



 The  
sex  
issue



**Hey Cutie!**

**Thanks for joining us! We've always had a little crush on you, and if you're up for it we think it's time to get sexy, kinky, and carefree!**

**Though we don't usually pick favorites, the Sex Issue is objectively our favorite issue of the year. And hey, we love doing the sexy photoshoots as much as the next person, but this issue is about much more than that. This issue is really about the dialogue that we're opening, because nothing is more fun for us than talking about the people, places, and things that make us feel sexy and loved.**

**Before we get too hot and bothered we'd like to thank every writer who contributed to this issue—we know it isn't always easy to let readers into your mind, your bedroom, or your pants. We'd also like to give an extra special thank you to our wonderful e-board, who worked their hardest to get this issue out before Valentine's Day. We truly got lucky with all of you!**

**Hopefully this issue gives you the tips, tricks, laughs, and reassurance that you need to feel sexier than ever.**

**XOXO,**

***Lulia and Hamena***

**The beautiful full-color version of this issue is available on [binghamtonfreepress.com](http://binghamtonfreepress.com)!**

**Want to write, draw, or sprinkle glitter with us? Contact [editor@bufreepress.com](mailto:editor@bufreepress.com) to inquire about getting involved!**



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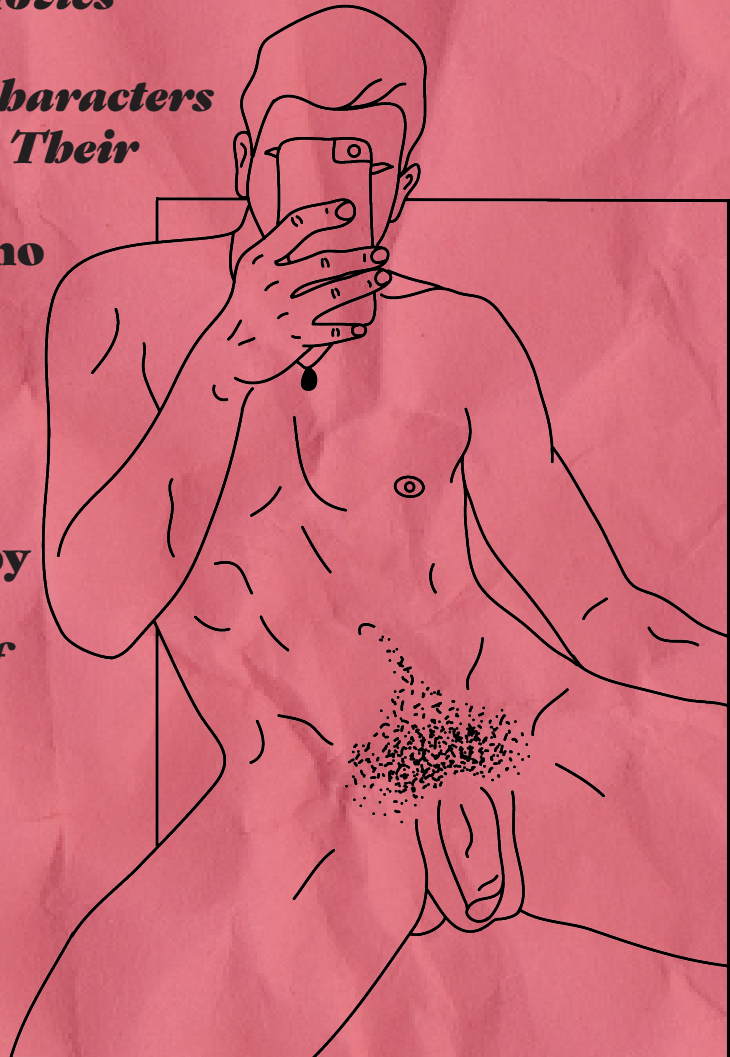


**social media**



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# did you know? by plamena diulgerova

## Condoms & Lube

**Condoms** (ONE brand, LifeStyles, sometimes Trojans) and **water-based lube** packets are available at Decker Health Services (located up the road from Dickinson and across CIW) in all of the RA offices on campus. Lube makes everything better, and even if you think you don't need it or haven't used it before, it can take a lot of pressure off of you and your sexual partner, or just you alone, by ensuring smooth sailing, and often can increase arousal by decreasing even the most miniscule amount of friction. Keep in mind that only **water-based** or **silicone-based lubes** (like Astroglide and KY Jelly) can be used with latex or non-latex (polyisoprene) condoms, because **oil-based lubes** interact negatively with both, and cause can breakage. **Water-based lubes** are also safe for use with sex toys, easily washes out of sheets, and doesn't taste too bad. You should also consider what **consistency** you want and prefer; for instance, thicker lubes are better for anal sex. Consistency will differ between brands, so you should research before purchasing. **Silicone-based** lubes shouldn't be used with silicone sex toys, because the chemical properties of the substances are not compatible. **Silicone-based** lubes do not wash out of sheets, and tend to taste worse than **water-based** lube. If you are concerned about taste, there are **flavored lubes** ranging from strawberry all the way to pumpkin spice latte. Keep in mind that lubes containing **glycerin (a type of sugar)**, even if they are not flavored, have been associated with higher chances of a yeast infection, as the glycerin may interact with the natural yeast in a vagina, and should be washed off after sex. In general, **flavored lube** is better for oral sex rather than penetrative sex.

You should consider **size and fit** when choosing an appropriate brand of **condoms**. Condoms are categorized by **snugger fit, regular fit, and larger fit**, and you can Google many condom size charts that allow you to privately find the best options for you. For instance, ONE brand condoms tend to fit more snugly, and Trojan Magnums fit larger. **Size may not matter, but having sex with an ill-fitting condom certainly does**, as it may put you and your sexual partner at risk and decrease your pleasure during sex. If you know a certain condom does not fit you well, don't use it just because it's free. There's a wide selection of brands available at **cheaper prices in bulk** at Walmart, Target, and Wegmans. It will usually cost you way under a dollar to wrap it before you tap it (or suck it, or whatever you want to do with it). Even the campus bookstore has packs of condoms, so grab some after ordering your berry banana smoothie. Don't be embarrassed to buy condoms-- we promise that quite

literally no one cares, and it's much better to squash that purchase anxiety than to have unprotected sex. Let's talk **spermicide**: some condoms have spermicide, and others don't. Spermicide is a chemical that kills sperm on contact. Some people prefer to use condoms that contain spermicide inside, but others say that it can be irritating to both penises and vaginas. It's up to you, and you can choose what you prefer.

## Emergency Contraceptive

**Plan B:** Works up to **3 days** after.

**\$15 at Decker**, which is the actual base cost that pharmacies upsurge (that's fucked up). Plan B is progestin-only, which thickens the mucus around your cervix, thins the lining of your uterus, and stops ovulation, thus significantly decreasing your chances of getting pregnant. The effectiveness of the pill decreases for people who are 160 pounds and over, and is nearly ineffective around 200 pounds. This is because it's a set milligram amount — just like you wouldn't take only one Tylenol pill, you can't take only one Plan B pill. A double dosage may be needed, and the staff at Decker can help you figure this out. It's not legally required for companies to tell you this weight limit on the box, which is really screwed up!

**Ella** emergency contraceptive:

Works up to **5 days** after.

**\$20 at Decker**, which is the actual base cost that pharmacies upsurge (that's fucked up). It consists of ulipristal acetate, unlike Plan B, which is progestin-only. Ella has been proven more effective than Plan B for people over 160 pounds.

You can book an emergency contraceptive appointment at Decker via the MyHealth portal on the left hand side of the main myBinghamton page. The staff at Decker can help you figure out which pill is more appropriate for you. Unfortunately, you cannot purchase these pills at these low prices ahead of time to have with you just in case of a future emergency, as they require you to take it in front of a medical professional. If you go to Decker for an emergency contraceptive, your parents will not find out, even if you're on their health insurance or the campus health insurance, because you will be paying for the pill. The possible side effects of emergency contraceptives, like bad cramps, irregular bleeding, changes in mood, nausea, and fatigue, can last weeks after you take the pill, and it is completely normal for your period cycle to be interrupted and take a bit of time to get back on track. You can ask the staff at Decker to explain these side effects, and ways to manage them.



# *picking the prescription*

*by madison pellnat*

Although abstinence and condom use have been shoved down our throats (no pun intended) since middle school sex-ed, these options aren't always the most effective or realistic choices to prevent pregnancy. In fact, these teaching methods often lead to teens participating in risky sex.

Prescribed birth control has become more accessible since its introduction in the 1960s: it's easier to get, cheaper, and more effective than ever. Birth control can now come in many forms, ranging from the classic pill, to the trimonthly shot, to hormonal and copper IUDs, and there are plenty of great options that cater to every person's needs. These methods all provide protection against pregnancy, but they also offer other possible benefits, like reduction of acne, cramps, and termination of periods. On the other hand, despite these possible benefits, there are risks associated with birth control including heavier periods, spotting between periods, greater chance of depression, and nausea, so definitely consult with a medical professional before deciding which option is best for you. All the methods I'm discussing in this article can also be paired with barrier methods — like condoms — and precautionary measures —like PREP — which ensure protection against STDs.

**Name:** Hormonal or Copper IUD

**Duration:** 3-7 years (hormonal), or 12 years (copper)

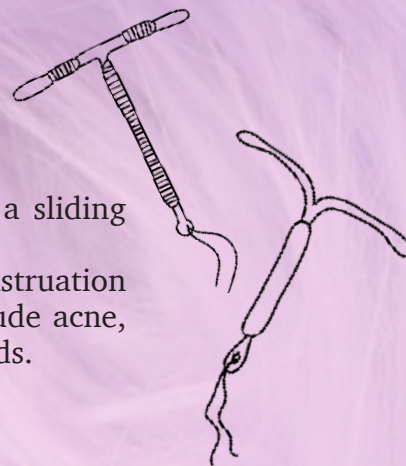
**Upkeep:** None

**Effectiveness:** 99%

**Price:** \$0 (at a place like Planned Parenthood that works on a sliding scale) - \$1,300 (full cost with no insurance).

**Pros:** No upkeep, long lasting, and hormonal IUDs can stop menstruation

**Cons:** Insertion can be painful, side effects after insertion include acne, spotting in between periods, heavier periods, and irregular periods.



**Name:** Ring or “NuvaRing”

**Duration:** Replaced monthly

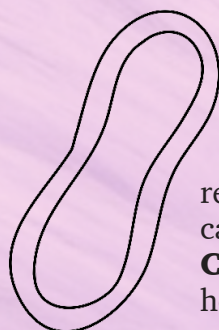
**Upkeep:** The ring is inserted once a month by yourself

**Effectiveness:** 91% efficiency

**Price:** Can range from \$0-\$200 depending on the provider.

**Pros:** You only have to worry about changing it once a month, it can reduce period symptoms, acne, PMS, and the probability of getting certain cancers. It is also available through Nurx, an online subscription service.

**Cons:** Extra bleeding during periods or in between periods, sore breasts, headache, and changes in sexual desire.



**Name:** Implant or “Nexplanon”

**Duration:** 3-5 years

**Upkeep:** None

**Effectiveness:** 99%

**Price:** The implant process is between \$0-\$1,300 (depending on insurance) and the removal process can range from \$0-\$300.

**Pros:** No upkeep, long lasting, and possible termination of menstruation.

**Cons:** Insertion can be painful, some side effects include spotting in between periods, breast pain, nausea, and mood shifts.





**Name:** Pill

**Duration:** One pack per month

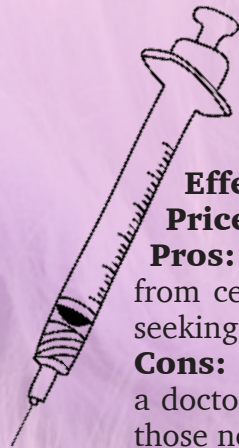
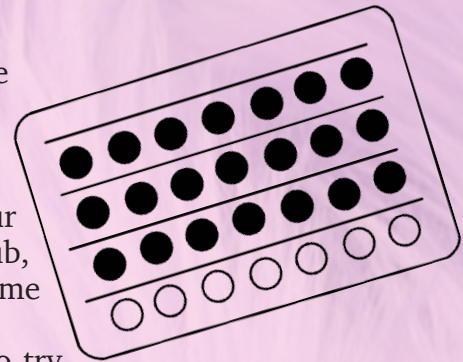
**Upkeep:** Taking the pill once a day on a strict time schedule

**Effectiveness:** If taken consistently, the pill has a 91% efficiency rate

**Price:** On an annual basis the pill can range from \$0-\$600

**Pros:** One of the cheapest options, can be delivered to your mailbox with a subscription service like Nurx, The Pill Club, and Her, can help reduce acne, PMS, and the probability of some cancers.

**Cons:** Must be taken on a time schedule, you may have to try multiple brands to find a comfortable one for you, and possible spotting between periods.



**Name:** Shot

**Duration:** Lasts up to three months

**Upkeep:** You need to get the shot injected every three months by a medical professional, or you can do it yourself.

**Effectiveness:** 94% effective

**Price:** Between \$0-\$100 for each shot.

**Pros:** Long-lasting method, results in lighter or no periods at all, and can prevent from certain cancers, as well as ectopic pregnancy, possible weight gain for those seeking it.

**Cons:** You must have consistent transportation if you are getting the shot done at a doctor's office, inconsistent periods during the first year, possible weight gain for those not seeking it, and greater likelihood of developing depression.

**Name:** Patch

**Duration:** Replaced weekly

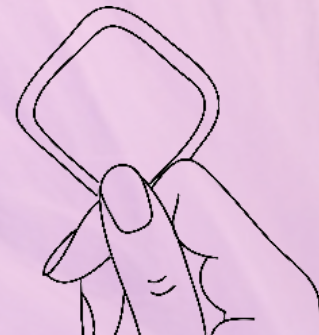
**Upkeep:** Changing the patch every week for three weeks, then skipping the fourth week to account for a normally scheduled period.

**Effectiveness:** If changed on time, the patch is 91% effective.

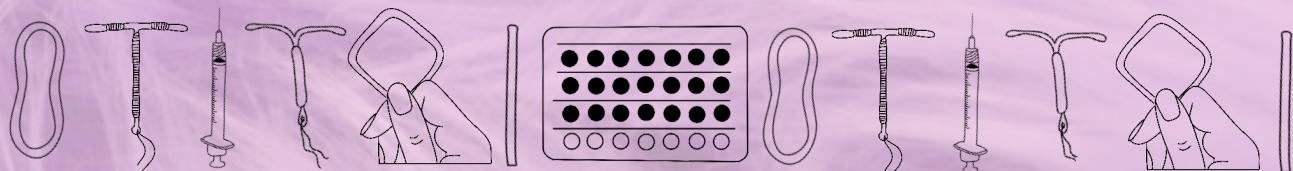
**Price:** A monthly supply is between \$0-\$150

**Pros:** You change it yourself, can be delivered with Nurx, can help reduce acne, PMS, and certain cancers.

**Cons:** It is on a timed schedule, it may cause soreness on application site, nausea, and tender breasts.



No matter how many birth control options there are, if you don't feel comfortable with the idea of being on birth control, barrier methods, such as condoms, are perfectly valid and effective if used properly. Using birth control is ultimately your decision, so despite societal pressures, or pressures from partners, take your body and the possible side effects of these methods into serious consideration with a medical professional before choosing what is best for you.





# Sex Lab? Yeah, Sex Lab!

by Annie Beyer-Chafets

*“On more than one occasion I have lied and told a guy who’s hollering at me at the bar that I’m gay.”*

I’m speaking from a small, round table with six other young women and one man. He’s in his mid twenties and he’s taking notes on a yellow legal pad. A dozen peers and four professors take notes in a larger circle around us. A folded name tag in front of me reads “VELMA.” I wait for the laughter to die down and start again.

“But the crazy shit is that men are relentless. Even a lie that implies I am completely uninterested in their entire sex isn’t enough to be left alone. I get that I’m an attractive gal, but what is it with you people?”

Now the whole room laughs, inner and outer circle alike. A few supportive snaps cut through the laughter and I try to keep a straight face. I turn to the man with the legal pad, who was a stranger to me half an hour ago. My stomach tightens. It’s not me, it’s Velma.

“You’re a man.” I assert. All eyes move from my face to his. “I’m asking you: What is it with you people?”

Blood creeps up his face. He looks at his notepad, then over his shoulder.

“Okay, time out?” He asks.

The room explodes with laughter. My face gets hot from the combination of excitement and embarrassment at my own words. I succeeded. I broke the moderator.

“Okay,” Dr. Sarah Young cuts in through fading laughter. I flash an apologetic smile to the moderator, Mike. “Let’s talk about what *Velma* is doing wrong here.”

Several hands raise and I sit back in my chair and have a swig of water, relieved to take a break from my character. We’re not really in a focus group, and I’m not really Velma. I’m also not really this combative, at least not all the time. It’s all just an average day at Binghamton Sex Lab.

Sex Lab? Yeah. You heard me right. Binghamton has a Sex Lab. And I’m lucky enough to be a part of it. Despite what the name may suggest, we don’t all get together in a laboratory, take off our clothes, and go to town on each other.

We do something much sexier— social science research. And sometimes we get to test mock focus groups with confrontational alter egos.

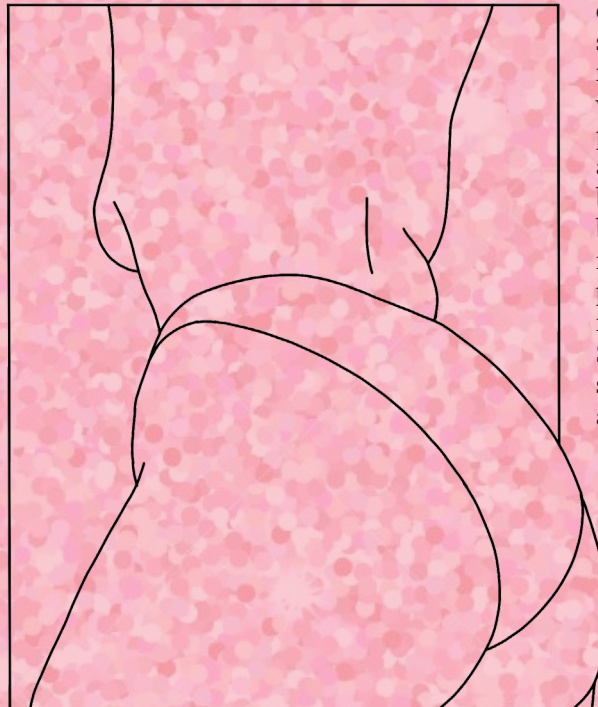
Binghamton Human Sexualities Lab is a sex positive, interdisciplinary group of professors and undergraduate researchers devoted to studying all things sex: behaviors, identities, attitudes, policies, and everything in between. Headed by Dr. Sean Massey, Dr. Ann Merriwether, Dr. Sarah Young, and Dr. Melissa Hardesty, Binghamton Sex Lab is a blend of expertise across Psychology, Human Development, Neuroscience, Women Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Social Work. We wanna know if college students still go on dates (spoiler alert: they do!), if women have orgasms as often as men when they hookup (spoiler alert: they don’t!), and if heavy drinking leads to heavy regret the morning after (spoiler alert: it does!).

We’re like a sexy group of clandestine, scientific operatives. And you, the students of Binghamton University, are our informants. We don’t operate incognito— all our studies go through the University’s Institutional Review Board, and all our participants receive informed consent before giving us their sexy (and anonymous) secrets. But after hearing “wait, what kind of research do you do?” and “we have a sex lab on campus?” over and over again, it does begin to make me (and my sassy alter ego Velma) feel like we work in the boondocks.

It can be difficult to feel like we hold a candle to other labs on campus, some of which work with CRISPR and Femtosecond Spectroscopy. Compared to concepts that no one can pronounce (let alone understand), sex seems simple. But the truth is that the work we do is complicated and significant, especially right now. While some days at Sex

Lab are filled with laughter, others are remarkably somber. We come face to face with acts of sexual violence, harmful policies, physical and mental illness, and trauma. It’s a fucking bummer. Sex is supposed to bring so much pleasure, but it often means just as much pain. We seek answers to incredibly difficult questions. Sometimes the questions seem endless and the answers seem few and far between. But we’re working on it.

And we’ll keep working on it. And we’ll keep trying to have fun while we do it. We believe that sex should be positive, and that’s how we run our lab.





# Getting Comfortable

by Faith Medina

Society has an unfortunate tendency to overgeneralize sexual experiences and how they're addressed in everyday life. Conflating all experiences into one is toxic and isolating because sex is entirely subjective. Mainstream portrayals of sex depict a life changing event that creates overbearing expectations, especially in terms of virginity. When everyone around you has supposedly had their "firsts" you suddenly feel left behind. This pressure can even force people to tread into dangerous territory by trying to mask real experiences with what is seen as "correct." The weight put upon everyone's shoulders is understandable, yet not a healthy basis for relationships or hookups.

Sometimes your sex life may actually live up to society's high standards, and that's great if your *Notebook* fantasy of a kiss in the rain is coming true, but it's much more individualized than we assume. Realistically, sex is just navigating a new experience with a partner. Perhaps a more humorous or sweaty situation than you may be used to, but it's just another experience, and not a marker of worth by any means. We've been conditioned to believe the opposite, so for many people, sex is a frightening concept. Being comfortable with a situation that may require seemingly unachievable levels of vulnerability is difficult because of these perceptions we've been forced to hold on to. Since sex is a personal experience, nobody can tell you how to feel confident in your own skin, but it's nice to know that when confidence doesn't feel like an option, comfort is a great supplement. Unlike the perfect ideal that has been advertised through countless media outlets, sex is just as enjoyable, if not more, when you embrace its humor and imperfections.

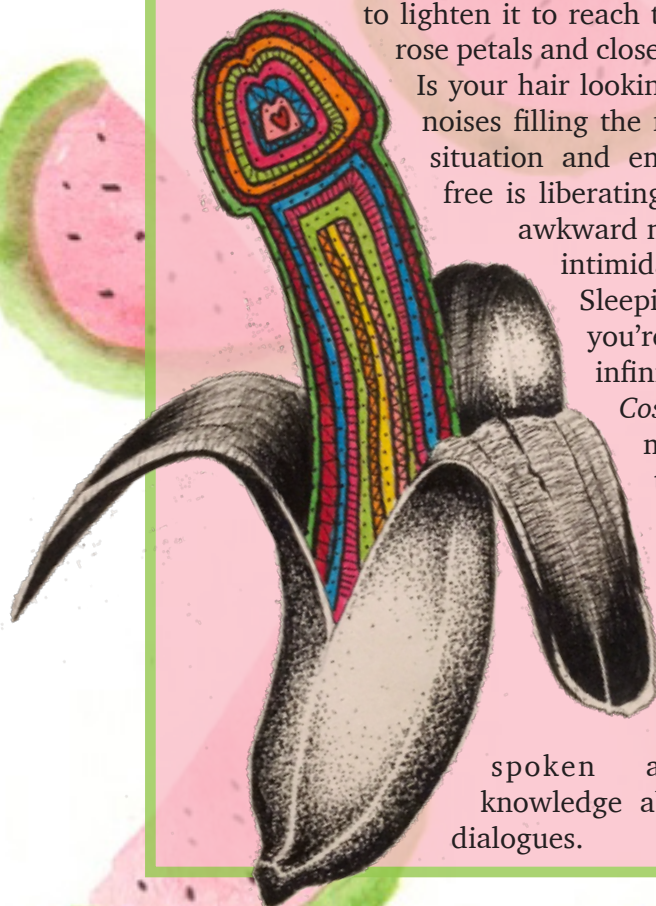
Sometimes the mood is so "steamy" it can become suffocating, and you'll need to lighten it to reach that seemingly impossible level of trust. You can push aside the rose petals and close that Spotify tab, and instead focus on the person who's with you.

Is your hair looking more messed up than your worst bedhead? Are embarrassing noises filling the room? Do what you would do in any inherently uncomfortable situation and embrace humor. Being with someone who allows you to feel free is liberating, and when you don't feel self conscious, you can make these awkward moments enjoyable experiences to laugh at later. The weight and intimidation that surrounds sex can disappear through normalization.

Sleeping with someone isn't a mandatory business transaction, and if you're doing it with people who make you feel comfortable, it'll be infinitely more fun. No sexual experience is perfect, despite what any *Cosmopolitan* article describes. Maybe your best sex life includes making vine references or poking fun at your partner, and the only thing that has to differentiate this situation from grabbing dinner at the Marketplace is the fact that (hopefully) no one is tabling for their sorority in your bedroom.

The best sex happens when you're being yourself and not acting like a version of yourself who has been created to fulfill the overbearing expectations internalized from our society. An act or a brave face isn't necessary, but comfort and communication is. Sex should be fun, normal, and openly

spoken about because there's truly no better way to gain and spread knowledge about sex than to share real, non-fabricated experiences and dialogues.





# Sleeping Between the Lines

by Julia Carmel

Being a queer cliché means many things: it means that I believe Doc Martens are winter boots, it means that I can never tell if my Tinder dates are actually dates, and it means that I've slept with several of my close friends.

It's hard to find a person — queer or not — who hasn't slept with one of their friends, but it feels especially queer to blur the lines between platonic and romantic relationships.

Sleeping with my friends has been a significant part of my sexual identity. This goes hand in hand with my urge to become friends with everyone I've slept with, but that's a whole other lesbian cliché to tackle. I know this pattern reflects my own personal need to intertwine erotic and platonic love, but I'd argue that it also stems from a place of queerness.

I've found my queer friendships to be especially intimate because there's so much gray space. While straight people are constantly reminded that women and men can't be platonic friends (see: every rom com where the male best friend ruins his female friend's wedding), queer people are already existing outside of that mindset.

Because queerness inherently questions the socially imposed parameters that society assigns to romantic and erotic love, it's easy for queer folks to slip from one type of love to another. I would argue that love is never as simple as platonic vs. romantic, or platonic vs. erotic, or erotic vs. romantic.

In many ways friendship can serve a sort of foreplay for sex or for romance — especially when you address the intimate nature of some platonic love. We drop certain facades with our friends in a way that would feel unusual with new sexual or romantic partners. This sense of comfort can allow feelings to slide in between all three of these forms of love seamlessly, and these feelings can be a catalyst for relationships that let us explore and break the boundaries that we naturally cling to.

Having sex with my friends has allowed me to expand my definitions of love in every sense. When friends sleep together there are always fluctuating feelings on both ends — and usually one person's are stronger than the others — but these emotions peak and subside at different times, and that's perfectly natural.

It's never as simple in practice as it seems on paper; there may be romantic moments where you spend hours on the phone with each other, but those feelings can be intertwined with confusing kisses and platonic jokes.

Exploring this gray space means that the love won't always match up. At one point your love for someone may be completely platonic, and their love for you may transition to romantic love, and your love for them may, in turn, slip into a sort of sexual love, but all of this mismatched love is still just that: love.

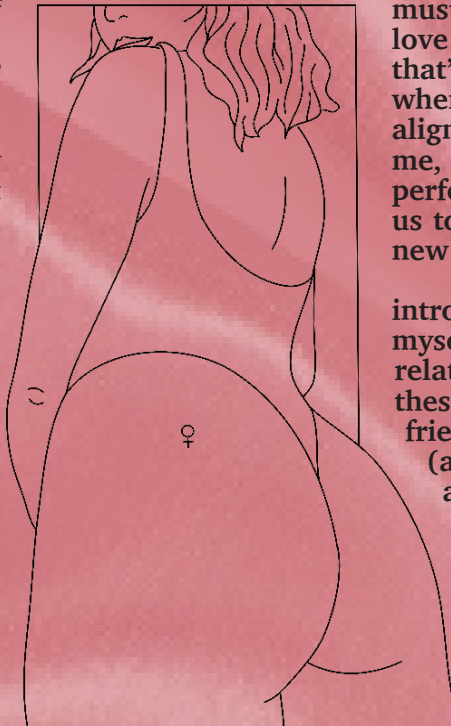
There's something beautiful about watching a relationship evolve. We're used to a narrative that says once friendships transition into sexual relationships, they must transition into romantic love or into nothingness, but that's just not the case. Even when these feelings don't align perfectly — and trust me, nothing ever truly aligns perfectly — that space allows us to shape our relationships in new ways.

I've done much more introspection — both about myself and about how I treat my relationships — during and after these transitional periods with friends. It's been complicated (and, at times, messy), but it's almost impossible to explain the bond that's built with someone who understands you on so many levels.

When you allow someone to enter your mind as a friend, it's completely different from when you allow someone to enter your

mind and body as a love interest. I think this change in perspective lets people see new parts of you that you can't normally see, because your relationship with yourself will never be able to fluctuate that drastically.

For me, the most significant part of this experience has been returning to platonic friendship. Knowing that someone can love me in such different ways, and knowing that I can love someone in such different ways, absolutely fills my heart. There's so much love that can be found in the trickiest corners of our hearts and minds, and it's always worth keeping both at least a little bit open.





# r.i.p. tumblr. porn



by kaitlyn  
cottrell

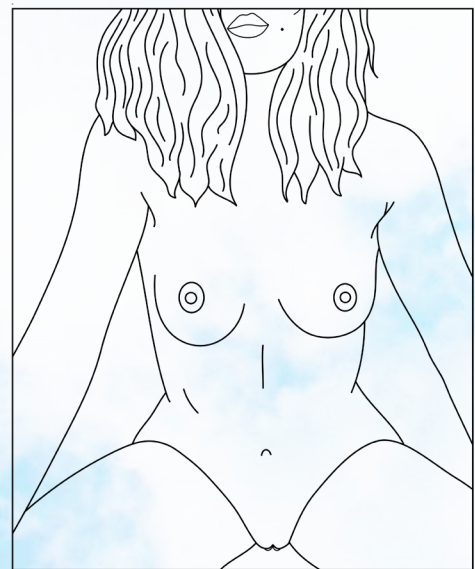


When I was in eighth grade, I made a Tumblr account. I'd recently read *The Fault in Our Stars*, and I heard that there was a community of John Green fans on that site. I made an account — relieved that I was finally 13 and didn't have to lie about my age — and dove into the website that would shape me for years to come. As someone who couldn't have told you what porn was if you asked me, I didn't make an account for the purpose of watching, reading or listening to

NSFW content. But as I continued to use the site into high school (becoming a Harry Potter, Troye Sivan, Dan and Phil, Dodie, and ultimately, an aesthetic blog), every once in a while something ~sexy~ would pop up on my dash. Of course, curiosity got the best of me eventually, and I found myself clicking on the source URLs and scrolling through their blogs, finding myself especially fascinated with gifs and videos that revolved solely around girls.

It was on Tumblr that I first questioned my sexuality — bouncing from straight to ????? to homoflexible to pansexual to lesbian and back to ????? — before finding a term that I can identify comfortably with: queer. And damn, the queer community on Tumblr was *booming*. There were slash fics (fanfiction involving pairing two male or female characters together) galore involving youtube creators, Marvel characters, members of One Direction, and combinations of all of the above. These existed alongside seemingly infinite videos of girls having sex with other girls, and I came to accept myself because I finally felt normal. There were blogs dedicated to being safe spaces for queer girls exploring their sexuality without the threat of creepy straight men asking about threesomes or pedophiles trying to convince you they belonged in the LGBTQ+ community.

One blog that had a big influence on me as I went through high school and explored my sexuality was *orgasmictipsforgirls*, which no longer posts content due to the ban on sensitive content that was put into place December 17th. They catered completely toward women, offering stories submitted by followers, sex toy recommendations, and audio and video porn, and because of this, they had hundreds of thousands of followers. Accounts like this have been condemned by Tumblr's new sensitive content policy. While I haven't logged onto Tumblr since my junior year of high school, it saddens me to think of how much I learned and grew on that site, and how those girls in middle school today — who are told nothing about masturbation or their sexuality by their health teachers — won't have the same opportunity as I had. I can only hope that schools learn to educate people of every gender identity about their sex drives, and I hope that girls are raised to understand that female sexuality isn't inherently bad. I'm sure that another site will eventually fill this void and meet the demand that Tumblr's new policy has created, but in the meantime, there's always audio porn.

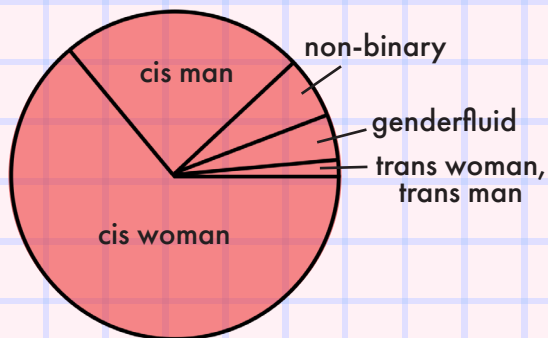




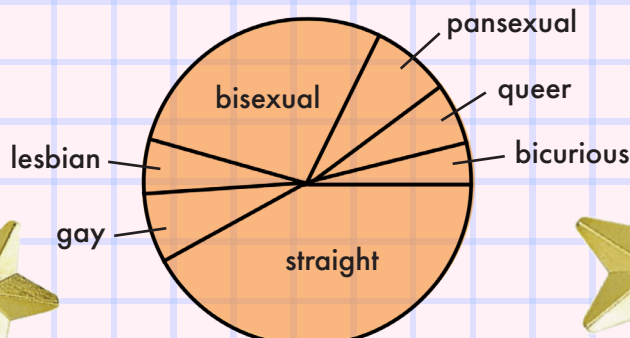
# sex survey results

Nearly 300 of you responded. So here's a cute summary.

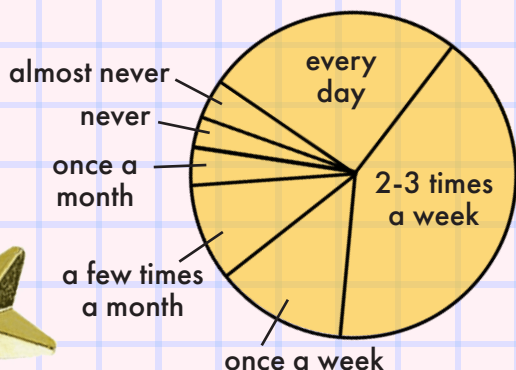
You would describe your gender identity as:



Quick! We're buying rainbow t-shirts! You identify as:



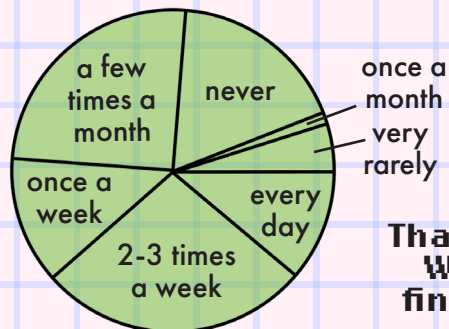
How often do you flick your bean or beat your meat?



What kind of sex toys do you like using?

- 192 people said: **it's all manual for me!**
- 102 people said: **vibrator (just stimulation)**
- 44 people said: **dildo (just penetration)**
- 36 people said: **rabbit (stimulation + penetration)**
- 23 people said: **butt plug**
- 18 people said: **cock ring**
- 17 people said: **strap-on**
- 9 people said: **fleshlight**
- 3 people said: **penis pumps**

Oh no! Your incognito window popped up while you were presenting in class! How often do you watch porn?



That's pretty hot! Where'd you find that porn?

- Pornhub
- Belleza
- XVideos
- Tumblr (RIP, but there's still audio porn)
- Literotica
- NHentai
- Orgasmsoundlibrary

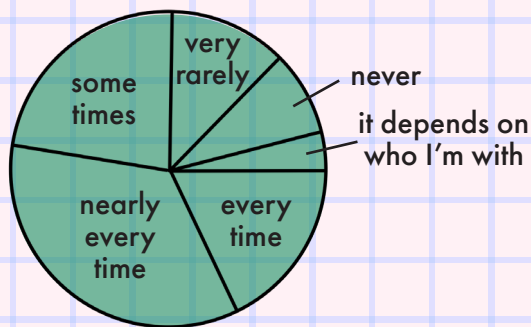
How old were you the first time you had sex?

- 13 people said: **I'm a virgin!**
- 3 people said: 13
- 20 people said: 14
- 21 people said: 15
- 41 people said: 16
- 61 people said: 17
- 62 people said: 18
- 32 people said: 19
- 10 people said: 20
- 4 people said: 21
- 2 people said: 22

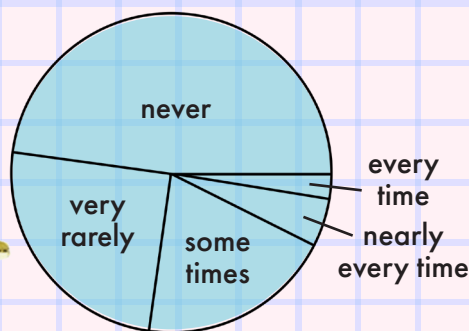
Check out @bufreepress on Instagram & Twitter to see the BDSM results. Get kinky with us.



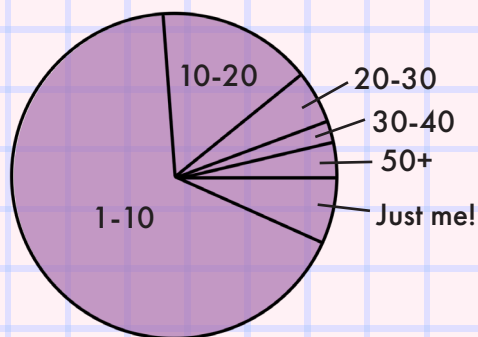
Now that we're all hot and bothered...  
How often do you orgasm during sex?



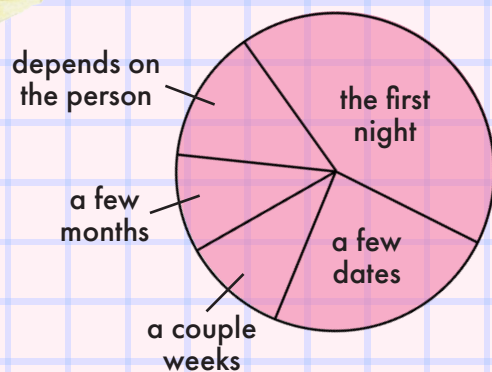
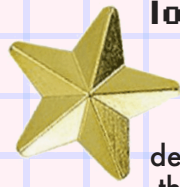
You sneaky little minx! How often do you fake an orgasm during sex?



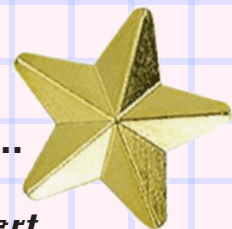
Not to sound like your gyno, but how many partners have you had?



When we fuckin' tho? How long before you have sex with whoever you're seeing?



You're having sex to...

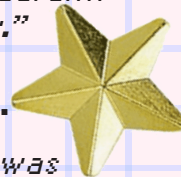


- "Frank Ocean and moans."
- **"Pop Girls when I top to subvert heteronormative gender expectations, also Pop Girls when I bottom because I like them."**
- "Used to like 'The Life of Pablo' but then Kanye got disrespectful so we out on the hunt again."
- **"Freak Flag from Shrek the Musical."**
- "I like to focus on my partner's sounds TBH...but a little LOVE by Kendrick Lamar never hurt nobody."
- **"Pussy is God by King Princess."**

You've had sex in...

- "Bartle's Hebrew section, the supply closet at my first job, the basement of fine arts, and the parking garage outside The Cave."
- **"An OCCT bus."**
- "University Counseling Center."
- **"Anywhere with a red light bulb."**
- "Johnson City Walmart parking lot."
- **"The parking lot of a Tully's!"**
- "The very clear windows by Bartle's staircase that overlooks Mountainview."
- **"Dunkin' Donuts."**
- "The Brooklyn Museum, a S'Mac restaurant."
- **"The roof of the Anderson Center."**
- "A church rectory."

You've had threesomes with...



- "I had one with my roommates that was fun but **couples** are where it's at. Entering an established sexual relationship and throwing your own dick around is **so good.**"
- **"I had a threesome once but it was the most awkward thing I've ever done, only one of us came and one person just stood there."**
- "I've had one with a fun older couple, one with two of my roommates, and one with two of my exes! The threesome I had with my exes gave me the emotional clarity I needed."
- **"I had a threesome with two of my close friends (all girls) and they were roommates. It was 2017 – a simpler time – so we listened to 'Redbone' on repeat the entire time."**



# story time

*We asked you to spill the tea. And you sure delivered.*

***"I watched my ex accidentally get their cum in their own mouth on Skype and they just swallowed and we never talked about it again!"***

*"I was going over to his GIW suite for the first time; we'd only made out at a frat once, so this was literally the first time hanging out. His roommate, who I never met before, opens the door and says 'Hey, you must be \_\_\_! [redacted]'s room is on the left.' And motioned the way for me to go, which was weird enough. I walk past all his suitemates sitting around a bong and staring at me, who I awkwardly ignore and I open the door. It is pitch black except for the glow of a few candles, and [redacted] is standing in the middle of the room in nothing but his underwear (keep in mind I am fully clothed at this point). He does not say a word to me, just presses play on his computer and suddenly Fleetwood Mac's 'Dreams' starts to play, which has to be the song I least expected to hear. But we just immediately started making out and it ended up being a great hook up. Never hung out again."*

***"A girl made me watch Zootopia the whole time and kept stopping to make sure I was paying attention to the movie."***

*"One time when I was 17, I was making out with this one guy and I took off my bra and he hovers his hands over my breasts but stops himself and goes, 'No. Idle hands are the devil's plaything,' and leaves the room."*

***"Uhh the other day I was watching Breaking Bad with someone and while I was explaining the plot we started having sex and I inadvertently fused dirty talk with what I was saying so there was a lot of like 'Does he have cancer yet?' 'Yeah he has fucking cancer you beautiful slut.'"***

*"I snatched a girl's wig during sex. My hand was on her hair as she sat up and when she sat up, she was bald."*

***"One time I hummed the Arrested Development theme while blowing my boyfriend."***

*"She started humming the Arrested Development theme while blowing me."*

***"One time when my partner was suckin' on my tiddy I asked if he was breastfed because I thought it would be funny - it wasn't!"***

*"When we had sex on our 2nd date, I started rapping along to Who Dat Boy 'make the dick disappear, how she do that there?' while riding him. We've been together 1.5 years, so it worked."*

***"One time I peed on a guy (accidentally) and he thought I squirted and was all amazed so I just went with it."***

*"At the beginning of this semester, I — a lesbian woman — had my first male encounter. He wouldn't fuck because I was on my period and he "only had white towels." I left, then proceeded to have sex with my current girlfriend."*

*"The cops busted the party while I was giving my first blow job ever and we got walked in on."*

***"Throwing up on a dick!"***

*"The condom fell off INSIDE ME."*

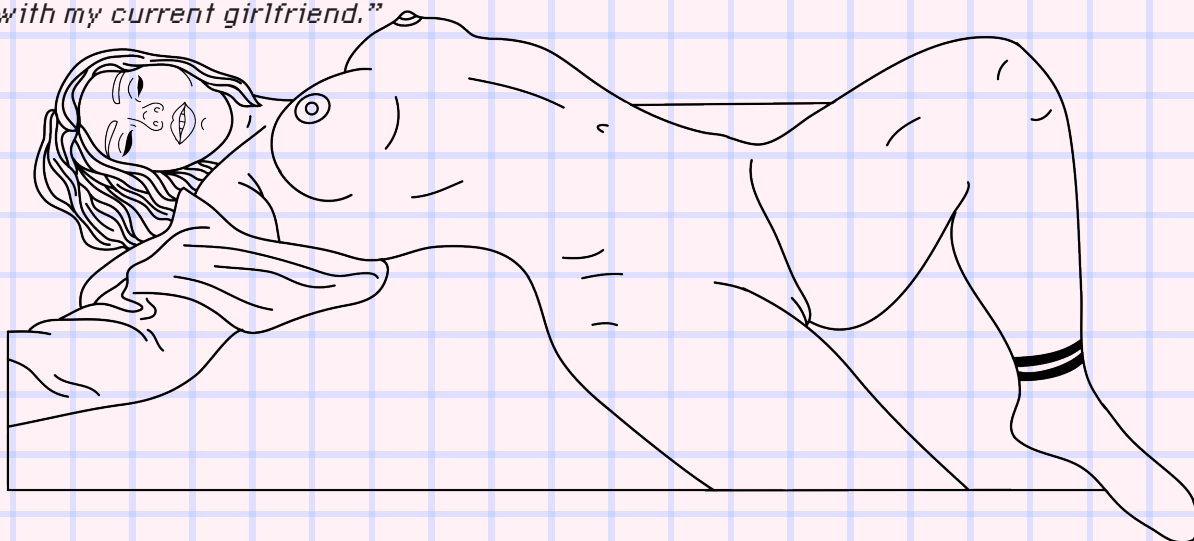
***"Tried to put whipped cream on her titties for it to be hot, woke up in the morning and it had molded and smelled like shit."***

*"I once had dried cum on my neck for the entire duration of a conversation with the guy's mom."*

THE WEIRD

THE ICONIC

THE BAD

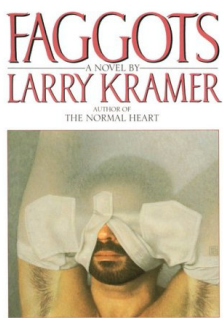




# Nothing Like a Gay Sex Scene: 4 Works of Queer Literature & Why You Need to Read Them

by Casey Adrian

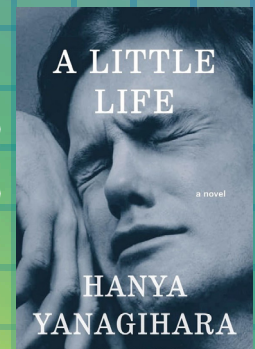
I'll be the first to admit that my exposure to queer writing started with 2013 Matt Healy smut on Wattpad. (I recommend this literature over all other books on the list to follow, but I digress.) As a literary junkie, queer person, and slut for some gay romance, I instantly fell head-over-heels for the near-endless expanse of LGBTQ novels: The themes of unsimple love, the complex identities, the fight for perceived validity, and the victory of personal happiness. Queer novels are brilliant, touching, triumphant, and — above all — unequivocally important for the community. Here are four that you need to read:



Okay, so the history of this novel is wild. Published in 1978, the story follows a crowd of young queer people — many being drag performers — as they explore and have fun in the sex-crazed, no-consequence party that was disco-age New York City. It's an ode to the horny sex parties of the time; the drugs, the hedonism, the gritty streets and stained sheets. Interestingly, following the outbreak of the AIDS crisis, it was removed from Manhattan shelves, as people believed that its (arguable) glorification of "free love" was too dangerous. It is an amazing book that gives readers a look at the last few years of a carefree community, just before disaster broke out.

**"Holy shit," somebody muttered in the dark.  
"A virgin," sputtered another.  
"I didn't know they still made them."**

If you're struggling with the idea of a post-college adulthood, Hanya Yanagihara will help you cope. Following four men from their mid-twenties to their elder years, *A Little Life* does an excellent job documenting the importance of friendship and the beauty of choosing one's own family. The (lengthy) novel explores the nature of adult gay men of color in the queer community — a community that's often ripe with racism and ageism. This book changed my life in such a profound way, and easily has the most beautiful gay romance ever written. (I also DM'ed the author on Instagram one time and she's dope as hell.)



**"Why wasn't friendship as good as a relationship? Why wasn't it even better?"**



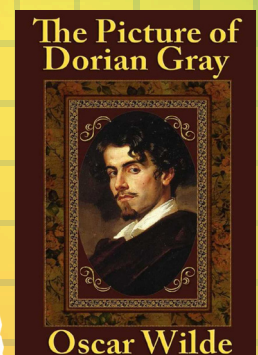
I first fell in love with this book because of my teenage obsession with "Skins" — that angsty U.K. show with all the hot party scenes. *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, through the experience of a lesbian girl growing up in England, details a constant struggle between a religious family and a non-traditional sexuality. It validates the fact that sometimes answers cannot be so black-and-white, and that everyone's situation — coming out, feeling close with your family, finding God — is completely and entirely unique; a one-size-fits-all plan is too good to be true.

**"I want someone who is fierce and will love me until death and knows that love is as strong as death, and be on my side forever and ever. I want someone who will destroy and be destroyed by me."**

Oh, Oscar. You poor, poor chap. Before he was arrested and disowned by his lover's father for being gay, he managed to publish (a highly censored version of) his only novel. It focuses on obsession - not only being obsessed with someone, but being obsessed with youth. It's praised by artists for emphasizing the importance of making art for art's sake, by literary scholars for its long philosophical tangents, and by gay men for the sexy descriptions of Dorian's body-ody-ody.

**"The books that the world calls immoral are books that show the world its own shame."**

Queer literature is just like queer people: exciting, important, and fucking awesome. So read! Explore! Find books that emphasize your narrative, and learn from those that emphasize the narratives of others.





# *to all the boys* by liz short *i've fucked before ...*



## **To the First**

You were the first to love me in a way that no one else had, but I now know that this kind of love only has the value I determine. I always felt I had to please you first—had to make you feel better if something was not to your liking. You all were rose-colored glasses and pedestals, but that shrine left no room for me.

**Takeaways:** Demand reciprocity in all parts of your relationship. Also, faking it is not worth it, especially when it's with someone who won't come the hospital when you get in a car accident.



## **To the Boy Next Door**

You were the first I fucked after a relationship and are much appreciated. Stress free, something to smile about while walking home at 2 a.m. with tousled hair. I'm more grateful for it ending.

**Takeaways:** Fucking someone you went to kindergarten with is wild cause you know them, but it feels like you don't when they delay your date by 40 minutes to fix their vape in the car. Not everyone glows up.

## **To the First Bing Guy**

You are the first I let myself fall for in a while. And you are the reason for my newest dating regulation: do not be his first girlfriend (or first anything for that matter). Despite feeling like the universe was falling into place, there were piles of bullshit just around the corner. I'm not innocent, but wow I felt so lost and holy fuck I'm so grateful for endings.

**Takeaways:** It's not love when it dies the second you see your partner is less than perfect.



## **To the First Tinder Hookup**

You, my friend, are a goddamn milestone. The first "no strings attached" fuck, I appreciate you so much. Sex and love are not mutually exclusive, and sometimes learning that is the most powerful feeling.

It's not love; it's a quick, sloppy, bar hookup. And it was lit as shit.

**Takeaways:** I'm fucking great in bed.

## **To the "Nice Guy"**

What a great reminder that I don't owe anyone my body, much less an explanation for what I want.

**Takeaways:** Actual nice guys don't get mad when I don't wanna go out again; they move on.



## **To the Recent-ish One**

This was pretty cool. Also my first legit "Netflix and Chill" that ended in sex, and a decent text back??

I'm not mad at all. V casual, let's keep it that way.

**Takeaways:** Fucking someone with a brain? So underrated, but it gets a bit pretentious after a while.

A lot of us are raised with a bit of a healthy fear of sex. I never realized how wrong that is. Sex became something where I grew with every encounter. Putting all that effort into fake moaning? *Boring and dries your mouth out.* "Babe did you cum?" *Nope.* But if all else was good, I'm not mad. Trying to make me feel bad for rejecting you? *Get fucked.* Selfishness? *Actually putting my body first.* Heteronormativity? *Dick ain't the only way, chief.* Sex? *Fucking awesome.* Me? *Fantastic ass, an even better sense of humor, and someone who is looking forward to even more growth.*



# a year after time's up

by ~~deirdre~~ delasho

Trigger warning: [Contains discussion of sexual assault, rape, and pedophilia.]

It's been a year since the Time's Up movement swept Hollywood, following dozens of public sexual abuse allegations that surfaced against producer Harvey Weinstein. In the grand scheme of things, a year is not a very long time at all. So why has Hollywood all but forgotten its stand in solidarity against abusers within the industry? Or, more accurately, its stand in solidarity against Harvey Weinstein and Kevin Spacey — because while it's clear that their time is up, a blind eye is still being turned toward many, many others.

The 2018 Golden Globes was the first major awards show of the season after the Weinstein allegations, and attendees were asked to wear black in support of Time's Up (you know, because men don't wear a black tux to every awards show regardless). A mere year later, in a stroke of cruel irony, Bryan Singer's film *Bohemian Rhapsody* won two Golden Globes, including one for best drama.

On January 23, a day after *Bohemian Rhapsody*'s was nominated for the Academy Award for best picture, *The Atlantic* published a lengthy article by Alex French and Maximillian Potter detailing Singer's history of sexual abuse and pedophilia, complete with several new allegations. This wasn't particularly breaking news; the parties that Singer threw in the 90s were largely attended by underage boys, and this was common knowledge throughout Hollywood. Several of Singer's victims have filed lawsuits against him: the earliest dates back as far as 1997, followed by a series of suits in 2014 and then another in 2017. A testament to just how public all of this knowledge is, French and Potter quote a nameless actor in their piece: "After the Harvey Weinstein news came out, everyone thought Bryan Singer would be next."

This quote has stuck with me since I read it — so why *wasn't* Singer next? Why is Singer's film still garnering accolades, nominations, and awards? Why is he still attached as director of the upcoming film *Red Sonja*, the protagonist of which is a sexual assault survivor? Why did Millennium Films producer and chairman Avi Lerner say, "I know the difference between agenda driven fake news and reality, and I am very comfortable with this decision [to keep Singer attached to *Red Sonja*]. In America, people are innocent until proven otherwise"? Is time *really* up?

It absolutely baffles me how performative

Weinstein's downfall has proven to be. Weinstein was truly a titan in the the film industry — I promise you that at *least* one of your favorite movies from the last 30 years was produced by him. Go look it up. — and his career ended practically overnight. The same thing happened for Spacey. Yet here we have Bryan Singer. Here we have Casey Affleck. Here we have John Lasseter. Here we have James Franco. Here we have Louis CK. Here we have Woody Fucking Allen, who still has people defending him and crying, "Why can't we separate the artist from the art?" Even Michael Caine — just *days* ago — said he would work with Allen again, because he doesn't believe in "hearsay."

I am angry and I am tired. I didn't think I wanted to write this piece, but after I mentioned Singer to several people and none of them had heard anything about the allegations against him, I decided that it was important to talk about it. The performativity of celebrity participation that we saw through Time's Up last year is quickly becoming more and more evident every day of this year's awards season. However, we are also now a year removed from #MeToo, which I personally believe has had more of a foundational impact on how we talk about and perceive the pervasiveness of sexual abuse. There is now a national platform — with a strong foundation in Time's Up and #MeToo — for survivors and their advocates to speak from, and that's not a small accomplishment.

It's easy to feel helpless in this climate: you cannot single-handedly take down Bryan Singer. Neither can I. But you can help by not being a bystander. Listen to your friends when they come to you. Believe survivors. Donate to RAINN. Be angry. Stay educated. Share what you've learned; if you've made it this far into this article, you no longer have an excuse to stay silent about Singer, because you know about it now! We have to hold abusers accountable and we absolutely need to stop giving them Oscars, because in the end, these awards mean nothing except for what they represent: power. And as long as abusers have power, Time's Up hasn't finished its job.

#### Resources:

National Sexual Assault Hotline:

800-656-HOPE (4673)

[RAINN.org](http://RAINN.org)

[NSVRC.org](http://NSVRC.org)



# Top 10 LGBTQ+ Movies

by Jason Russo

If you're like me and you'll start watching a dumb, soapy TV show just for the gay character development, or if you'll trek to your (not-so-local) indie theater to see the latest art-house queer themed movie, then this list is for you. So ladies, let's kick back, relax, grab our popcorn and get ready for some gay ass content! After careful consideration, here are my top ten LGBTQ+ movies.

## 10. Brokeback Mountain

Breaking ground as the first LGBTQ+ film to be nominated for Best Picture, Brokeback Mountain fulfilled all my 6th grade Boy Scout fantasies of sex in the great outdoors. Seeing Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger — two of the biggest movie stars of the time — playing gay roles, was incredibly inspiring for young queer little me (though, the lack of lube used in the sex scene definitely confused me for a while). Regardless, this film is stellar, incredibly long, and definitely a staple of queer cinema.



## 9. Love, Simon

Arguably one of the cutest movies on the list, Love, Simon is the high school experience that every queer person probably wanted. Simon Spier is a closeted gay teenager who spends the majority of the movie trying to find out who the other gay kid at his school is (as if there's only one more) after a long period of anonymous email flirting. It's a feel-good rom-com that actually has substance and is an incredibly poignant, realistic depiction of what it's like to discover your sexuality in high school. Also, it has a killer soundtrack.



## 8. Dallas Buyers Club

Matthew McConaughey's triumphant return from a series of movie flops, Dallas Buyers Club is a moving film about heart-break, loss, and identity within the AIDS crisis. Both McConaughey and Jared Leto won Oscars for their performances among six other nominations. The film depicts a story that is an incredibly important piece of queer history, and it should be considered a must-watch for all.



## 7. Tangerine

The marvel of this movie goes beyond its excellent cinematography; it was shot entirely on iPhones. Tangerine follows two transgender sex workers in California. One of the characters has just gotten out of jail to find out that her pimp/boyfriend has been cheating on her. The film is so much more than its romantic drama though - both blatant and latent transphobia are shown in ways that so accurately mirror real life, it is almost chilling, and the story itself has a universality to it that makes it easily relatable. The movie has been lauded for its originality, and its casting of actual transgender actresses to play transgender characters. Free Press Publisher Julia Carmel highly recommends this film, so y'all need to watch it.



## 6. The Birdcage

Easily the funniest film on the list, The Birdcage follows the story of a drag club owner (Robin Williams) and his partner, Albert (Nathan Lane) who is one of the queens who performs on stage when their son brings his fiancée's conservative family home to "meet-the-parents." His biological mother was supposed to come to the dinner, but she gets stuck in traffic, so Albert dons his wig and makeup and serves face pretending to be her. It is a hilarious movie that my dad and I quote almost daily, and after watching it, you will too.





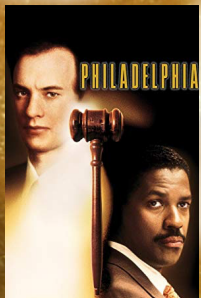


### 5. Carol

Lesbians let me hear you make some noise!!! Carol made waves for its incredible performances and A-list casting. It is a gorgeous film depicting cross-generational relationships as it portrays a compelling love story between two women in 1950s New York City. Tender and dramatic, it remains one of the best lesbian-themed movies produced by major studios.

### 4. Moonlight

Winner of three Oscars and a slew of other awards, Moonlight is a film that's sure to take your emotions on a roller coaster. Viewers follow the story of a young, black, gay teenager growing up in a poor neighborhood in Miami, a harsh narrative that's juxtaposed with stunning cinematography. The film was lauded for its incredible portrayal of non-white, queer characters and is known as one of the greatest films ever produced, earning a 99 on Metacritic (which is astounding to say the least).



### 3. Philadelphia

Here's where the tears really start. Philadelphia is an inspiring story of a young lawyer who is fired for having AIDS. The film tracks the trial following the wrongful termination lawsuit that he files. Tom Hanks gets to live my dream of dating a young Antonio Banderas, and Denzel Washington plays Hanks' lawyer during the trial. The film was one of the first to tackle the AIDS crisis, truly investigating how people can break down barriers to combat homophobia.

### 2. God's Own Country

Probably the most obscure film on this list, God's Own Country is a slap in the face that will make you cry harder than any other film mentioned. Set in rural England, the film follows the son of a farmer who struggles with his identity and place in the world. His life is turned upside down when a (sexy AF) foreigner is hired to help out on the farm. Featuring graphic nudity, mud sex, and real-life shots of birthing cows (all the farm work in the film is real), this is not only a story of love, but a reflection of identity and an investigation into how love crosses all boundaries.



### 1. Call Me by Your Name

We've been sobbing our eyes out since number 3, but get ready for more, ladies! CM-BYN left me an emotional wreck for about a month after seeing it. The relationship between Elio and Oliver is so beautiful, and the film is so shockingly moving and immersive, you actually feel like you're in Italy with them. The atmosphere that director Luca Guadagnino created is unmatched, and the script adapted by James Ivory earned him an Oscar. I placed this film at number one not only because of my undying love for Timothée Chalamet, but also because it was a refreshingly new story. All of the other films on this list (and the majority of queer films that are produced) deal with the stressors of coming out and homophobia, and while those are massively important topics to discuss, it is so nice to watch a love story that just happens to involve two people of the same sex. Elio never fears his parents' disapproval, and he is free to explore his sexuality without judgment. Hopefully, in the future, we will be able to have more films that feature this peaceful acceptance.





# jake gyllenhaal characters ranked based on their sex appeal according to me

by deirdre delasho

## 10 *Enemy* — Anthony Clair

Actor Anthony Clair is creepy -- and not in the sexy Lou-in-*Nightcrawler* way. He follows his doppelganger's hot GF around and is generally unhinged. He is kinky though, as we see that he regularly attends an underground sex dungeon. If you're into that, maybe Anthony would be higher on your list. But this is my list. Get your own. He's just weird!

## 9 *Spider-man: Far From Home* — Mysterio

Yeah, this movie isn't out yet and yeah, I'm putting it at the bottom of the list because Jake sold out to a Marvel movie and yeah, I'm still gonna see it and yeah, I'm probably still gonna think that he's hot in it.

## 8 *Brokeback Mountain* — Jack Twist

I want to be held in Jack Twist's warm embrace. I want to raise a herd of sheep with him. Eat beans with him in a tent. Raise a child together despite his ongoing affair with his lifelong lover whom he meets every year at Brokeback Mountain for a "fishing trip." And you know why? Because I love him, and I support him.

## 7 "Amy Schumer Gets 'Katfished' by Jake Gyllenhaal" — Himself

In this sketch we get a little peek into Jake's private life and we find out that he has a pet ferret! There is something undeniably sexy about the way Jake swings his ferret around, and the passion he has in sharing his ferret with Amy Schumer just gets my blood boiling. This is not an innuendo, but the more I write about Jake Gyllenhaal whipping his ferret out, the more it feels like one.

## 6 *Nightcrawler* — Louis Bloom

Okay yeah, Lou is kind of unsettling and his moral compass is like, questionable at best, but there's no denying that this man would provide for you. And probably murder for you.

## 5 Vampire Weekend's "Giving Up the Gun" music video — Tennis player

Jake is alongside Joe Jonas here a cute little drunken tennis player. Most importantly, he is wearing very short shorts, not leaving much to the imagination. Vampire Weekend may have won a Grammy for *Modern Vampires of the City* but they should consider this music video as their crowning accomplishment.

## 4 *Prisoners* — Detective Loki

The tendrils of hair falling in his face... the neck tattoo... the Jóhann Jóhannsson score... all of these elements come together and form the perfect man. You know what? He's a baddie. I said it.

## 3 *Zodiac* — Robert Graysmith

Robert Graysmith is a fairly unassuming character. He's just a young crime reporter trying to prove himself to Robert Downey Jr. -- oh but wait, did I mention that he's also trying to solve a MYSTERY and find out who the ZODIAC KILLER is?? That's HOT! Robert Graysmith is a cutie and he is husband material (regardless of what his wife might say)!

## 2 *Enemy* — Adam Bell

Jake's other role in *Enemy* is much higher on my list. Adam Bell is a sexy professor whose claim to sexiness mostly just comes from the fact that he's played by Jake Gyllenhaal. Nonetheless, his beard, his disheveled personality, and his determination make him the ideal candidate for being my lover. He's smart, but not condescending. Hot, but not conceited.

## 1 *Okja* — Johnny Wilcox

You might think this is a weird choice for number one. This character is f\*cking bonkers. He's also kind of a dick. But when Johnny gets on that stage with his shorts shorts and his hip thrusts and his thicc thighs... There Are Simply No Words. Also, Jake sports a mustache for this role which — for me personally — bumps him up at LEAST three spots. Leave your morals at home and bring some earplugs and by God you've got yourself a mans!



# Four Meals 4 FOUR Loko by Andres Gomez

The Four Loko is a malt beverage that is usually paired with slander or stigma. Because of this, many are afraid to admit that the Four Loko deserves to be perceived with the same reverence that wine is. Four Loko, similar to wine, has many classifications related to its taste, texture and quality, that could be used to amplify any dining experience. With Valentines Day coming up, these four meals — when paired with the right Four Loko — can create the perfect evening to treat a partner(s) or maybe just yourself.

The Greek Salad is the perfect start to any meal. It could only be described as a symphonic assault on your palate via fresh, tart vegetables drenched in olive oil. Depending on any dietary restrictions anyone consuming might have, a greek salad could include romaine lettuce, tomatoes, red onions, black/brown olives, olive oil and feta cheese. A dish as tart, ripe and light as the Greek Salad would go perfectly with the Four Loko Black, Peach or Sour Apple. Apart from being semi-dry lokos, this trio has the body and flavor of a dense fruit. A dense fruit that could perfectly highlight each of the individual flavors in this Greek Salad.

A Valencian Paella is a rice dish whose origins can be traced to 10th century Valencia; right after rice cultivation began in Muslim Spain. The qualifications for what defines an authentic Valencian paella are possibly as controversial as pairing Four Lokos with a dinner. Many in Valencia will describe the traditional rice dish as one that includes sauteed chicken and rabbit cooked in a rice dish with olive oil, paprika garlic, saffron, green vegetables, grated tomatoes and beans. However, on the Mediterranean coast of Valencia it is believed that an authentic Valencian Paella is cooked with seafood instead of sauteed chicken and rabbit. Despite these inconsistencies in the Paella Multiverse, what many should be able to agree on is that this a dish that is very wet and saturated with rich flavors. Flavors that could only be highlighted with a Four Loko Gold or Blaze. Both lokos have the kinds of dry qualities and bitter notes that could transcend the dish. However I would go with the Gold and save the Blaze for a future dish. Furthermore, for those who do not indulge in the carnal sin of meat consumption, artichokes, bell peppers, green beans and onions could be used as well.

The Four Loko Blaze is one of few Four Lokos that could actually be used as a marinade as well as a beverage. A dish that was practically made to be sauteed in Four Loko Blaze is an Argentinian Skirt Steak prepared with mole and cilantro. The key to cooking a steak in a citrus marinade (such as the Four Loko Blaze) is to make sure that this citrus comes packed with heat. Therefore, it is imperative to tenderize the steak with red pepper flakes as well as Blaze. To capitalize on the citrusy spice of the steak's initial rub, one could use a mole sauce. Once this mole is prepared using many of the same kinds of bitter, citrusy and spicy flavors that the steak has been soaking in, one can finish the dish with a subtle yet very present bit of cilantro. A dish such as this demands a bold flavor with sweet notes: Lokos like Fruit Punch, Grape or Watermelon. These medium bodied semi-sweet Lokos are texturally consistent with the steak and mole dish, while serving the purpose of resolving the conflict that the bitter nature of the mole creates on our palate.

The problem of coming up with a dessert to match the very sweet nature of the Digestif Lokos, is solved with a gluten free vegan chocolate cake. The very best chocolate cakes are those that do not sacrifice texture for moisture and those who are not afraid to explore the bitter nature of chocolate. When looking for the perfect chocolate cake, make sure to look for recipes that will produce a very fluffy and light textured bitter chocolate cake. Alternatives to animal based ingredients and gluten ingredients will also contribute to the light and airy texture of the cake. This becomes important when pairing it with a digestif such as a Four Loko Strawberry Lemonade or a Four Loko Red. Truly adjacent to Limoncello or a glass of Sherry, these two flavors of Lokos have the kind of full body and sweet nature that would complete romantic night.



## **a prayer for my body**

*by Liz Short*

My hands, my hands, my hands  
Are stuffed into my jacket pocket  
Sweating

My hair, my hair, my hair  
Is consistently getting tucked behind my ears  
Instinctive

My legs, my legs, my legs  
Are moving of their own accord  
Forward

My fingers, my fingers, my fingers  
Are tearing at buttons, I'm not sure who's  
Desperate

My thighs, my thighs, my thighs  
Leaning in, brushing yours too softly  
Alluring

My lungs, my lungs, my lungs  
Breathe you in and exhale lust like smoke  
Breathless

My heart, my heart, my heart  
Is lost in desire of you and somewhere  
in these sheets  
Pulsing

My body, my body, my body,  
Yes, it is a temple and I am it's god  
I am the keeper of your prayers and penance  
You pray with me under thick blankets  
with names whispered like hymns

You come for forgiveness, for wisdom,  
hope, fear, whatever,  
You pray, offering yourself in worship  
At the altar that is my body

## **the night ritual**

*by Colleen Fucigna*

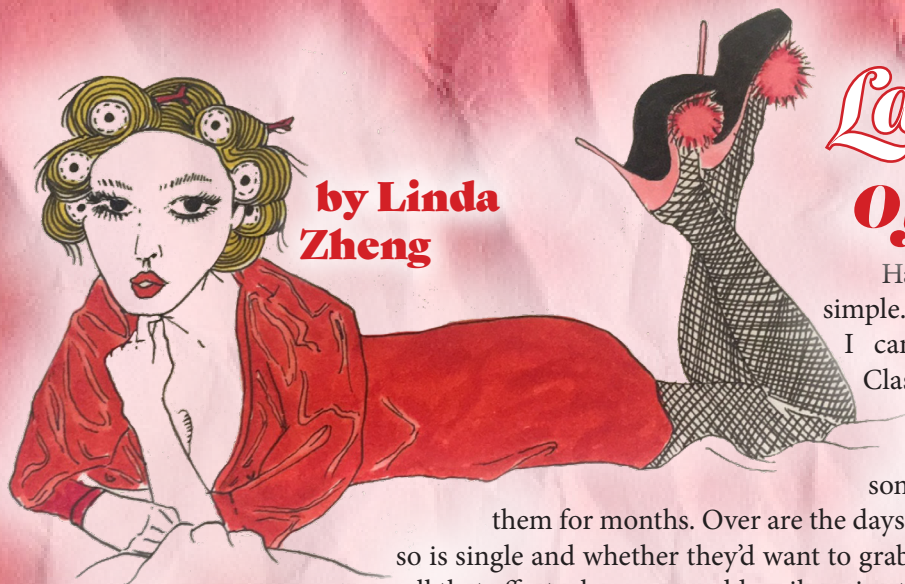
Waking with our love apart  
Shows that I must learn a lesson  
Beneath me here there lay the chart  
On which the truth of us is questioned

He comes to me in dreamy state  
He bids me and he beckons  
Love asks of me what will I take  
She drags me to the heavens

Taken by the hands of fate  
The heart finds true concession  
Wake quick again! A new dawn breaks  
Bold querent seeking question







by **Linda Zheng**

## Laws & Flaws of Attraction

Having sex in college is almost too simple. I can probably find sex faster than I can find the CW (AKA the “new” Classroom Wing). Why? Because we no longer have to wait until the end of the semester to finally ask for somebody’s number after pining over them for months. Over are the days of asking a friend of a friend if so and so is single and whether they’d want to grab some dinner. Why bother putting in all that effort when you could easily swipe through profiles until you come across somebody who probably wouldn’t look too shabby under your \$8 Christmas lights from Walmart? The very act of having sex has become so streamlined that I have to wonder if people truly enjoy it anymore.

All that time spent swiping through Tinder, and what is it really for in the end? So you can meet up with someone whose dorm room smells like decaying gym socks for 15-30 minutes (and here I’m being generous) only to not cum and go home with streaky eye makeup? Surely even watching paint dry has more merit than that. This isn’t to say that monogamy is the end-all, or to say that anybody who practices safe and consensual non-committal sex is “wrong” in doing so. Rather, over the course of our college sexcapades I think we’ve conveniently forgotten that in order to have fun sex, you should actually be attracted to the person you’re interested in. They don’t have to make your heart flutter or fill your tummy with butterflies, but if they don’t at least make you soak your pants, then what’s the point?

Pure sexual attraction — in my opinion — is very rare. But when it does happen your body recognizes it before your brain does. It reacts in a primal way that reminds you that your prehistoric animal brain still answers to urges that your modern ego couldn’t possibly comprehend. That prolonged eye contact across the Marketplace with someone who can’t seem to stop shooting you looks? That hot feeling running down your body that makes you feel like you’re being spit-roasted at your family’s July 4th BBQ? This is your body’s way of alerting you to the fact that it very much wants to have sex with someone. Unfortunately, you probably won’t feel this way about the guy you absentmindedly swiped right on cause he listens to similar lo-fi hip hop beats to study to, or that girl whose profile you came across just before you had to set down your phone to wipe. Somehow the art of passionate and mutual sexual understanding has been lost and given way to a string of boring, convenient, and mediocre hookups.

Sex is difficult to navigate when we have so many dating and hookup apps at our disposal. I would argue it even creates an environment that facilitates easy and quick sex that’s absent of any real attraction. This is why we have to listen to our bodies! If the attraction isn’t there then how can we expect the sex to be good?

I’ve found that the best way to combat lackluster sex is to take the initiative and shoot your shot. If there’s someone you’ve been feeling that undeniable attraction towards don’t just wait around hoping they’ll notice, make a move! Just like how you can recognize that you aren’t compatible for a long term relationship with every person you go on a date with, it’s important to recognize that you aren’t compatible for a short term non-committed relationship with just anyone you swipe on.







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Body Gear