIS

THE PLAYBOY.COM CONVERSATION

**MA:** I think it's a very confused culture. On the one hand, no one is better than anyone else; no one is prettier. On the other hand, everyone is completely obsessed by their looks and by how they strike the world. On the one hand, we're all equal; on the other hand, everyone's a superstar. It's all very irrational, like all ideology.

**PB:** Has your view of pornography changed over the years?

**MA:** No, like all men, part of me would very happily spend the rest of my life looking at pictures of naked women. No complaints at all about 30 years of that. But the phrase in the novel is "loss of *pudeur*," "loss of shame." Sometimes I think that I've been living like some 17th-century puritan all my life, and that this new batch of inhibitions has been cast off over the shoulder as if they had never been there. If people have personal conversations about very emotional matters in public, and people reveal parts of their body that were originally kept covered, and pornography is becoming semi-respectable, it makes you think the push for greater freedom and divesting yourself of inhibitions is a real human need. I'm 54, so I'm further back upon the road. We certainly did a fair amount of divesting ourselves of inhibitions, but there seems to have been a quantum leap in the last half a generation. Maybe we're destined to be freer, but it's taking odd forms, like showing your big gut to all the world and discussing the future of



### AUDIO EXCLUSIVE

Amis on the common theme of all his books



10.0 pixels/sec

THE PLAYBOY

your marriage at a bus stop with 30 people listening in.

**PB:** In *Yellow Dog*, a character named Clint is a tabloid journalist who goes to great lengths to deal with a big problem -- his small penis. What is it about the male psyche that makes that such a central issue?

**MA:** Ha, go figure. But this book, and all of my books, are about the terrible vulnerability of the male ego and how this is connected to violence eventually. About the desperate situation of the male who has to keep proving himself and develops so much anxiety on that front. And sex has become much more competitive, with the girls becoming sort of predators as well. It's ferocious.

**PB:** Who are some other writers whose handling of sex impresses you?

**MA:** It's a subject like no other, and very difficult to negotiate. John Updike does it as specifically as anyone. I think he gives it a very good try, but he takes it too far. It's too literal. It's too close-up. There's no actual, specific sex in *Yellow Dog*. I think it's better to skirt around it and suggest what's going on by other means. It's like dreams. It's perhaps the one thing that fiction can't do. And film can only do it through pornography, which is a yellow genre. Video pornography is like propaganda; it's very far from being art.

**PB:** You were called the "Mick Jagger of literature" in your younger days. What was that period of your life like, when you were the rock-and-roll writer?

**MA:** Oh, that was all bullshit. And why isn't Mick Jagger called the Martin Amis of the rock world? That's what I want to know.

**PB:** Any lessons from your youthful indiscretions our readers should know?

**MA:** I can't say, because it was such a different world then. It was still hippiedom when I was in my 20s. And I was just average. It was free love. It was a time when girls went to bed with you whether

they liked you or not, out of sheer peer group pressure and fear of being thought anti-peace. I'm sure there's a whole new range of complications out there now and I'm not really in a good position to advise on it.

**PB:** Last question. Are writers in general good in bed?

**MA:** Yeah, I should think so. Because empathy is their thing.



[01](#) • [02](#) • [03](#) • 04

© **Playboy.com** All rights reserved. Your California Privacy Rights

[advertise with playboy](#) • [corporate info](#) • [legal notices](#) • [privacy policy](#) • [ICRA](#) • [home](#) • [RSS](#) • [site map](#) • [write to us](#) • [help](#) • [webmasters](#)