

free press

the 2022 sex issue



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Hey cutie!

Firstly, we wanna thank you for picking up this year’s Sex Issue. We know it’s a little late, but we wanted to make sure we put out something special, and that takes time. We hope we succeeded!

This issue is all about exploring the interdimensionality of sex and all of its parts. Sex isn’t always just sex; it can transcend itself and be something more than what it seems. Casual sex, meaningful sex, tons of sex, lack of sex, gender, love, romance, virginity, sluttiness, conflict, hurt, bliss—these things are all intertwined. Through this issue, we hope to take you on a journey through our contributor’s sex lives (or fantastical lack thereof) to culminate into one major point: interpersonal connection.

Before we start to get intimate, just a quick warning: this issue contains material that has the potential to evoke discomfort for some of our readers. However, we have taken the time to mark where subject matter may be triggering by acknowledging this on the page prior to the potentially triggering material. We believe that to be truly sex positive is to acknowledge all of aspects of sexuality that our contributors feel they would like to express, even when this expression can be painful.

Thank you to all the contributors who are allowing us to take a glimpse into their sexual, romantic, and intimate lives. And thank you to our E-Board, who put everything they had into this issue. We love you!

With that being said, let’s get down and dirty! Enjoy the 2022 Sex Issue!

With love from your Publisher and Editor,
Amber & KT

add our socials!



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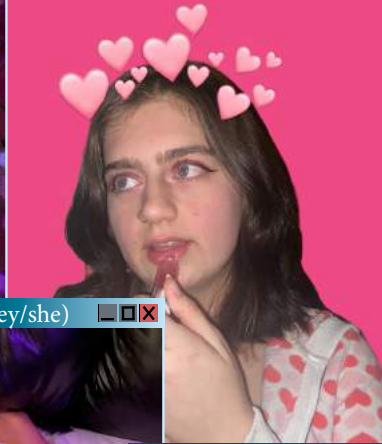
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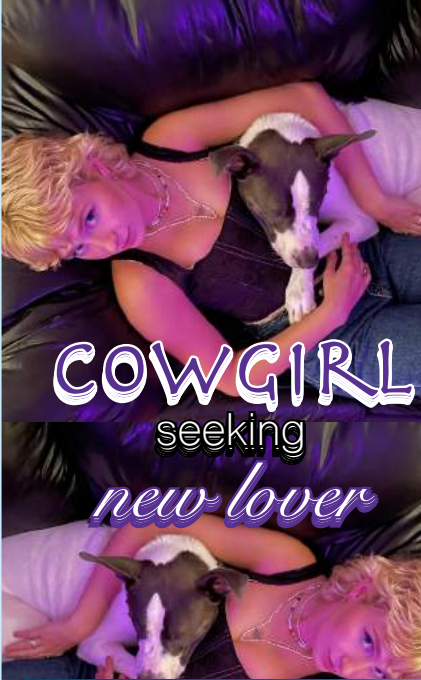
Publisher - Amber Cherichetti (she/they/he)



lonely local
LESBIAN
searching for a
**LONG TIME
LOVER**
Are **YOU** the One???

>>>Click here to find out!<<<

Lead Editor - KT Brooks (they/she)



COWGIRL
seeking
new lover

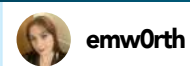
Assistant Editor - Sydney Newton (she/her)

**Homophobes
HATE HER!!!**



>>>CLICK
HERE TO
END OUT
WEY<<<

Treasurer - Emily Worth (she/he/they)



Social Media - Isabelle Krieg (she/her)



GORGEOUS GIRLS?
>>>click here<<<



MEET THE

Layout Editor - Nhat-Dinh Nguyen (she/they)

FRESHMAN GIRL SEEKS D1 ATHLETE

CALL ME 555

\$4.20 / min



VENMO: @nhatdinhngu
INSTA: @nhatdinh.ngu
SNAP: @nhatdinh.ngu

RISK FREE

Layout Editor - Jianna Coichy (she/her)



you're chatting with...

Jianna Coichy

hey

Illustrator - Emily Gangloff (she/they)

This FAIRY GODMOTHER hands out Happily Ever Afters



CERTIFIED FAIRY

Illustrator - Lucas Martinez (he/him)

Illustration Error

Illustration Error

Illustration Error

Illustration Error

OK


Graphic Designer - Lora Kagnovsky (she/they)

she's not like other girls...

FREAKY

near you

GOOT




Will YOU get yours?

RISK FREE!!!

>CLICK HERE!!!

you know you want to...



Photo Editor - Crystal Lin (she/her)

19 year old idealist seeks YA novel romance, will settle for book

CALL ME 3479901851



E-BOARD

Would you like to be informed of numerous resources that are available to you?

On-Campus Resource

Binghamton University Violence, Abuse, and Rape Crisis Center (VARCC)
Located on the third floor of Old Johnson Hall on Binghamton
empower@binghamton.edu

On-Campus Resource

Binghamton University Counseling Center
Phone: 607-777-2772
Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
extension 2 after-hours

Off-Campus Resource

RISE
(Domestic violence emergency housing)
Phone: 607-754-4340

On-Campus Resource

CARE Team
dos@binghamton.edu
Phone: 607-777-2804

On-Campus Resource

Decker Student Health Services Center
Phone: 607-777-2221
health.services@binghamton.edu

Off-Campus Resource

Crime Victims Assistance Center (CVAC)
Phone: (607) 723-3200
Crisis Line: (607) 722-4256

Off-Campus Resource

Southern Tier AIDS Program
122 Baldwin Street, Johnson City, New York 13790
Hotline: (800) 333-0892 Phone: 607-798-1706
www.stapinc.org

On-Campus Resource

Campus Recovery Support Group
busober@binghamton.edu

Off-Campus Resource

Family Planning of South Central New York
117 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY 13901
Phone: 607-723-8306
www.fpscny.org

On-Campus Resource

QCenter
Phone: 607-777-6028
lgbtq@binghamton.edu

On-Campus Resource

Women's Student Union
wsu@binghamtonsa.org

On-Campus Resource

SHADES
shades@binghamtonSA.org

Off-Campus Resource

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
Phone: 800-273-8255

Thank you to our Lead Editor, KT Brooks, for compiling this list of resources!

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by Sydney Newton

Hey there. Let's talk about sex, baby! Or at least, let's talk about talking about sex. Say that three times fast. Anyway, I think everyone comes into college with pre-conceived notions of the "acceptable" way to talk about their sex life, or sex in general. I know I was brought up in a house that really didn't talk about sex too much, other than having "The Talk", and that really awkward time I had to ask my mom about birth control pills. But that's besides the point. I'd like to talk about this other really awkward time last year when my mom, my sister and I were in the hot tub together. We were all just chilling there, listening to music, when all of a sudden my mom asks: "So how's everyone's sex life?". I, quite literally, had no idea what to say. My mother? Asking me about sex? It was completely unexpected. Immediately, my sister dives right in and starts describing everything in great detail. I was dumbfounded. How could she feel so comfortable talking to our mother about sex? When it came to my turn, I just shook my head and said I wasn't too keen on sharing. But why was I so uncomfortable with talking about sex? Wasn't it my own mother asking me?

I think my answer is a lot more complicated than I originally anticipated. When I really think about it, the stigma surrounding sex at a young-ish age has affected my outlook on sex ever since I first had

it. Sex was a scandal in high school-something to mention only to your closest friends, and even then it was taboo. How dare we have sexual awakenings as teens, and act on them! I think this sentiment sort of vanishes when you get to college-all of a sudden everyone is supposed to know everything about sex, and pressured to partake in it. Talk about double standards! Suddenly sex isn't such a crazy topic like it was in high school, but the transition is abrupt and messy. Somewhere along the line, the conversation became acceptable-but where, exactly? I don't think I can answer this question by myself. All I know for sure is that my mom asking me to spill the beans on my sexual ventures in college seemed too much too soon, and I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one who would have reacted that way. This tendency to squirm away from sex as a topic is something that's ingrained in our society- I mean, c'mon, we all read *The Scarlet Letter* in high school. The fact that we still read that book and that it's even somewhat relevant to our current society is pretty sad. What we should be doing is preparing ourselves for the inevitable time when our parents ask us the mortifying question in the hot tub on a random Tuesday night because, sorry everyone, we're all going to experience an awkward encounter like that. Maybe not in a hot tub, but you get my drift.

So how can we talk about sex in a comfortable way when the society we live in still doesn't have free tampon dispensers in every bathroom, still doesn't provide equal access to abortion services; that still teaches such regimented and outdated books like *The Scarlet Letter*? Well, my answer is, we have to consciously acknowledge that the stigma around sex is a societal construct. Trying to ignore the modes of thinking that we were raised on is never easy, but if college has taught me anything worthwhile, it's that there's room for change in all aspects of life. Talking about sex is only uncomfortable if we let it be that way-we've got to discard our reservations about being open and honest about sex. If my mom can ask me about my sex life, I think we're heading in the right direction. Now all that's left is coming to terms with those feelings of discomfort surrounding the conversation, and actively working through them. If I could travel back in time, I think I'd answer my mom's question differently, because why not? Sex is universal-the more we talk about it, the more "normal" the conversation becomes (it was always normal to begin with). I hope that if you've read this far, you feel a little more prepared for those difficult conversations, or at least have the comfort of knowing that somewhere out there, someone is also having an embarrassing encounter with their parents :)

you deserve love

by nhat-dinh nguyen

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whether it be from a friend, a loved one, a partner, or yourself, you deserve a love that looks at you and sees you as the most precious thing in their world. according to the ancient greeks, there are eight types of love – Αγάπη (agape): unconditional love, Έρως (eros): romantic love, Φιλία (philia): affectionate love, Φιλαιτίας (philautia): self-love, Στοργή (storge): familiar love, Πράγμα (pragma): enduring love, Ερωτοτροπία (ludus): playful love, Μανία (mania): obsessive love – , and you deserve all eight types.

agape: unconditional love. you deserve to feel a selfless love for someone. you deserve a love where someone will do anything for you to feel better. maybe not to the extent where you suffer for someone else's happiness, but maybe an *i made you a cake because i know you're sad*, type of love. an *i'll sit here with you all night so you aren't alone*, type of love.

eros: romantic love. you deserve a love full of passion and desire. you deserve an *i can't wait to see you in that*, type of love. an *i can't wait to see you out of that*, type of love. an *i can't stop thinking about last night*, type of love. an *i can't wait until i see you ;)* type of love

philia: affectionate love. you deserve a platonic love. you deserve an *i thought about you when i saw this*, type of love. an *i saw you walking to class and you look SO good*, type of love. a *don't worry! i'll go to target with you!* even though you know they went last night, type of love. you deserve a *surprise! i got you your favorite ice cream* when you never actually told them your favorite ice cream, they just knew, type of love.

philautia: self-love. you deserve self love. you deserve to look in the mirror and have a *damn i look good*, type of love. you deserve an *i'm choosing peace*, type of love. you deserve to fulfill your own needs. you deserve an *i love myself*, type of love. you deserve to love yourself. you deserve to love being yourself.

storge: familiar love. you deserve a strong kinship-like bond with someone. you deserve a love you can rely on. whether it be with a best friend, a mentor, or yourself, you deserve to know that love will always be there. you deserve an older sibling, type of love. you deserve a *i feel like i've known you my whole life*, type of love.

pragma: enduring love. you deserve a long, matured love. you deserve a grown love. a *friends-to-lovers -arc*, type of love. a *silently studying together*, type of love. a *we're not getting anything done this study session*, type of love. you deserve someone who knows your comfort food, comfort music, comfort everything, but you know, not in a creepy way. an *i don't know when i fell in love with you, maybe i've always been falling for you and i just now noticed*, type of love.

ludus: playful love. you deserve to feel butterflies in your stomach. you deserve an *i can't wait until i see you again ;)* type of love. you deserve an *i can talk to you all night*, type of love.

mania: obsessive love. now, mania is not necessarily a good type of love. but on a scaled-down, not so extreme version, you deserve an *i'll do anything for you*, type of love. you deserve a *you're always on my mind, and i don't mind if you stay there*, type of love.

you deserve to experience all of these types of love, you also deserve to have someone experience all of these types of love from you. i know it may be tough sometimes to think you deserve love, but you do. you do.

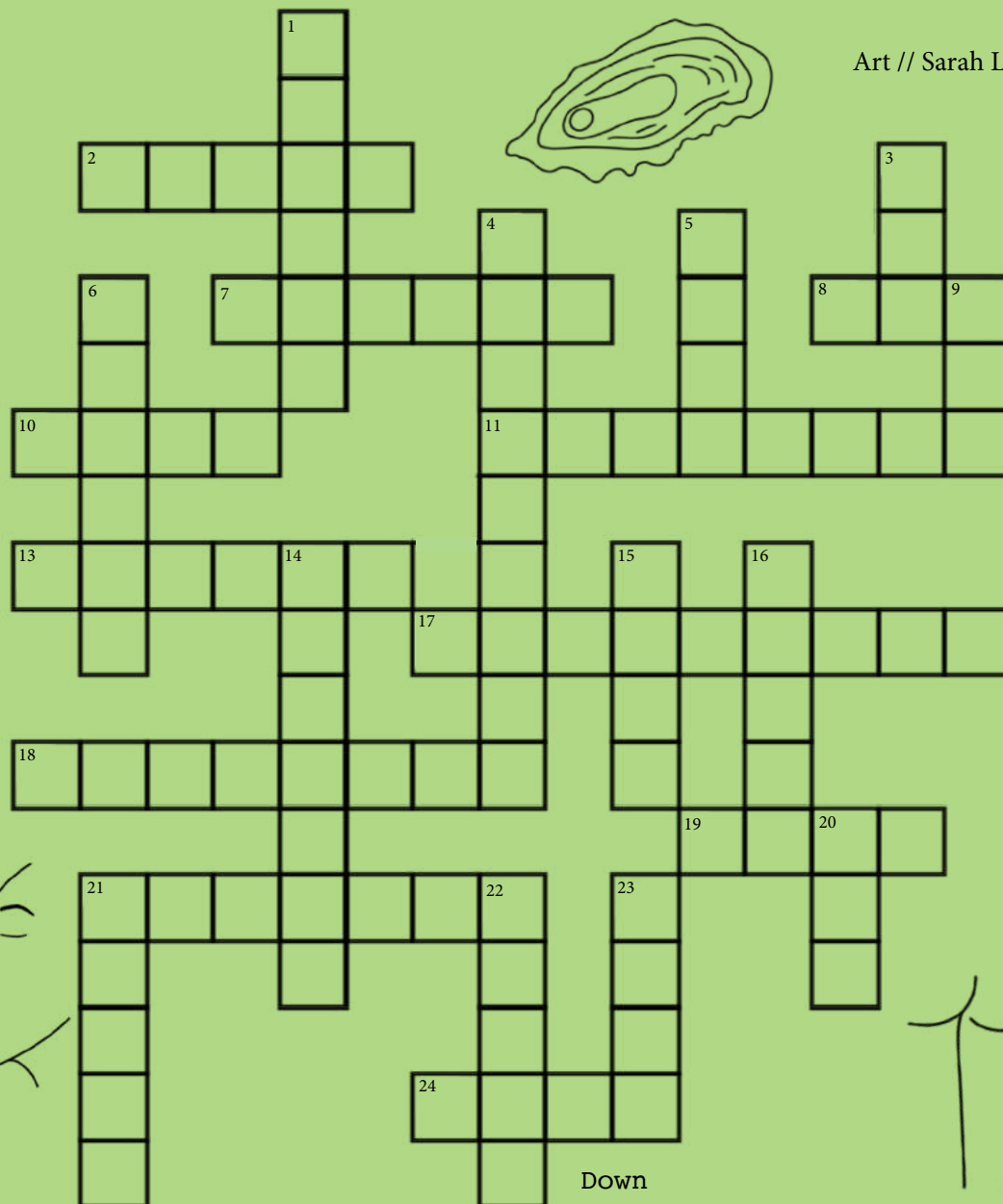
How Well Do You Know Queer Lingo?

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Art // Sarah Ludvigsen



Across

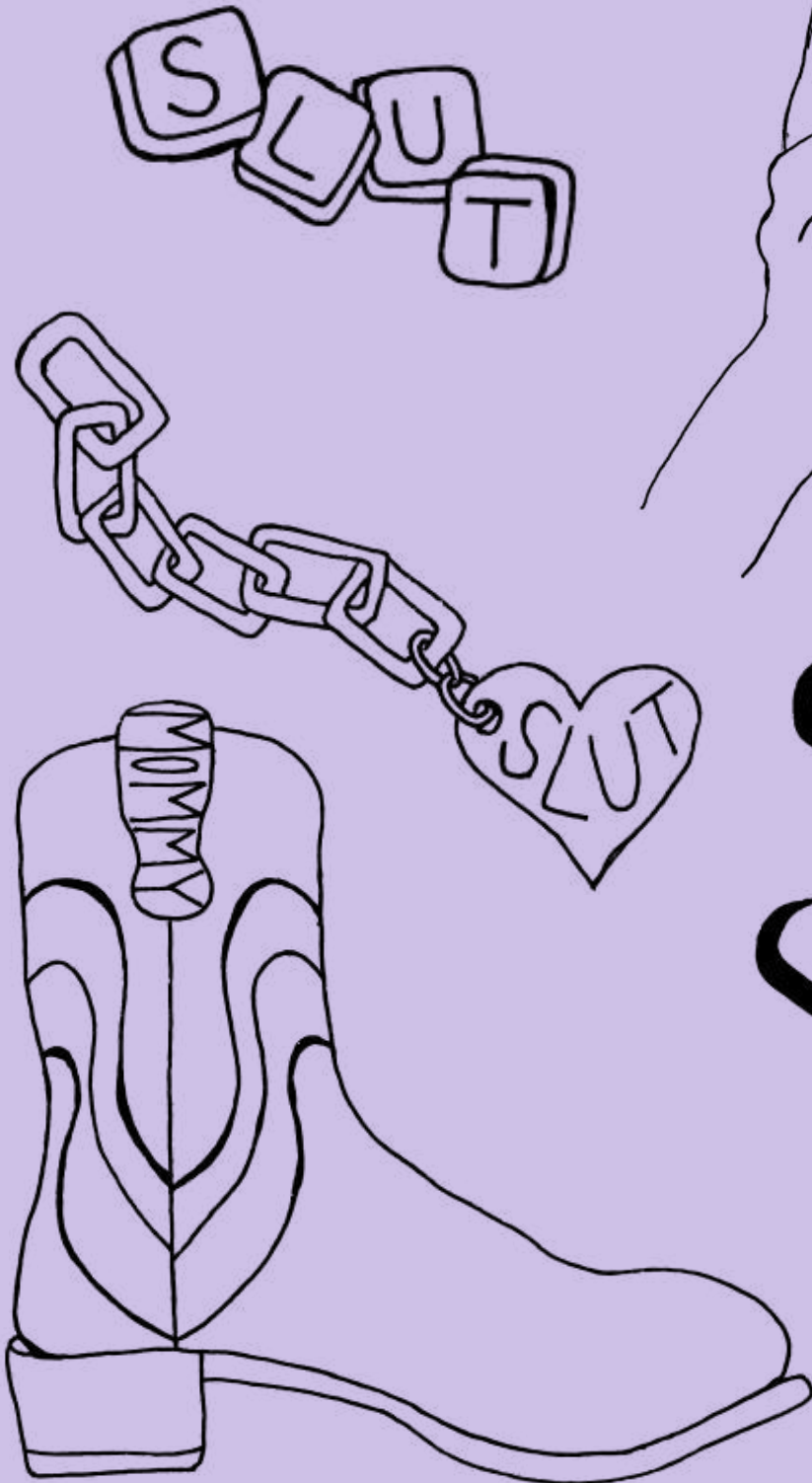
- 2 lgbTqia+
 7 under 8 across
 8 above 7 across
 10 backdoor
 11 it's seen some shit
 13 ex. foot, exhibition, ...
 17 under arrest ;)
 18 did someone order a pizza with extra sausage?
 19 going down
 21 _____ discharge
 24 a specific turn-on

Down

- 1 wrap it up
 3 nonromantic (abr.)
 4 could use they/them pronouns
 5 invisible to men
 6 possible 3rd base
 9 sometimes done with a strap-on
 14 WLW & a kind of stanza
 15 acronym (B is bondage)
 16 lgbtQia+
 20 doesn't experience sexual attraction (slang)
 21 adaptable
 22 the lips
 23 ___ & ball torture roleplay

Answers: Page 21

**HAVE YOU BEEN WANTING A
NEW TATTOO, BUT DON'T KNOW
WHAT THIS NEW
TATTOO WILL BE??**



**FEEL FREE TO USE THESE
TATTOO IDEAS ONE OF
OUR
ILLUSTRATORS,
EMILY GANGLOFF,
DESIGNED!**

sex survey.

we asked and over 200 of you answered!

campus hookups

- 45 of you said bathroom.
- 30 of you said car on campus.
- 27 of you said nature preserve.
- 16 of you said Bartle library.
- 7 of you said lecture hall.
- 7 of you said classroom.
- 6 of you said dining hall.

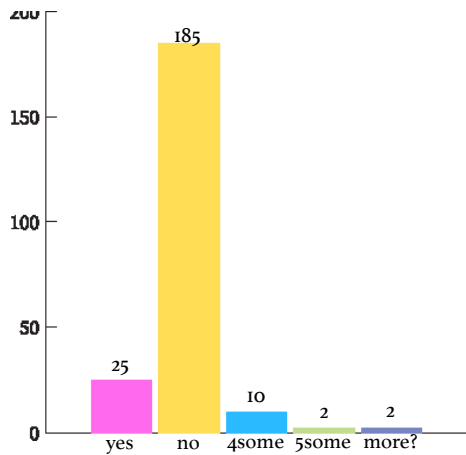
dating apps

- 126 of you said tinder.
- 57 of you said hinge.
- 49 of you said bumble.
- 20 of you said other.
- 17 of you said grindr
- 6 of you said farmers only.

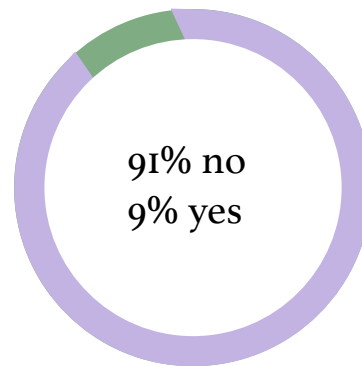
virtual sex

- 132 of you said sexting.
- 118 of you said sending pics.
- 75 of you said facetime.
- 62 of you said you don't :).
- 23 of you said love letters.
- 2 of you said sending videos.
- 1 of you said discord.

have you ever had a threesome?



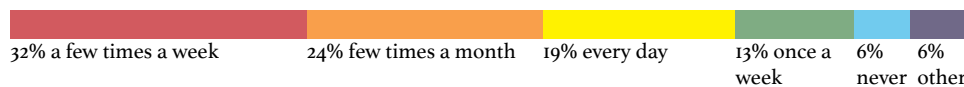
have you ever participated in sex work?



we wanted to see how freaky our readers are ... the answer is very ... here's some of your favorite kinks!

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| choking | being dominated | orgasm control/torture | alpha-beta-omega |
| BDSM | spitting | consensual non-consent | slapping |
| piss | cum | tickling | foot worship |
| spanking | masochism | ears | dirty talk |
| hands | whimpering and crying | daddy/mommy | begging |
| eye contact | knifeplay | outdoor play | primal play |
| praise | ropeplay | handcuffs | pet play |
| degradation | temperature play | blindfolds | scratching |
| orgies | hair-pulling | squirting | hypnosis |
| biting | talking in my ear | threesomes | all of the above |

how often do you masturbate?



we asked you guys how you identify... here is almost every unique answer we received!

- bisexual
- straight
- queer
- pansexual
- bicurious
- gay man
- I'm me bro
- butch trans polyam lesbian
- trans & queer
- queer masc non-binary
- lesbian girlboy
- genderfluid bisexual
- demisexual
- genderqueer femme
- genderqueer pansexual
- trans bisexual
- non-binary asexual (??) lesbian
- trans non-binary bisexual
- queer woman
- lesbian
- queer !! gender is ?
- she/they pansexual
- homosexual cisman
- polyamorous, queer, and cis male
- straight but questioning
- pansexual trans-woman
- transmasculine lesbian
- gay
- lesbian and gender-questioning
- I'm a member of a system. We identify publicly as genderfluid and bisexual but different headmates have different genders and sexualities.
- demiromantic non-binary

what is your funniest hookup story? spill the tea...

13

I was hooking up with a guy and he fell asleep with his ass in the air while eating me out. Call that pussy nyquil.

He told me to say his name and I said "is it Jake or Jack sorry I forgot" and he said it was Ryan.

One time I had morning sex with a guy in the bottom bunk after a one night stand and then i leaned out of the bed to get my clothes and made eye contact with his roommate who was on the top bunk. WE DID NOT KNOW HE WAS THERE.

Hookup. Oneida Suite bathroom during a dorm party. Someone walked in while a thumb was in my ass.

I hooked up with a guy in a movie theater with frozen playing in the background lol.

one time i had sex at a park and there was a family cooking hotdogs right next to us

Was working at cvs on Thanksgiving night with my boyfriend (we work together) and we closed the entire store for a half hour to have sex in the office.

Hooked up with a guy freshman year and left early in the morning. Apparently when he woke up his bed sheets were gone, he told everyone he knew that I stole his bed sheets (I did not). I'm now a senior and someone JUST told me that I'm known as bed sheet stealer.

the first time i squirted it was BUCKETS.... it was so unexpected I let out a lame little "whoawhoawhoa"

One time I was fucking my soon to be boyfriend in his best friend's apartment and mid-fuck an entire bat swooped down and we screamed and ran away fully naked and tried to catch it for like an hour.

One of my hookups loved the way I smelt. He licked my armpits. It was a little weird but I vibed with it.

Went down, on my then boyfriend, while he wore those glasses that have mirrors in them so you see at a 90 degree angle.... so he could watch me give head while he laid down I on the other hand couldn't stop laughing bc he looked so fucking ridiculous

i once apologized to someone bc i was taking a long time to cum 🙄

I went to my hook up's (now boyfriend's) formal and got too drunk off the open bar and peed his bed. Left early in the morning and didn't tell him until over a year later and he somehow had no idea.

He farted in my face when giving him a blowjob.

Right after we hooked up I jokingly asked him if he has any gogurts in his fridge. the next time we hooked up, he pulled out 4 boxes of spongebob gogurts and threw them at me.

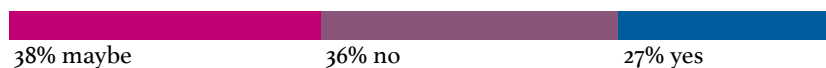
My step-mom came home while we were having sex and I had to talk to her while he kept going.

I've gotten THREE nose bleeds while going down before. Still never realize until they finish and I look up and they are terrified because my face is covered in blood.

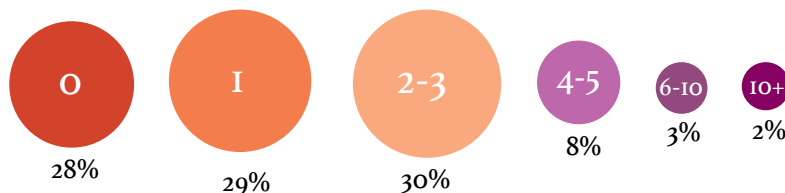
Tried having sex in the shower, didn't work so well, so next moved to the sink, which wasn't quite structurally sound, instead laid a towel on the cold tile floor and went at it there. Ahh the joys of dorm living...

Spent 3 minutes trying to open the fucking lube bottle.

do you believe in the concept of virginity?



how many sex toys do you own?



if you use sex toys, what's your go to?

- 138 of you said vibrator.
- 39 of you said dildo.
- 19 of you said other.
- 17 of you said butt plug.
- 12 of you said nipple toys.
- 11 of you said cock ring.
- 5 of you said anal beads.

USING SEX RADICALLY: Novels That Show Us The Ropes

by KT Brooks

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***Public Sex: The Culture of Radical Sex* by Pat Calafia**

Let's start out with what I would like to call my bible of radical sex. It would be impossible for me to overstate how in love I am with this book. Ask any of the MANY people I have begged to read it, and you'll get a good idea of the extent to which I worship this godly gift. With chapters entitled "Whoring in Utopia", "Love and The Perfect Sadist", and "Playing with Roles and Reversals", Calafia explores a variety of provocative topics in relation, but not limited to, sexual autonomy, S/M practices, lesbian sexualities, etc....The best aspect of this book is that it not only will inform you on topics you're presumably already enthralled by, but additionally will likely turn you on to topics you've never even dreamed of. If you're only able to open one book on this list, I urge you to open this one. You'll thank me later.

***Gender(s)* by Kathryn Bond Stockton**

Gender(s) is part of an Essential Knowledge Series which aims to equip readers with small and accessible readings related to topics of current interest. In the words of Stockton herself, this book explores why "gender is strange, even when it's played straight, and how race and money are two of its most dramatic ingredients". The best part? Stockton will have you on campus laughing out loud about why gender is so goddamn fucked.



Art // Lucas Martinez

***Trans Girl Suicide Museum* by Hannah Baer**

Now most of the readings on this list are rather academically dense in nature. However, I know that my propensity for heavy topics is one that could be given a break every now and again. So, to our rescue comes Hannah Baer and her work entitled *Trans Girl Suicide Museum*. Now I know what you're thinking; "that doesn't sound much like a light read". You're just going to have to trust me on this one folks. Although it might not be the most painless of material, the comfort Baer's memoir provides is cathartic and comes from knowing there is someone out there who understands the many nuances that come with queer life. In case you're still not convinced, I will conclude with a line from her book which I am fairly confident will have you hooked. It reads; "I have this urge to text Lilly and tell her that I have a crush on her. I have this urge to text Lily and tell her that even if she doesn't want to ever hang out with me, is it OK if I write her love letters?". See, I wasn't wrong, was I? You want to read it now.

***We Will Not Cancel Us* by Adrienne Maree Brown**

Lastly, this brings us to Adrienne Maree Brown's *We Will Not Cancel Us*, which maps out emergent strategies towards transformative justice and loving relations. As put by Charlene Caruthers, author of *Unapologetic* (another fantastic read), "*We Will Not Cancel Us* acknowledges humanity while inviting us to become more discerning, loving and rigorous for the sake of collective liberation". In this remarkably accessible book, one you may even be able to fit in a pocket to whip out as needed, Brown looks at mechanisms for addressing violence.

Most critiques of cancel culture come from outside the communities which often gain safety and power from it. Brown, on the other hand, occupies many of these black, queer and feminist spaces. *We Will Not Cancel Us* comforts those of us who have found sanctuary within a culture of cancelation; emphasizing the ways cancel culture has provided a pathway for addressing harm and abuse. Beyond this though, Brown asks how we can seek accountability and redress for harm in ways that reflect our values and rest somewhere past a culture which too, can cause undue harm; an essential question if we are to move towards collective liberation.

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to kiss an angel
by Katherine Quinn

Art // Emily Gangloff



to kiss an angel
to never feel shame
to be a sexless, shapeless Madonna in a potato sack.
to birth a legion
to be His whore
to wait for dynasties, the lonesome Cleopatra collapsed upon her throne of vipers.
to be thrown heart first into the auction, for the highest bidder to do with as he pleases.
to be penetrated in all orifices by the daggers of judgmental stares, flung by the thousands.
to dance on his feet like a child, swung over his shoulder, tossed about like a sack of blood money
to become overnight performance art, the unwitting, unwilling subject to voyeurs.
to kiss an angel in a place so unforgiving
is as likely as a camel passing through the eye of a needle,
or a man paying respect
to the very thing from which he came.

ragdoll.
by Katherine Quinn



Art // Lucas Martinez

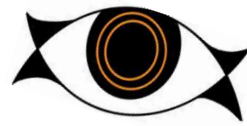
One day you'll come home to me,
And I will be something soft and silky and easy to come home to, and I won't even have to try.
Together we will coalesce, folding into one another, intertwined as asp or adder
You'll play with my hair and I'll ask how your day was,
And we will both be fine.
Like we never thought we'd be.
The needle on the record player will glide gracefully, eeking out our elegy.
And the quietus of night will cast a pall over us.
I'll watch the muted television shine a pale light on your face.
But you won't smile at me. And I won't smile at you. Because our love is not a simple thing.
It is the sadness in your laughter when you hold me.
It is the blood red bleakness of all that became of the needle and thread we used to mend each other's
gaping holes.

So sew me up sartorially tonight, and I'll lick the thread and thread the needle
And you can bite me when it hurts.
And when we're done, we'll heave a heavy sigh.
And fall asleep gazing at the pair of sloppy ragdolls propped up on the dusty shelf.
Covered in cobwebs and bound together,
Waiting for us to come home, one day.

Content Warning: The piece found on the following page explores topics of sexual violence. The wood-cut print is overlaid on top of tape used to seal sexual assault forensic kits. The original print measures over two feet in width and the figures were carved into wood, inked, and transferred onto the tape.







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conjuring a **NEW** cinematic language in *THE LOVE WITCH*

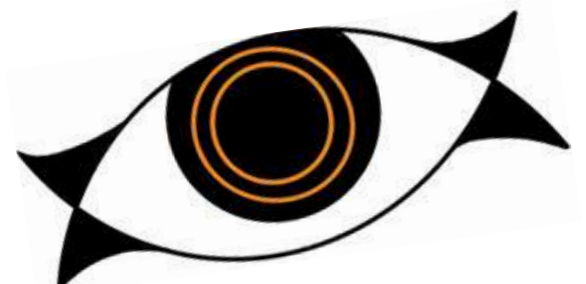
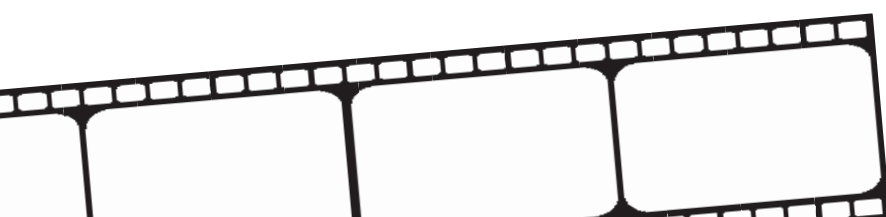
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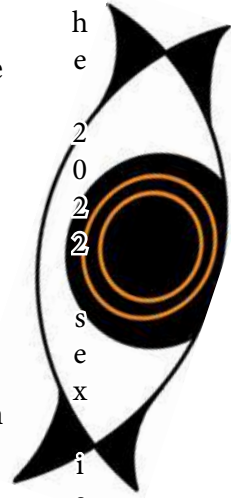
What is the female gaze? Last summer, TikToks featuring flowy dresses, yonic fruits, and close-ups of hands purported to give you the rundown. However, it's a little more complex than a Tumblr photoset. The female gaze is a direct counter to the male gaze, which objectifies female characters in service of a white, cisgender, heterosexual male spectator, who projects his own fantasies onto the viewing experience. Aesthetically, this comes across via frequent ass shots and poorly written women that function as eye candy (cue sigh of exasperation). Fat women and women of color face an additional mode of dehumanization when narratives punish them for existing outside of racist and fatphobic beauty standards. Generally, a woman exists solely in service of a male protagonist's character development; her emotional labor changes him for the better, or she dies so that he can exact revenge. In stories that utilize the male gaze, men get to be multifaceted humans who are compelling to watch, and women get to help them be that way.

Even a dimensional or "unconventional" female character can fall prey to the male gaze. If she's "tough," she was taught everything she knows by her older brothers. If she cries, she sheds two tears and her mascara remains intact. Thus, simply writing "strong female characters" is not enough--a new cinematic language must be forged! The task seems insurmountable, as artists don't exist in bubbles, and often subconsciously draw upon misogynistic works. And what would the female gaze even look like? It's not as easy as resolving to remove the male gaze from a film; women's desires (and, I would argue, those of the theys and gays) have to be actively serviced. There are few directors who explicitly aim to employ the female gaze. One of these few is Anna Biller, director of *The Love Witch* (2016). If your current flick list only has space for one witchy movie, I implore you to make it this one.

In the film, Elaine Parks is struggling to come to terms with the way her relationship with her abusive ex-husband ended. She copes by adopting the philosophy of the local witch coven: Give [cishet] men what they want, and then they'll love you. At first glance, witchy packaging gives the tired sexist rhetoric a deceptive sheen of empowerment, if only due to witchcraft's feminist associations. However, in this film, Elaine's coven is a mouthpiece for broader society's harmful perceptions surrounding gender and romance. Gahan, the leader of Elaine's coven, believes that "men and women are different, and that true equality lies in those differences." His assertion that a woman's "greatest power" comes from her sexuality is a poorly disguised attempt to uphold a patriarchal status quo, and traumatized women like Elaine have been groomed to accept it.

"Giving men what they want" is hard work, as it turns out. In addition to never being seen without impeccable makeup, color-coordinated outfits, and extravagant jewelry, Elaine devotes hours to performing love spells in hopes of snagging a prince. She cooks mouth-watering steaks for her beaus, and wipes away their tears when they're distraught over romantic wounds stemming from their beliefs that women can't be both smart and attractive--a conundrum that lies in stark contrast to Elaine's apparent PTSD. As you might guess, in Biller's world, all men are caricatures of the worst toxically masculine misogynists we know in real life. Sex-obsessed, terrified of emotionality, and wholly incapable of taking care of themselves, they adore Elaine for being their "ideal woman" without comprehending how much they ask of her. In order to produce this level of desire, Elaine is exceedingly competent in the emotional, social, and domestic realms, commitments that consume her.





If the men in Elaine’s life are oblivious to the immense amount of effort she exerts, Biller’s film is not. In many movies, we have to accept that women are ~women~. They exit the vaginal canal fully-formed, complete with salon blowouts, lip gloss, and pore-smoothing software. Their armpits are always shaved, even when they’re trapped on a spaceship with a deadly extraterrestrial. It’d be unrealistic to assume they spend hours primping themselves off camera, so we accept fantasy versions of women as representative of our experiences. In other words, we contend with the “male gaze.” Not so in *The Love Witch*; Elaine is never seen without a full face of makeup, but we see its application process. At one point, she removes her wig, and we see that her natural hair is much shorter and thinner than we assumed. These moments acknowledge conventional notions of beauty as artifices that take time and effort to fabricate. The film’s reframing of stereotypically feminine activities as laborious art extends beyond grooming; we watch Elaine cook a delicious meal and work on various crafts, spells, and potions, reminiscent of the domestic work women are often expected to perform thanklessly.

Like Elaine, Biller herself is a multi-talented artist who fills the screen with her handiwork. She stitched many of the film’s costumes, painted the artwork lining Elaine’s walls, and spent six months hooking a rug that appears in one scene. Her painstaking efforts service the female gaze, too. Aesthetically, cishet men tend to be content with seeing women’s bodies on-screen, but women and queer folk often appreciate having myriad sources of visual pleasure. A focus on aesthetics that are fabricated by Elaine in-universe also evokes the male gaze’d woman of lesser films, who seems perfectly put together on the surface because of her beauty and abilities. The difference is that, rather than serving a cishet male spectator, Elaine’s cosmetic devotions are indicative of her male gaze-derived belief that love is conditional on her hyper-conformance to femininity. Biller’s humanization of Elaine not only transcends the male gaze; it highlights its psychologically harmful nature.

The Love Witch is by no means perfect. For one, while addressing patriarchal values that enforce a male/female duality, it neglects to acknowledge non-binary gender identities. Additionally, the nuanced ways in which people of color experience these dichotomies is left thoroughly underdeveloped. Although the genre is often lauded for its feminist undertones, folk horror films tend to prioritize the white experience and adhere to gender essentialist tropes. *The Love Witch* fails to break from this norm and is therefore concerned with expressions of femininity and modes of empowerment that are most accessible for cis white women. Its merit however—the refashioning of an art form that has been overrun in the mainstream with misogynistic messaging—makes it a film that you cannot miss. Admittedly, I do not think I could count my viewings of the film on two hands, but I also have never watched the same movie twice. I come back to it expecting to slurp out some final dregs of meaning only to be overwhelmed by a tidal wave. My first viewing reoriented my experience of film in general, but so did my second, third, and eighth. So again, I invite you to stream *The Love Witch*. Even if it turns out not to be your cup of witch’s brew, you can always kick back and appreciate the handmade dresses.

by rosa sick



20 Dear Sarah,

t I went to that crystal shop that you told me about where you said you bought the rose quartz
h and the peppermint oil that makes your nose run.

e How is that new relationship by the way?

2 When I went in the clerk greeted me and asked if I needed help looking for anything
0 but I told him I was fine. I did my research.

2 The strong scent of incense was revolting yet somehow influential, magnetizing.

2 I probably could've spent all day there but I love my itinerary and my google calendar too much.
We'll have to go together one day, on the rare occasion we're both free.

s When was that?

e I went straight to the clear bins that were filled to the brim with shiny, sparkly, hypnotizing crystals.

x I put gloves on and picked them accordingly, precisely, trying not to mess with the energies at play.
You told me to avoid hematite, right?

i Well, regardless, I did and I dove into the carnelian.

s Rusty and burnt it looked like fall in my hands:

s crunchy leaves and earl gray tea, patterned tights and back to school season.

u The internet told me that soldiers used to wear it

e when they went into battle back in the mythological days,
for courage and confidence that would help make them look up from the ground when they walked.

I also bought raw cut citrine that's so very jagged.

The smooth lemon-drop-like ones seemed too clean-cut. I need something that can withstand a lot,
something strong, like we always were for each other.

Remember skipping rocks together?

Citrine is suppose to ease the soul and relax you

the way we used to sit in the sunshine and read together.

The book I'm currently reading is about a girl who takes so many pills she sleeps through an entire year.

She feels reborn at the end, and all her problems are solved.

Can you imagine taking a year off to just do nothing?

Waking up and your phone is overrun with missed texts and calls?

I wish that were plausible, but I'm not a petite blond heiress with a best friend who checks up on her
even when she says not to with a therapist who prescribes her every drug under the sun.

Though I do often think about your idea of melting my melatonin down in my Zolofit
to make a nerds-rope of sleep aid.

They don't really work anyways.

I don't sleep.

When I do, I dream about missing assignments and office hours.

What did you say you use to help you sleep? Lavender?

Or was it something muskier, like frankincense?

I should've bought some at the shop.

I'll just go back.

Maybe you'll be available and maybe we can get more crystals.

I want to stare at them all of the time but I keep them in the bottom of my backpack,
thrown to its underbelly with old notes, a broken polaroid, and wrappers we've shared

so I always have them with me when I go to war.

by Chelsea Cohn

Waiting For The Tide

by Carson Chen

The question reverberates in my head
 When the tide rushes over my body
 And I'm no longer holding my gracious innocence in the palm of my hands
 No longer shall I anticipate
 As the lascivious sea awaits

Is womanhood worth the wait?
 The wait that feels like a century-long
 The wait that might mark past my second decade
 Will I be invigorated once more as this salacious pneuma? I wonder to myself.
 When the flower wilts with time and the petals turn brown,
 Will I be desirable then or will I sit as the leaves in my garden corrode in shame?

In my fantasies alone,
 My eminence charming would whisk me off my feet,
 Take me to bed and kiss away all my contemplation.
 But this is reality
 And I'll wait for them to find me
 Keep their warmth close to my heart
 And wait for their tide to reach my waters

How Well Do You Know Queer Lingo? Answers



Art // Lucas Martinez

22 decolonizing sex: an overview

t *This is in no way a fully comprehen-
h sive depiction of polyamory. Rather,
e this functions as a non-exhaustive
2 disruption to settler-colonial sexuality
0 through the utilization of non-monoga-
2 my and informed by Dr. Kim Tallbear*

2 Despite the fact it is now 2022, and
2 there have been many social shifts in
2 our culture, sex remains a somewhat
s taboo topic when it comes to casual
e conversation. Although sex is a com-
x pletely ordinary inclination, and per-
i formed by a large percentage of the
s population, the puritanical code still
s permeates many aspects of our soci-
u ety; even today when religion is less
e obviously omnipresent than it used
to be. Participating in discussions
surrounding sex is absolutely neces-
sary. Sex is often a vulnerable and
emotional expression that frequently
involves more than one person. Be-
cause of this, communication and
consent are always of utmost impor-
tance. Moreover, sex is not merely a
fun activity, sex is also a construct - a
concept that has been ideologically
molded by our colonial-settler culture.

It is important to understand the dif-
ference between polyamory, in the
mainstream sense, and polyamory as
a means of liberation. These concepts
are all laid out by Sisseton Wahpeton
Oyate Tribe member Dr. Kim Tallbear,
on a podcast I highly recommend
entitled "All My Relations". Dr. Tall-
bear identifies as polyamorous, but
in an often more encompassing and
anti-colonial trajectory than many
who are familiar with polyamory can
find themselves being in close prox-
imity to. Queerness itself is far from
impervious to the influences of colo-
nialism, and most romantic relation-
ships, queer or otherwise, continue
to follow the same script: monogamy.

Within this podcast, and much of Dr.
Tallbear's work, she talks about her
initial interest in polyamorous cir-
cles leading her to what seemed like
"white people stuff": not having any
kind of emphasis on actual critical
thinking about polyamory and its re-

lation to liberation. Mainstream poly-
amory, Tallbear explains, is often a
shallow concept, focusing on issues
like managing jealousy and time.
Tallbear's conception of polyamory
delves much deeper and revolves
around the liberation of bodies. The
concept of "ownership" - one that al-
ready proves problematic - becomes
even more complicated when applied
to the human body. "Compulsory mo-
nogamy," or the idea of monogamy
being imposed by the state, has al-
ways been a part of American history.
A potent example of this imposition in
relation to indigenous communities is
the Dawes Act of 1887. This act stole
tribal land and allocated individual al-
lotments to indigenous peoples in or-
der to convert them into the imperial-
ist ideal of "responsible farmers." Men
who had wives and children would be
allocated more land than those who
did not, providing an economic incen-
tive to engage in monogamy. In white
society particularly, conceptualizing
an alternative reality that does not re-
volve around relations of ownership
would perhaps manifest much differ-
ently than what some are used to.

Dr. Tallbear does not want to dictate
the boundaries to which others adhere
their feelings to. Tallbear explains, "I
will not own my lovers. I refuse. It is
not my business who they look at and
who they like and who they desire, re-
ally it's about what have we agreed to
and how are we treating one another".
Operating on this concept creates a
reality where sleeping with other peo-
ple can be an open conversation with
your partner/s, rather than an unfor-
givable betrayal. Dr. Tallbear affirms
that she does not like the connotation
that follows words such as "adultery"
or "cheating". Rather than immedi-
ately dismissing these concepts as
negative, Tallbear instead critically in-
vestigates "anything that undermines
settler marriage and monogamy". It
is important to understand that Dr.
Tallbear is commenting on cheating
as a concept, rather than focusing on
individual cases. Within Dr. Tallbear's
conception of polyamory, polyamor-

ists have a very comprehensive un-
derstanding of consent and condemn
its manipulation. Tallbear insists that
"cheating ... is not the problem but
the symptom of the real problem,
which is compulsory monogamy".

If you find yourself having a viscer-
ally uncomfortable reaction to the
thought of non-monogamy, ask your-
self if maybe this response could
be fueled by your own proximities
to what has been non-consensual
non-monogamy; something that ac-
tually acts as an antithesis to true
non-monogamy in which partners
are enthusiastically participant in.
Consider questioning if consensual
forms of these relations could even
provide pathways towards cathar-
tic healing from dishonest relations.

Obviously, I do not expect every per-
son that reads this article, or listens
to this podcast (which you definitely
should for a much more in-depth con-
versation), to become a polyamorist.
Dr. Tallbear's insights however, are
important nonetheless. Tallbear em-
phasizes that asking people if they're
single or married is an oppressive
question - one that is used to pass
judgment and evaluate the "level"
of life a person has reached. Ident-
ifying as "single" or "coupled up" is
completely arbitrary since we are all
in multitudes of relationships at all
times, all of which are influencing us.
We are never truly alone or "single"
in this life. And even in standard mo-
nogamous relationships, we all need
to keep ourselves grounded and re-
mind ourselves that our partners are
their own people with feelings and
thoughts just as complex as our own.
To be in good relation with others not
only benefits oneself, but also any
relationship as a whole. Regardless
of whether you practice monogamy
or polyamory, ownership does not
belong in any healthy relationship.

by Lora Kaganovsky

HOW I RECLAIMED MY SEXUALITY AFTER A BREAKUP - AND HOW YOU CAN TOO! 23

by Gabby Lipkin

In the words of the wonderful Jules from Euphoria, the best thing to do after a breakup is to stop dwelling and catch a dick.

At first, I thought this logic was absolutely ridiculous. I had exited a tumultuous and wildly toxic nine-month relationship over winter break. It was a rather upsetting and messy breakup, and as I would bawl my eyes out in my bed for the five millionth time, I thought to myself, God, I'll never have sex ever again. At the time, nothing could ever compare to the sweet, sweet touch of my ex's unhygienic, abusive hands.

Two weeks later I downloaded Tinder.

Suddenly, people were telling me I was pretty. Suddenly, people were telling me how badly they wanted me. Suddenly, I had a random 23-year-old man's frighteningly blurry dick pics haunting my Instagram DMs.

When I arrived back on campus, my arsenal of Tinder matches continued to expand. The first Friday back, I went to a small kickback with my friends and someone I had befriended from Tinder. We drank. We smoked. We laid in each other's arms and when he looked at me with his nose brushing mine and finally kissed me, I thought, Oh. This is wonderful.

The next day, I went out again with my best friend and yet another Tinder match. We drank. He kissed me. The second he left, I kissed someone else. Twice. And while those kisses were messy and gross and fueled by 12 vodka gummy bears, three shots, two shotgunned beers, and a tequila cranberry, it felt liberating. Freeing. My body had been something possessed, something owned, something fully belonging to my ex. But at that moment, with my mouth on some random kid's, and his hands gripping my ass flesh with a weirdly aggressive passion, I had never felt more like my own person.

That's the funny thing about the healing process— it's always different for everyone. There's not one specific way to heal. And when you're in a relationship, especially a long term one, it can be really difficult to allow yourself intimacy again. When your body is mapped out by the same person over and over again, there's a sense of belonging. Not as in being part of something, but almost as in being owned. So when you're thrust away from this person that holds your body, that owns your body, it can definitely be scary.

But it doesn't have to be scary at all. You simply need to take things at your own pace. It's okay to start with kisses, and nothing more. It's okay to jump right in and fuck a hundred people until your ex feels like nothing more than a bad dream. And it's okay to not want to do any of that at all. However, you might! We're human. Often, we're wild, sexual beings (unless you're ace. Then you may not be, and that's okay!). Your ex can't, and shouldn't, stop you from reclaiming ownership of your body. They can't stop you from kissing or fucking whoever the hell you want to.

And you can say to yourself a thousand times, God, I never want to have sex again, and yet you'll find yourself kissing a Tinder guy on the couch of your common room, or you'll make out with two randoms at a party, and when you're reeling from the heat of those moments, you'll think to yourself that maybe Jules was right.

Catch a dick (or a vagina!) yes, but take your time. When you're ready, the dicks and vaginas of the world will be waiting.



Eggs on
Single
3 pancakes
lv