



Simply Service

Written by and for those in service-oriented relationships

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My Journey from Submissive to Slave... and the Miracle of Being "at His feet."

By slavegirl debbie

i look forward to this newsletter every month. As an un-owned/un-Mastered/un-collared slavegirl, there is so much for me to learn from those who are in service. Yet i have been wondering where the voices are of those like me -- those who once were, yet are no longer in service. i realized that my own story might possibly be of value to others who are in my position. After two years of being single, i met Daddy and Mrs. Daddy a year ago and i now serve Them part-time as girl. i continue to prepare for the Master i have yet to meet .. and would like to share my story in hopes that it may be of help to others.

As a former submissive and now as slave, it has been very difficult for me to transition from solo (in charge of every-

thing in my life and in charge of me) ... to protocol, obedience and surrender (when i find myself in personal service).

i began this wondrous journey in bdsm four and a half years ago, identifying as a submissive. i spent a year of learning and experiencing the basics under a few well-respected Dominants in L.A. Soon after, i found who i thought would be my Dominant for life. But it was not to be. After seven blissful months together, i woke up one night feeling like my arms and legs were on fire. After the emergency room and subsequent visits to several doctors, they didn't know what was wrong with me. For four months, i was bed-ridden, weak, in constant pain and an emotional/mental mess. Sir

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Community Unity By Master Kalan

Community unity is a frequent discussion not only in the Leather/BDSM communities but in many alternative lifestyle communities. Though I've yet to see any completely successful answer to the issues of formulating community unity, I do think I understand why some people are so strongly motivated to work toward it...of course I could be wrong ~LOL~ what follows are my own

views and opinions that I've often tried to articulate over the years with varying degrees of success, I hope this particular attempt will make my position a bit clearer. We live in a culture where alternative lifestyles are often met with attitudes ranging from fear to disdain or even hatred. While certainly there are those that have come to

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My Journey from Submissive to Slave... and the Miracle of Being “at His feet.” By slavegirl Debbie (continued)

made the decision to stop almost all O/our D/s until I began to get well.

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Finally, i was diagnosed in the fourth month: i had a rare form of Lupus that was attacking my blood vessels. my road to recovery lasted several more months until finally the right combination of meds got me back on my feet. Sir stayed with me through those seven months of hell, but the damage was done. i was no longer the woman He fell in love with and the inspiration for His dominance was gone. The break-up was very difficult and i left the community for a few months. Once i came back, i had plenty of wonderful play partners, and though i always loved pain play, i was becoming a heavier and heavier bottom – until i became a true pain pig. That was hot and wonderful and VERY much fun! But something was missing. i missed being in service. Yet every time i found myself in small acts of personal service, protocol went out the window and i would catch myself after each mistake, wondering “what the hell is wrong with me? i know better!” (This would happen again in spades two years later).

i asked to meet with a former Mentor and told Him what was happening. He suggested that i was so in charge of my own life, so dominant and busy at work, that when it was time for me to serve and/or to follow basic protocol in the presence of Dominants i respect, that i was not able to maintain my focus because i was “spinning in the action of my own life.” He suggested that i try deep breathing and meditation, or have ‘quiet and focused time’ before i were to attend an event. It helped a lot and i was happy for awhile, but i was not able to keep it going. And i was still sad and felt incomplete. i wanted so much to serve. But how?

i woke up one morning and was determined to find a way. And that’s when it hit me: community service. i formed a local bdsm/leather women’s group, began programming our local dungeon’s workshop series, served as outreach per-

son for our local coalition of bdsm/leather/kink organizations, and sending e-mail blasts all over the place. It felt so wonderful to serve again. It wasn’t the same as serving a Person, but I felt complete. For awhile...

It was during this period that i was having a hard time calling myself a submissive. So i began calling myself a “submissive with a slave heart” because i found my heart in service. But that definition did not really fit, and i knew it. i began to attend a local group that ties Spirituality and Leather together. Almost immediately, what i THOUGHT i understood about submission and slavery, began to change drastically. The more i heard, the more i began to question, “am i really a slave???” But i had no right to call myself that. How could i when i have no Master, and am not in service to Anyone?

Soon after, i came upon the leathergirl movement, and suddenly i felt i’d come home. **Sheryl Dee**, co-founder of the leathergirl movement, defines leathergirls as “*men and women who find joy in being in service to others. We are slaves, submissives, and bottoms with a feminine heart.*” Now that really resonated! And so i claimed the name “girl debbie,” a year ago. i also began to explore a Daddy/Mrs. Daddy/girl relationship with a couple in Phoenix at that time and began to notice that same old pattern. When They were in town, i would move in and out of being able to remain in protocol with Them. i was really struggling with this.

Around the same time, i began attending leather conferences and meeting other slaves. i had never met a group of such proactive people. They were dominant, proactive, take charge people, with strong personalities, actively doing the bidding of their Masters. And something else happened. i was so very moved by the couples i met. i was moved by their energy, their relationships, their families, their love and respect, and the way they moved in the world. i really resonated with these people. i was seeing in action what i was being taught at that Leather Spirituality Group, about

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My Journey from Submissive to Slave... and the Miracle of Being “at His feet.” (continued)

By slavegirl debbie

Mastery and slavery. And i finally let it all in – *i AM a slave and it's ok to identify as one.* i took a new look at my relationship with my former Sir of three years ago. Although W/we identified as “Dominant and submissive,” there was nothing i would not do for Him. Before i got ill, i was obedient and surrendered to Him in every way. i took care of so many things for Him. i was not only collared to Him, but felt owned by Him. my body, mind, soul, heart and all that i am was His. No, He was not a Master and i was not a slave, but W/we were not far from it.

Just as i was waking up to these realizations, things fell into place once again. i caught the attention of a very respected gay leather Master in Los Angeles who saw this awakening in me. He took interest in my development and has been meeting with and guiding me ever since (note: i am not His slave nor am i in service to Him). Early on, He suggested that i follow His family protocol, to help ground me. This was and continues to be a great honor. It was also a miracle, for it was the impetus for “awakening” me. i am hesitant to share here *exactly* what these protocols are, as this is a private, personal and sacred space. Similar protocols are practiced at Butchmann’s Academy which you can view here:

<http://www.arizonapowerexchange.org/academy/protocol/index.html>

A big part of this protocol would be presenting to my Teacher formally when i would see Him, and present again upon leaving, saying something very specific each time. Sir told me that these protocols would ground me during this transition period. And it has. In spades! The first time i noticed it, was when I was in Phoenix visiting Daddy and Mrs. Daddy, who i am in part-time service to. They allowed me to use His protocol in Their home, and when out and about. i didn’t realize the transition, the transformation, until a friend pointed it out to me at a pool party. “girl debbie, i’ve never seen you more relaxed and at peace before. What’s going on? Is that really you?” Lol, yes, it was me. It

was partially the joy I felt being in service for the weekend to Daddy & Mrs. Daddy, but a large part of it was following my Teacher’s protocol: it kept me grounded, peaceful, calm and yet focused.

It was then that i realized that my Teacher is the metaphor for my future Master – and that by remaining “at His feet” i have become softer, obedient, surrendered and centered; full of peace, yet ready to serve in an instant – fluidly and calmly. Although i am far from perfect remaining in that space, every day brings with it a new ease. Sir's protocol is the miracle that has helped center and ground me.

my real “awakening” was yet to begin but that is a story for another time.

Of the many realizations that have come since following Sir's Protocols, i finally accepted what close friends had been telling me for the past several months: “you’re doing too much. you need to slow down.” i was in denial about my community service. i let it go too far. i let it take over my life, busying myself so much that i had little time left for me and no room to focus on the calm, the peace, the center. i have since taken several steps back and have found balance once again.

Following my Teacher’s Protocols has been the impetus for my being able to transition from solo to service. It is grounding. Calming. It facilitates centeredness and provides the opportunity to be “at His/Her feet.” i would humbly and respectfully suggest to single/uncollared submissives, girls, boys or slaves, if you are having trouble remaining in protocol or being able to serve from a calm and centered place, perhaps you know a Dominant or Master you can approach with this idea. Ask them if they’d be open to discussing the trouble you are having and see where it goes from there. You may be asked to petition Him/Her. Each Dominant and Master is different.

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My Journey from Submissive to Slave... and the Miracle of Being “at His feet.” (continued)

By slavegirl Debbie

i am honored by my Teacher's guidance and direction and am so grateful and full of joy for His presence in my life.
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With the fullness of my Heart, i thank You Sir. And with a full heart, i also thank a certain gay male slave, my dear dear friend, for teaching me so much about surrender, obedience, dropping through and finding peace. i thank my former Sir who remains my best Friend, Confidante and greatest supporter. And i thank my best friend, whose love and support mean the world to me.

*girl debbie lives in Los Angeles and identifies as a *queer, leather, hetero-flexible jewish slave girl.* she's been involved in the bdsm community for four years and the leather community for the past year. her journey has been spiritual one, where she finds bliss and great meaning in protocol and personal service. girl debbie serves the community as Public Relations Director for the 2006 Southwest Leather Conference, Outreach Coordinator of the L.A. Leather Coalition, and Program Coordinator of Insight at Lair de Sade. girl debbie is honored to be a student of a gay leather Master in Los Angeles and is currently exploring a Daddy & Mrs. Daddy/girl relationship with Scary Terry and Lady Patricia in Phoenix. girl debbie believes that “The Master ap-*

Time Management

By kessia

Never enough hours in the day, pressure, stress. The sense of urgency created by the feeling that there is never enough time. The question is, time for what?

We prioritize space, making sure it is neat and organized. We prioritize money, making sure we spend it on things that are worthwhile. Yet we persist in treating time as if it is this thing that simply happens to us, that cannot be broken down and organized, just like space or money.

How each of us spends time depends on what we want from life or what owners want from us. It also depends on the amount of discipline we are willing to exert to declutter our time.

Time management begins with a methodical examination of how time is actually spent and how time is ideally spent.

Mindfully examine how you WANT to spend your time. Write it down. Talk about it with your owner, find out how s/he wants your time spent. With that done, stuff the list into a drawer and spend a week attending to how you ACTUALLY spend your time. Write it down. Look at it. Compare it to the list you made. Is it different? Why?

My ideal and actual lists were different because I was distracted by minutiae. I let activities rush up on me rather than planning the time to do them. I answered the telephone when it was not really convenient for me to do so. I was not disciplined with my computer time. By the end of the week, I had wasted so much time that I had no time left for the things I wanted to do. Instead, I was playing catch up all weekend and starting the following week just as tense and unrested.

I wrote on my list that I wanted to be spending my time improving my education, being with the children, making a pleasant home and having some fun. I recorded what I actually did and the funny thing was all I was doing was answering phones, getting distracted and doing FLY lady things. This was not how I wanted to spend my time.

At that point, my time became all my own to organize and define because I was no longer in active service. So I chucked the FLY lady stuff that did not work for me, turned the answering machine on and started mindfully organizing my time.

Example: I noted I spent a bunch of time every day doing laundry. Wash, fold, put away. Hours spent daily doing this.

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Community Unity By Master Kalan (continued)

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a level of understanding that allows them to tolerate or even embrace individuals outside their perception of 'normal', the majority of our legislators seem content to either promote or turn a blind eye to the cultural intolerance that holds sway in this country.

Though I believe that everyone has a fundamental right to personal discrimination, I also believe that when such prejudice is allowed to effect public policy it engenders an environment in which social repression is more tolerated than individual expression. That is what I see occurring in America today, while the level at which it is expressed certainly varies from place to place it always seems to be present on some level.

I see that pervasive climate of social repression as the single greatest motivating factor for creating community unity; in a nation where there are so many that despise those of minority sexual persuasions it makes sense that many of us have a desire to promote a strong unified front to challenge the social stigmas that effect so many of us individually. The challenge of course has always been to figure out how to make that happen...we all know that in a crisis our communities tend to band together, we become more or less unified in the face of a direct attack, but what about the rest of the time?

I see two basic schools of thought surrounding programs of unity within the community, in reflecting back over the years I believe that every purposeful attempt to create unity has fallen into one of these two groupings.

The first is based in the concept that unity is achievable only through completely open communication and that only when we promote an environment in which everyone is welcome to express themselves no matter what their views might be can it ever really be achieved. There is a problem with this theory in practice of course, various groups within the communities don't like the idea of people being able to say whatever they like...some people prefer if certain topics

or issues either aren't discussed at all or at least aren't discussed in open venues.

The second school of thought that I see regarding the establishment of unity is that of creating a new group or organization that ostensibly will serve as a guiding force for unity within the community. Here is where I find those attempting to establish 'parent' groups using any number of tactics to bring existing groups together under their sphere of influence. Though I do see some value in this, in nearly every scenario where I have witnessed this approach those leading the 'umbrella' group are inevitably tied to a select number of factions and tend to disregard or even cut out those organizations not aligned with their political persuasions...effectively eliminating any chance for true unity before they ever get started in the first place.

I think most movements to foster unity fall into one of these two categories...since I've never seen either method actually achieve unity within the community I can't say that one is any better or worse than the other, in fact the only common effect that I've seen from any unification effort is that when such efforts break down they leave many of those affected by them with a sense of fracture and disillusionment. I've worked with both models for unity before, I've studied such attempts in other communities...and I've come to the conclusion that there is still something that we are missing here...

It seems to me that the biggest challenge facing the creation of unity is that actually trying to unify people makes them drift further apart, those seeking unity inevitably promote division (albeit not intentionally to be sure). I do believe that everyone that volunteers for, works within and/or spends time planning events to add to the dynamic nature of our communities genuinely has good intentions at heart. I certainly don't think there are any leatherfolk or BDSM'ers out there that spend time contemplating how to screw up the community or promote fractures or infighting.

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Declutter 101

By Tante Jen

Based off of an article that I found several years ago on www.flylady.com.

You've gotten the time and energy and are ready to start on the annual, semi annual or quarterly clean-out. What now?

Time to consider and weigh in with specific methods and strategies for decluttering. These methods bring different strengths to the fight against clutter. Choose the one that's right for you and your family.

A classic: the Four-Box method

The Four-Box method forces a decision, item by item. To apply it, gather three boxes and a large trash can. Label the boxes, "Put Away", "Give Away/Sell" and "Storage." Items to be thrown away belong in the trash can.

Take the four boxes to the declutter area, kitchen, hall, bathroom, etc. One at a time, pick up each piece of clutter. Ask yourself, "Do I want to put this away in another place, donate it (or sell it at a yard sale), store it, or throw it away?" You may not release your grip on the item until you have made a decision.

At the end of the decluttering session, reserve 10 - 15 minutes to empty the boxes. Put away items are put in more appropriate places. Give Away/Sell items should be stored outside the house, in a garage, or in the trunk of the car for drop-off. As each Storage box fills, make a brief inventory of the contents and put the box into the storage area. Finally, empty the trash can quickly to prevent second thoughts!

The Four Box method will work for anyone, in any declutter mode. Use it to clear a shelf or drawer each day, or apply it as part of a whole-house weekend assault on clutter. By forcing a decision, it will serve you well as you cull clutter from the home.

Out of sight, out of mind: the Box and Banish method

Where the Four Box method nibbles away at clutter bit-by-bit, Box and Banish is a drastic, clear-it-out effort that transports clutter away from living areas, to be dealt with later. Box and Banish is simple. Gather all clutter from counters, drawers, chairs, tables, floors, ovens, and bathtubs. Place the clutter into boxes or bags, and stack it

somewhere outside the living area. Work until all surfaces are clear and clutter free.

Next step: open each box or bag of clutter, one at a time. As with the Four Box method, decide whether each item inside should be thrown away, put away, given away or sold, or stored. In extreme cases, declutterers have been known to throw away Box and Banish boxes, sight unseen!

On the plus side, Box and Banish creates instant results. Often, impending guests or other emergencies force a version of Box and Banish upon the cluttered household. Clearing clutter quickly sparks enthusiasm and motivation.

On the minus side, energies often flag before the Box and Banish declutterer reaches the end of the boxed clutter. The effort stalls, the clutter remains, aging gently in the bags and boxes as it becomes surrounded by new layers of clutter. In a worst-case scenario, the need for some Boxed-and-Banished item can trigger formation of Mt. Cluttermore, as the frantic searcher upends each carefully boxed hillock of clutter, looking for the single missing item.

Box and Banish can also create an instant absence of apparent clutter, the method does nothing to change the underlying problem. More gradual decluttering methods go hand-in-hand with other components of getting organized: building new habits, organizing stored items, creating new household routines. Box and Banish, for many, is a mere cosmetic quick-fix.

Penicillin method

Often, decluttering efforts chase their tails in an endless loop. The home manager declutters the small table in the hallway and moves on. By the following week, a whole new species of clutter has returned to the cleared area.

The Penicillin method uses a Petri dish metaphor to get a grip on clutter. Imagine a Petri dish full of fuzzy brown mold spores. A researcher begins to apply small drops of penicillin to the dish. Each little drop clears a small circular area; soon, drop upon drop, the entire dish is cleared of the distasteful intruder.

So, too, with the Penicillin method of decluttering. Today, the declutterer clears the kitchen table. From this point, no matter how bad the clutter becomes elsewhere, the kitchen table is inoculated with Penicillin. Daily clutter

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Declutter 101

By Tante Jen (continued)

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checks make sure no clutter is permitted to return.

Next declutter session, the declutterer attacks the top of the buffet. Thinking "Penicillin!", that clear space joins the kitchen table. Soon, the cleared areas link up, banishing clutter from the entire house.

By devoting declutter energies to retaining the Penicillin effect of each declutter session, the Penicillin method focuses the declutterer on prevention. The method is useful, creative, and works well to bring an entire house under control.

Closet-Go-Round: whole house declutter

The Closet-Go-Round is a two-part process of identifying and assigning storage, while at the same time decluttering and revamping existing areas in the home.

Like a merry-go-round, the Closet-Go-Round turns out, sorts out and relocates all the storage functions of the home. In the initial stage, you'll identify storage needs and match them to available storage areas, regardless of what's being stored where at the moment.

Once you know what should go where, the active phase begins. You will need boxes, lots of them, and time--quite a bit of time. Starting at the front door, move from room to room placing boxes in front of each storage area: cabinets, drawers, closets, and shelves.

Then begin at the beginning once more. Start, for example, at the table in the hall. Remove any and all items from the table that are not assigned there: gloves, mail, keys, change, handbags. Place them in your box.

When the table is empty, except for the vase of flowers that belongs there, circle the house with your catch. Gloves are placed in the box before the coat closet where they are supposed to live. Mail is dumped into the box in front of the desk area. Items to be thrown away are delivered to the garbage can.

When the box is empty, move on to the next storage area in the hall: the coat closet. Empty the coat closet of all unassigned items, while adding the gloves to their assigned area. Again, circle the house with your coat closet box, delivering items to the new storage area where each belongs.

As you work, you're sorting and decluttering in two directions. You're removing clutter and improperly-stored items, while collecting and replacing the things which belong in any given area.

A Closet-Go-Round is a big undertaking, and it doesn't work well if performed in fits and starts. Choose this method if you have a block of two or three days to devote to a major declutter. While you'll work hard during that time, a Closet-Go-Round can take giant strides toward a more efficient, easy-to-manage home.

***Tante Jen** has STILL been involved in the scene since Jesus was a Corporal but has, in a fit of insanity and adoration of her Partner, pulled up stakes and left Nashville, TN for the lovely temperate climes of Detroit, MI. She still avers that the best advice for a servant is: Don't Panic. The second best is: if he can do it better than you can, let him*

Tante Jen has studied cooking and formal table service techniques in schools in Dallas, Texas and Charlotte, North Carolina. She estimates she has polished over 5,000 pieces of silver during her lifetime, most of them some hideously ornate pattern such as Francis I or Burgundy. She misses the days when slaves got together to compare ironing techniques and how to clean efficiently rather than whose M hits the hardest and where the next party will be.



Metamorphosis

By slave a

I have successfully surrendered myself to slavery for many years now. It has worked beautifully for me for the particular relationship I am in. It has enabled me to stay at home and raise our children, keep his home, serve him in many physical, emotional, mental and spiritual ways. It has provided me with a code of behavior and a code of honor. It has provided me with an identity and a social status. I am very grateful to the institution of leather community slavery and I owe it much.

An interesting thing is occurring though. Because I have surrendered myself so well to my role, my status and to this style of relating our relationship has become possibly too stable. The so-called children are eighteen, sixteen and fourteen and do not need my vigilant service any longer. They need me to be there, but they also need me to model adulthood for them.

And Master, well Master doesn't need the reassurance that I am trustworthy. He doesn't need to push my subjugation in order to believe that I'm not going to call the cops, divorce him or punish him endlessly because of how much I do for him, or how martyred I am by the Sm. I beg for the whip and I show my gratitude by providing rockin' after-care. I drop to my knees voluntarily. I thank him for his ejaculation. I obey and I take ridicule and humiliation like a champ. We did it! We achieved what we wanted to achieve, stability, intimacy, order, and guilt free, fear free kinky sex.

So now what?

Well, there are all kinds of kinky things that we haven't had the freedom to explore because of instability in the relationship or concerns about the kids or even money problems.

For instance, he was hooked a year or so ago. He might want to pursue more of that. Perhaps I get the opportunity to serve in the role as HIS ka-se-ka for some suspension scenes while he explores the sensations of pain. And my sexuality. I lived as a lesbian for a few years and while I don't consider myself gay, or even bi, or even straight to tell you the truth, I am androgynous in spirit. This is something I've wanted to explore for a long time. He's a biker. I'm a rider. Well, maybe it's time to learn to ride my own bike. Hell, maybe we should build me my OWN custom bike so we each have one. But where to start? And how to negotiate? Do you know how long it's been since we negotiated?

So we've begun the process. First we've had to assess what we've had. What the style of our Ms has been, and specifically what my presentation has been. In order to change both my presentation and my role as his sexual partner and his servant I have to take down the personal boundaries I have in place. This is a dangerous process. It leaves me feeling a bit unanchored and very susceptible to external judgment and ostracization. When I am sure of who I am, what I stand for and what my social role is there isn't much you can do to hurt me except insult Master. Today? Since I am unsure of the results of this metamorphosis, I am very vulnerable to influence. I will have to pick my friends wisely. I am also finding that keeping him apprised of changes places a burden on the relationship that was for so long Master-centric. Now it's "hear all about the slave time" and I'm not totally comfortable with that. But each day I take another step and I become more comfortable with a less standardized role. It's cold out here in uncharted territory and we're not quite sure what we're doing but one thing is for sure, we both need some excitement, a creative outlet or three and I need to expand my identity a bit.

When he needed a trophy corporate wife, I was a trophy corporate wife. When the children needed a normal mom to deliver birthday cupcakes to their classrooms, I was a normal looking mom. Now I'm free. He knows he's a corporate exec. The kids know I'm their mom. I can change what I look like...

But how? And how to keep Master on top, the pain flowing freely and yet allow me to explore new types of presentation. Why body mod of course! We're artists, painters, both of us. The solution is obvious. Buy a tattoo gun. OK, we've done that. We're designing the tattoos that will cover my whole body and he'll be doing some more on himself. This is such an obvious solution to the need for pain, dominance, a bit of a Pygmalion role-play and body mod.

My head was shaved in my collaring ceremony in 2000. It grew back. It's over two feet long. Well, if I'm going to be riding a lot something is going to have to be done. If it's going to tangle in the wind, let's beat the wind to it. I now have ten dreadlocks and more are forming. And of course, we're going to poke holes in me wherever we find skin elastic enough and strong enough to support the steel.

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Metamorphosis

By slave a (continued)

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I am studying the movement of some specific androgyns that have turned me on, Seven of Nine from Star Trek Voyager, Legolas from The Lord of the Rings and Shane from The L Word. They all have two things in common, they are slim and they have wonderful body language. In fact, still shots of any of the three of them don't begin to do them justice.

I guess it's time to take off that fifty pounds that make me look like a normal mom huh? And maybe go back to dancing school? And take the risk of falling down, of looking stupid. I have the opportunity to reacquaint myself with needing approval, with needing mirroring.

"How'm I doin' Master? Am I gliding like Seven of Nine?"

"Um, no, sorry slave, you look like a caterpillar."

It's been a long time since I needed correction. It's about time I took a risk don't you think?

I have seriously considered learning some drag king routines too, just for the entertainment value. A dreaded, tattooed drag king? Might be great! Rob Marley.

So what do I call this new role? It isn't an abandonment of slavery for I will still obey orders, they will just sound like this,

"Grind the edges of the fins on the motor, carefully."

Instead of,

"Pick up my cleaning, go to the bank and make me a dentist appointment."

I imagine someone will have to go to the bank now and then, and what do you want to bet it'll be me? But, the focus will be on the creativity of building the bike and changing my appearance, not running the home, since it basically runs itself now due to both our Mastery and slavery and those children that once required work, now perform functions like mopping and vacuuming.

So what am I if not a slave? What's an expanded slave? We decided on sidekick. Like Robin to his Batman. (That's twice. You know, my mother DID name me Robin.) I'm the sidekick now. Is it a promotion? God, I

hope not. But I might fail. It's been a long time since I feared failure.

Wish me a bon voyage and I'll send post cards (and pictures) from the edge.

slave a is an owned 24/7 slave to Master Scott in Phoenix, Arizona. They have been together for twenty years and practicing Sm on and off for the duration, but only became interested in D/s ten years ago. Five years ago, they changed their orientation to Master/slave. They have done presentations on protocol in the Southwest and are members of SASM, GWNN, MAsT, and Apex.

**Please remember that
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**Your comments will be forwarded
to the author if you request it.**



Naturally Polyamorous

By Ms. Pamela

Introduction

Humans are naturally polyamorous. All of us are products of this type of relationship whether or not we choose to acknowledge it. The only distinguishing characteristic between our poly relationships is a lack or inclusion of sex. The societal/biblical view is generally against polyamory though there is evidence that polyamorous relationships, in one form or another, have been around for a long time in many different cultures. The Bible supplies us with examples with their attendant problems and issues. Our modern society provides an overwhelming supply of naturally occurring polyamorous relationships, though not considered as such, and there is ample evidence that it is widespread in nature. It is difficult to know where one stands on this controversial topic unless you have some idea of what polyamory is and what characteristics are incorporated in these relationships.

What is polyamory?

Polygamy - Having more than one spouse at a time.

Polygyny - Having more than one wife at a time.

Polyandry - Having more than one husband at a time.

Group Relationships & Group Marriage - All consider themselves equally associated to one another.

Mono/Poly Relationships - One partner is monogamous but agrees to the Other having outside relationships

Geometric Arrangements - "Which are described by the number of people involved and their relationship connections. Examples include "triads" and "quads", along with "V" and "N" geometries. The connecting member of a V relationship is sometimes referred to as a "hinge"."

Self-Described - "Some people in sexually exclusive rela-

tionships may still self-describe as polyamorous, if they have significant emotional ties to more than one other person."

Open Relationships - "A relationship (usually between two people) in which participants are free to take other partners; where the couple making this agreement are married, it is an open marriage."

Swinging - Considered poly by some and not by others.

Miscellaneous - There are other types of relationships which may or may not be included in the polyamory umbrella depending on your point of view. They have been excluded as unnecessary to the scope of this paper.

The Nature of Mother Nature

There are different theories on why monogamy developed; each appearing to be as valid as the others. I don't think the reason for its development is as important as the fact that it isn't as widespread as we might like to believe. Quite a few studies have been done and published in various forms on different types of birds and animals and their mating habits. Of the pairs in nature only approximately 3% mate for life.[Note 8] Dr. Stephen T. Emlen of Cornell University points out that "true monogamy actually is rare. Even the most apparently devoted of partners in nature often mate with others." [Note 9]

Loving and Being in Love

The difference between being in love and simply loving someone is an issue which is always open to debate. It usually ends with opposing sides agreeing to disagree. Loving someone generally means we care for them deeply; we desire their overall well-being mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually. We generally feel this way toward our parents, siblings, mates/partners, children and very close friends. If something happened to any one of them we

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Naturally Polyamorous

By Ms. Pamela

(continued)

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would be very upset. Being in love with someone only adds one thing — a sexual element. We have a heightened sense of sexual awareness and tension; a chemistry or attraction that isn't present with all those we love.

I would venture to say that we have all at one time or another felt the Pull of sexual attraction to someone other than our mate/partner. This doesn't mean we're no longer sexually attracted to our significant other or spouse. It simply means we are capable of being aroused by more than one person at a time just as we are able to love more than one.

The Societal/Biblical View

The Bible is written by man "...given by inspiration of God, ..." [Note 10] Which indicates a "special influence" that shaped and gave direction to what was written. It was not word for word dictation meaning those doing the writing were putting down their perception except in specific places where God's actual words were written down and clearly marked as such.

Though not mentioning polyamory specifically as such, the Bible does speak of polygamous (more than one wife) relationships and it has been noted that "many of the ancient texts were written by polygamists." Note 11] It is littered with examples beset with problems. That isn't to say there were not just as many or more that worked well which were not included.

The Bible has been translated and updated several times since it was first written. Mistakes in translation as well as the differing perspectives of those doing the translating could have, and in all likelihood did, change what the Almighty intended.

Conclusion

Whether or not we choose to accept it we are all members of polyamorous relationships. Love is not something which is finite in quantity. We have an infinite amount of love for all our children, other family members, our mates/partners and those we call friends. The only ascertainable difference between our love relationships is whether or not we have a desire to bed a particular individual. Though love isn't something that can be measured, the time we have to nurture our love relationships is limited. This doesn't preclude us from loving more than our time allows. We simply choose not to advance more relationships than our schedules can accommodate.

Polyamorous relationships have been with us for eons and they aren't likely to disappear in the future in spite of vigorous opposition from various quarters. I believe that God conceived us with a polyamorous spirit; not only to populate the earth, but to share our love, in emulation of His love, with many others.

About the Author: Ms. Pamela is a 40 year old bi dominant from Virginia Who has been in the lifestyle for a little over 17 years. Although having experience with males, she tends to prefer females, finding the female slave much more challenging, rewarding, intimate, and satisfying.

Life and this lifestyle have taught her much, but there is always more to learn, explore and enjoy. Life is a series of lessons for us all. Once we learn what the current lesson has to teach we move on to the next. One of the things she has learned is that success is not really a place at which you arrive, but whether or not you're learning what each situation and circumstance has to teach. It's the quality of your journey.

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From the Editor

Hi everyone!

Well, after a month off, we're back with November's issue and more articles lined up for December's issue. Thank you for your patience while I adjusted to the changes in my life.

For those of you that emailed me encouragement and ideas about managing the full schedule — thank you! Many of your ideas have been put to use!

Also this month, a very special thank you to slave hilz, owned by Master Matthew for her formatting of the newsletter. Those of you who have also offered this help, thank you. This is becoming a lovely little joint project.

You'll find articles from new contributors this month with some unique perspectives on various topics. I'm really looking forward to spending time reading this issue as a slave, rather than the editor.

As always, I'd love to hear your ideas on topics and feel free to send in those articles!

Much love and respect during this holiday season,

BootPig



Essay

By E. Missy Hall

Why I am property, livestock.

Master told me last night I am livestock. So I looked up livestock and found this definition:

Function: *noun*

: animals kept or raised for use or pleasure; *especially* : farm animals kept for use and profit

Thinking of this definition I can easily see myself as livestock. My primary function being for his use and pleasure. A great part of my own perversion lies in use in particular. I have always seen myself in this relationship as a piece of property. Livestock in its own way makes more sense to me since I am an animal. I do not find myself in wonderment over being either property or a kept animal for Master's use or pleasure.

Being a complex human animal I do seek some higher purpose then to labor for a field of grass. But this essay is to examine being livestock. That is a higher purpose for a human in itself. To put one into a space and time where their existence comes down to one thing.

So my higher human purpose is to live for Master's ultimate pleasure and comfort. Perhaps to have the skills to turn him a slight profit, or at least pay for myself. So for practical purposes what must I do to accept this headspace? Is it even a matter of headspace?

It is if nothing else another matter of surrendering myself over to the Master's will in order to have that headspace and be in my proper place with him as property or livestock. for me it is all about staying in that right place with him under his will. It is a foundation, a premise that is within his rights as the Master to assume. In looking over the contract, Master has such prerogatives as the owner of me, and I have surrendered to him in good faith as his property. so we get back to that contract and what we have contracted for.

What did that leave me then? Property, livestock, my sole purpose to give him pleasure and to the best of my abilities and talents be used by him for our betterment. It is certainly not up to me to question Master's methods because livestock, a good piece of property will not question the methodology of the journey, but will give their all to make the necessary adjustments to their thinking and headspace in order to serve those goals.

And that gives me that human higher power that can enable me to be livestock.

What do I own? Nothing. what do I need to own? Nothing. Master gives me what I need and it has nothing to do with material items. It has everything to do with creating that humbled place at his feet where I can serve my purposes to him and be his property. Does property need to be humbled in order to serve that purpose? I personally think so because I am a human with that need for a higher purpose. Humility keeps me in a happier space. Property is for a human a humbled position in life. It is my position, one I sought and contracted for. At one point I believe I questioned my decision to contract for such a thing. I think time has proved how imprudent that thinking was. I do not believe one can use judgments again who they are at their core self.

I've been thinking a lot lately about this core self, about my own images and identity. My image has become one of slavery. My identity is one of property. That was the premise from the beginning. I think about premises, places, and contracts. I think about humility, materialism and ownership. I think about what it means for me to take myself, out of myself, and into my role as livestock, property, a slave or whatever else you want to call it.

At it's very core is the premise that I am here for the sole purpose of Master's pleasure and use. it is in our contract that he will decide what is good use for what he owns. So I rely as a human piece of property for the Master to have the where withall to deal with who he owns. I'm not looking for fairness, but rightness. I sense that my place with him is the right place, that he cares whether I am living up to pleasing him in the manner in which he expects from me.

What does it mean to have no will? Master knows I do not particularly agree with the notion of free will generally. But within a relationship such as this, where the goal is for me to be livestock and property, then what is it to have no will in that context. I see myself with no will, but serving the will of the Master. I wrote very early on in a petition about this lack of will. When I surrendered myself to his will I gave my own. I see then, as a good piece of property to not only be available for use and pleasure, but as a creative human being to use the Master's will and direction for that aim. So as human livestock I am not like a cow that eats grass and gives milk. As human livestock I have talents and

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Essay

By E. Missy Hall (continued)

(Continued from page 15)

knowledge that can enhance the Master's existence. It is then within being livestock that I can use my knowledge and talent for his own pleasures and comfort.

Master has the responsibility to make his will know to his property. I cannot be a good piece of property and maintain my own space as such without this basic knowledge of his will and whims. Being property, with no rights as such save my purpose for use and pleasure, makes this a given in my own thinking. I would like to think of myself as a person who has served her own purpose in serving another person. I do not think this takes me out of the realm of being property, of being livestock.

It is easy to say I own nothing. It is another matter to train one's mind to actualize it. I am in training now. The training is necessary at this point and time, because I fell out of my own headspace so badly in the past couple years. I feel as though I have now lived on the "lighter side" of M/s and it was not what we contracted for. I feel like I would like to recant some of my own writing of the subject last year. Training will get me back to what I feel is a right place for me. Like any training, it will only be good if I am prepared, willing, and eager for the training to become a permanent part of my makeup. Even during this "light" period of time, the earliest of training, the hardest part, the initial surrender, the base realization of being property with no rights or prerogatives. That has stayed with me. The protocols of that surrender have stayed with me. Even during the darkest times, I could not ever shake that earliest training. It was the goal to make that surrender a part of my nature. I feel a though now, the goal would be to make a stricter, more seriously restrained protocol. I feel I have always done better on a short leash.

Frankly, I do not think I would do well as what Master has called a "pretty pet". I like to keep that concept for puppy play. Women who fancy themselves pets also fancy themselves as spoiled. I do not consider the concept of being a pet to be slavery. While being a pet is also being owned in a way, it does not take the self discipline I have encountered in the state of being property. Pet's have too much freedom. They have retained, like an owned dog, their own sense of free will. A pet stays because it either likes it's owner or it is tethered to a tree and cannot escape. Either scenario does not appeal to me at all. A pet does not take on any responsibilities. Pets are not livestock. While the whole of their existence might be for the purpose of pleas-

Little Thoughts...

A person should not choose the form in which he wishes to perform the service, but he should perform it in any manner the opportunity affords. He should be like a vessel into which anything may be poured - wine, milk, or water.

~Abraham Joshua Heschel

When the Hebrews were asked by Hashem if they would accept the Torah they responded, "Na'aseh V'Nishma", we will do and we will hear. The ultimate form of submission is to be willing to do the bidding of one's Master with trust before receiving instructions

"A human being is part of a whole, called by us the Universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest--a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty."

~ Albert Einstein



Community Unity By Master Kalan (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

Since I believe those things about everyone's intentions and I've seen attempt after attempt to create unity within the communities fail, I have come to the conclusion that the best way to support the community and promote unity is simply to have fun and be yourself. Perhaps some day someone will figure out a functional model of how to unite the community, perhaps one of these years there will be a great leader that everyone will be able to rally around...perhaps eventually our entire species will make a fundamental philosophical shift into the embracement of diversity instead of the oppression of conformity...but I'm not holding my breath and I'm not going to let anyone or anything stop me from having fun or being myself just because we aren't there yet...

Undoubtedly some of you have heard that message from me before...please understand that I'm not trying to attack any attempt to establish community unity (past or present), I support all venues of open communication and in so much as any group, organization or individual contributes time and/or resources to promoting or hosting events, parties or venues within the community I think they are each wonderfully positive forces among us.

It is my view that we have the capacity to be the most unified when we are at our most diverse. So I'll ask everyone to take a moment and ask themselves: Are we better off with a single organization that everyone pays allegiance to... or are we better off with diverse groups representing a variety of elements that can on occasion cooperate and achieve something really great?

Live Intensely,
Kalan

Intimate Partner Abuse in the BDSM Lifestyle By sequi

EDITOR'S NOTE:

"This article was submitted as part of October being domestic violence awareness month. Since we did not have an October issue, but believe that this is important educational material, we have included it in November's issue in entirety".

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Each October national domestic violence organizations and their partners sponsor DMVA activities to raise the awareness about domestic violence at the local, state, and national levels. These activities vary from national public awareness campaigns with millions of dollars for budgeting to local activities designed with limited to no funding. The objectives of nearly every domestic violence activity during DVAM are similar in nature: to raise awareness about the prevalence of domestic violence, the need for prevention, and the availability of services for victims of domestic violence.

Domestic abuse applies to any two individuals, sometimes more than two, regardless of whether they are married, living together, or not. Up to seventy five percent of all domestic homicides occur when a victim reports abuse or attempts to leave an abusive relationship.¹ Nationally, nine percent of all murder victims in 2003 were killed by their spouse or intimate partner. A total of seventy-nine percent of these murder victims were female and twenty-one percent of these murder victims were men.²

During the past 2 years I have represented the NLA-I Domestic Violence Project as their Midland Regional Coordinator. Throughout my time with the project I have helped support the project and its goals. The NLA-I DVP was established in 1988 and is the first domestic violence project of its nature within the BDSM community. Part of the NLA-I DVP's vision is to educate the BDSM community about the forms of domestic abuse, its extent and severity, and show community action can reduce violence. The NLA-I DVP in coordination with its regional coordinators is attempting to educate local and national law and social service systems about the difference between SM and domestic violence as well as encouraging these services to take the steps necessary for appropriate intervention. The NLA-I DVP is committed to reducing intimate partner abuse within BDSM relationships by holding perpetrators accountable and encouraging them to get treatment. In addition, NLA-I DVP is committed to reducing intimate partner abuse within BDSM relationships by listening, supporting, and encouraging victims to take legal action and seek support.

In November 2004 until February 2005 the NLA-I DVP con-



Time Management

By kessia (continued)

These days, I wash, dry and put the clothes in a closet. Saturday morning is fold and put away time. I spend an hour and a half doing this. If it is not done, then what is left goes back into the closet.

Once you have examined your time, schedule a day. Take a sheet of paper and break your day into blocks of time then schedule what you will do with that time. Note which activities are priorities. When engaged in an activity, do not do anything else. Multi tasking is one of those seductive notions that does not truly work. When attention is divided, it fractures focus. Protect your time by doing one thing at a time. Try it and see whether multitasking is actually more efficient for you or if layering activities might work better. For example, I have a paper due tonight, so I am printing that as I type.

This runs the risk of becoming too academic and lecture like, so I'll turn back to more personal examples.

On Sunday evenings, I schedule the week. I write all the things that I know will take up my time. I spend about a half hour doing this.

Because my day is not from 8 am to 8 pm, regular office minders do not work for me so I make a table using word. One column per day from 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. broken into half hour blocks. I sketch in time to check email, return calls, what work needs to be done for school, for the house, for the kids. I block out time for family activities and self care. Each evening before bed, I briefly review the day and go over then next day, updating and changing time as needed.

Mornings used to be a night mare around here. I would try to get things to go smoothly, but they never would. I would be a stressed mess by the time I put the oldest on the bus. When I looked at why I realized I was over scheduling myself, trying to get too much done in too short a time period. I had so much to do I was rushing, becoming distracted and not mindful.

Mornings are quiet here now. I get up, make coffee and take it back to bed, where I spend twenty or thirty minutes watching the news. I get up, make the bed and wake the children. While they eat breakfast, I take care of dishes. Then we all wash, brush and dress before spending time together watching cartoons. We all make lunches, load up and go. I do not answer the phone in the morning.

As I settle farther into organized time, I notice that time is a boundary that needs to be maintained. The knee jerk reaction to a ringing phone that **must** be answered, the assaults by my different bosses on my time with all of the things they need done "at some point". People rolls their eyes at me when I talk about organizing time like we organize our life space, then turn around and express amazement at what I get done in a day.

I do one thing at a time, which means I fully devote all of myself to whatever activity I am doing. I am fully present in the moment and not worrying about everything I have to do. I know that I will work on this essay until 7:30 and then go start a load of laundry so I do not need to worry about the laundry that needs to be done. I know that I will spend until 8:00 with the children, then they will be delivered to their respective schools. Then the next two hours are mine. About fifteen minutes of those hours will be spent taking care of my desk work, another fifteen will be spent editing a paper. After that, the rest of that block of time is totally unplanned for me to do whatever it is I feel like doing. Maybe I'll knit. Maybe I'll watch a show I have taped. At 11:00, I will go pick up a rugrat from school and we will spend time doing errands together until noon, then we will have lunch.

I had a similar approach when I was in service, though I did not have the need to schedule as thoroughly as I do now. I did it because I wanted to and it suited my owner. After my service ended, I quit managing my time and life was chaos. The house, the children, and myself were all kind of a wreck. It was not until I took back proactive responsibility for my time that I was able to begin to declutter my days.

The Flylady (flylady.org) discusses house management and reminds her Fly babies that the house did not get messy overnight and will not become organized overnight. Such is the case with time. Suddenly drawing up a schedule and attempting to live by it does not work for most people. Instead, a methodical examination and decluttering of time seems to 'stick' much more easily because it will fit better with the natural rhythm of your life. The goal is not to apply some regimented tool that does not fit with how you live; it is to apply a frame for how your days are spent.

kessia is a slave currently living on her own. She has two children and is pursuing a Master's degree in Counseling. She has been active in the lifestyle for almost a decade and spent four years in full time service.



Intimate Partner Abuse in the BDSM Lifestyle

By sequi (continued)

ducted a survey to establish the prevalence and extent of abuse within the BDSM community. At the time my editorial is being published this will mark one of the very first times the NLA-I DVP survey is being published, in part. This survey was taken online and incorporated all 50 states within the United States as well as international countries like Europe, Asia, and Canada. A total of 737 participants responded by answering a series of questions in the NLA-I DVP's intimate partner violence survey. Thank you to all of the participants who took part in the survey.

Domestic violence exists across every part of the world and can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, or social status. The BDSM lifestyle, like any other lifestyle, is **not** immune from abuse. Of the 737 respondents who took part in the NLA-I DVP intimate partner survey 204 individuals said they were the victim of intimate partner violence while involved in a BDSM relationship or partnership. In addition, out of 555 respondents 240 people reported knowing someone, other than themselves, who was a victim of intimate partner violence while involved in the BDSM lifestyle.

Intimate partner abuse can cover varying degrees of physical and emotional abuse or a combination of both. The NLA-I DVP asked survey participants what types of intimate partner abuse were involved during their involvement in a BDSM intimate partner relationship/partnership. Out of 224 individuals there were 180 responses for encountering domestic violence, 73 responses for encountering sexual assault, 57 responses for encountering stalking, and 56 responses for encountering incidents of rape.

The following figure (Figure 1.0) represents 207 victim responses about various forms of physical assault they personally encountered while involved in a BDSM intimate partner relationship/partnership:

Figure 1.0

Kicking	51
Punching	90
Spitting	24
Hair Pulling	73
Choking	75
Slapping	102
Pushing	114
Hitting with an Implement	83
Other Physical Abuse	82

The NLA-I DVP intimate partner abuse survey asked victims if their perpetrator used a weapon. Out of 250 survey respondents 60 respondents reported the perpetrator used a weapon.

During the NLA-I DVP survey participants were given the opportunity to describe "other" forms of weapon usage. A total of 27 individuals responded to this question. The responses given were not used to gain statistics for the NLA-I DVP survey results unless they were reported in the appropriate sections of the survey. Some of the weapons used include, but are not limited to, the use of tazer guns on a victim, throwing objects at a victim, and the usage or threat of items like belts, rope, hands, fists, canes, or hand guns.

The following figure (Figure 1.1) represents 287 victim responses about various forms of emotional abuse they personally encountered while involved in a BDSM intimate partner relationship/partnership:

Perpetrator threatened to "out" victim at work	55
Perpetrator threatened to "out" victim to their family	57
Perpetrator threatened to have children taken away because the victim was "kinky"	37
Perpetrator threatened to kill victim	71
Perpetrator threatened to inflict a feared punishment or particular injury on the victim	90
Perpetrator threatened to maim the victim	59
Perpetrator threatened to harm a family member of victim	47
Perpetrator threatened to harm the victims animals	48
Perpetrator told the victim no one would believe he/she was abusing the victim if they told anyone	122
Perpetrator stated "you wanted me to hurt you"	99
Perpetrator threatened to commit suicide if the victim left the relationship/partnership	89
Perpetrator told others they were being abused by the victim	109
Perpetrator would not allow the victim to attend BDSM functions or isolated the victim in other ways so no one would find out	114
Perpetrator stated that he/she loved the victim and it would never happen again.	153

Figure 1.1

During the NLA-I DVP intimate partner survey participants were given the opportunity to report "other" types of abuse not listed in the various questions in the survey. The responses given were not used to gain statistics for the NLA-I DVP survey unless they were reported in the appropriate sections of the survey. With this being said, some of the "other" physical or emotional abuse reported in the NLA-I intimate partner abuse survey included sodomy, rape,



Intimate Partner Abuse in the BDSM Lifestyle

By sequi (continued)

being stabbed or cut, various forms of restraint and confinement, bruising, assaults leading to scars/permanent damage or hospitalization, perpetrator having a known STD without disclosing any information about it, financial abuse, ignoring safe words, forced gang rapes, stalking, kidnapping, being drugged, personal property destruction, and theft.

Finally, the NLA-I DVP survey incorporated various questions about reporting intimate partner violence in BDSM relationships. The following figure (Figure 1.2) represents 247 responses about who was told about the abuse they personally encountered while involved in a BDSM intimate partner relationship/partnership:

Figure 1.2

Scene Leader	Friend in Scene	“Vanilla” Friend	Local Police Department	Local Domestic/ Sexual Assault Center	Family Member	Didn’t Tell Anyone	Someone “other” that wasn’t listed on survey
29	93	64	64	30	62	70	44

The following figure (Figure 1.3) represents 143 responses containing reasons why victims did not report the abuse they personally encountered while involved in a BDSM intimate partner relationship/partnership:

Figure 1.3

Worried I would not be believed	Afraid I would be persecuted for my lifestyle choices	I felt I asked for it to happen	I was threatened by the perpetrator not to do so	Other
55	51	35	34	59

Victims, abusers, and NLA-I DVP needs everyone’s help.

Please take a moment to cross post this paper to your BDSM groups, newsletters, or share it with someone who needs help.

Please take a moment to visit the NLA-I DVP’s website at: <http://www.nlaidvproject.us> Individuals in Canada can go to: <http://www.nlaidvproject.ca> The NLA-I DVP website contains legal resources and individuals for you to contact if you are in need of help or know someone who is. There is also information on the website detailing how victims can safely get out of abusive situations and a series of 12 pamphlets describing the differences between SM & abuse. The topics range from abuse in Master/slave relationships, age and size based abuse, sex worker abuse, abuse in polyamorous relationships, newcomer advice, transgender/transsexuals abuse, and more.

NLA-I DVP is also looking for individuals to help with the project. You can buy NLA-I DVP branded merchandize or NLA-I DVP vest pins to help offset the costs for the project. You can also donate your time. Regional coordinators are currently needed in several locations throughout the United States. If you know of or are someone who is a “kink” positive service, therapist, social service, and so forth please take a moment to contact someone on the project and have your name added to the NLA-I DVP list.

The clock is ticking. In the two hours it took me to write and research my article, nationally there has been 100 women who were victimized by an intimate partner ³, 360 individuals who were victims of stalking ⁴, and 60 individuals who were victims of a rape or sexual assault ⁵. Take a moment to consider that one or more of these victims could very well be someone you know and please help. In closing, through knowledge we give individuals the key to empowerment to get the help they need.



Intimate Partner Abuse in the BDSM Lifestyle

By sequi (continued)

Sources:

¹- Resource: Harvard Law, 2000.

²- Resource: Federal Bureau of Investigation 2004 and Washington, DC: FBI, U.S. Department of Justice.

³- 50 women are victimized by an intimate partner every hour. Resources: NCVS Crime Clock and Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2004.

⁴- 3 people become victims of stalking every minute. Resources: NCVS Crime Clock and Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, 1998.

⁵- 1 person is a victim of rape/sexual assault every two minutes. Resources: NCVS Crime Clock and Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2004.

The Fine Print

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Thank you again for all of your support and encouragement. Please do consider writing and sharing your lives and experiences with all of us.

Much love and respect,

BootPig