150 YEARS OF GYNARCHY

150 Years of Gynarchy

with essays by Natalia Stroika and Pearl O'Leslie

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And the mountain that drew us together is lit By the lightning that crackles and rivals the wind Where the only expression of love is through tears And the highest creation on earth is a bird The most powerful symbol achieved, let it burn The most powerful symbol achieved, let it burn [Liars, Flow My Tears the Spider Said]

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Chapter 1

INTRO - AND A DISCLAIMER

You have just opened a book that crosses boundaries. Depending upon who you are and your own attitudes you will be turned on, challenged, inspired, confused or angered by what you read. It's a sexual book. It's a political book. It's a memoir and a manifesto. It's a cookbook for a new world within a world a religion, a cult, a movement.

You may ask yourself "Who does she think she is?"

I have been called arrogant on occasion, when I don't say the things or do the things which are expected of me. I like being called arrogant, because that's what many call women who display some degree of unexpectedly assertive self-respect. I've worked

hard for the courage to appear arrogant, in a world where I'm taught to be meek, polite and humble and not think too highly of myself.

I've also been called Goddess by those who are on their way to understanding me. They are close to understanding how a woman can embody the divine feminine with a vision and a whole lot of audacity. I am fully human in this floppy, hard and soft body with salty metallic blood coursing through my veins. But I contain Goddess. I am neither ice nor fire, but I know how to work both. I am a witch, and in some ways, I am a guru to those who wish to be devotees.

I am angry. I am the quintessentially angry woman for all the right reasons. I tried for so long not to be until I realized that my anger is earned and relevant and appropriate. In large and small ways, I was manipulated, squashed and gutted by the patriarchy - by my own father's misogyny, and by my mother's acquiescence. From the time I was born until now. And the tropes of toxic positivity and forgiveness gave me guilt over my anger, before I broke free and realized that the violence of injustice can only be met with my own passionate violence of rebellion.

People get unsettled by words like anger and violence. As well they should, because anger can violently, forcefully uproot things that have become codified and calcified as normal. Women are powerful - powder kegs ready to blow - and we have spent too

much time repressing our rage while allowing the world to excuse the violence heaped upon us without healing, retribution or even apology. We've already been really patient and asked really nicely with fairly little gain. The world will have to excuse us now while we take on the role of warrior queens and slash, bash, and claw our way out of this mess.

When we unleash our own righteous anger, the patriarchs will cower, and they know it. Which is why they tell us not to be hysterical. They try to use the harm done to us against us to discredit us, as if somehow things done to us invalidate our perspectives rather than illustrate the real issue. They use their myopic notions of our "mental health" to mock and deflect. As if the responsibility for those actions against us is our responsibility and not the full responsibility of those who abuse and re-abuse. As if we are tilting at windmills rather than shining a glaring light on gendered violence and oppression. They tell us to just calm down. We are too emotional. Their emotions are ok, but ours are just too much. And many of us are seeing that this is simply more bullshit to maintain the status quo.

I am a sexual dominant and a sadist. In embracing my rage constructively, I can also acknowledge my enjoyment of being the giver of sensation. The doer rather than the one being done. The orchestrator of endorphins, gaining pleasure from the power to make

you feel. Because I've been there, and I know how to transmute pain into pleasure. I've given birth twice, had a horribly painful miscarriage, endured rape and incest. All of these experiences were a different flavor of annihilation. I have, by necessity, had to surrender against my will and to give in to the destruction of ego. I know for a fact that it opens doors in the mind and body that can never be closed again. I am not grateful for the abuse I suffered, but I'm grateful for the body and brain's ability to adapt and create transcendence and evolution from suffering. I am a sadist, not out of revenge, but out of the wish to be a kinder guide, a benevolent giver of suffering so that others can see what I've seen. And that I may provide a soft landing when the journey is done.

What I am at my core, though, is a Gynarch. I am a woman and a leader, who believes women should lead. There are many like me, and we are beginning to stand up and be noticed. I am a FemDom - a femme who sexually dominates my partners. I have been through a lot, lived what feels like many lives, but not much of that matters. Who I am will depend entirely on your lens.

I have been called nuts. Some will see me as "just one of those crazy-eyed feminists" who like to scream about women being victims all the time. I'll be told I'm using my "victim card" (but have they ever considered who dealt those cards?). They might dig up dirt on my childhood trauma and the resulting CPTSD, or my sex

work (I was an escort, a cam girl, and a professional Domme for some time). I'm quite used to it and I hide nothing. Zero. I have no shame and lay bare my vulnerabilities without fear. I'm done being afraid.

Those who think me crazy are the ones who file people into categories, and they won't hear a word I'm saying. It's obvious because they respond to their *idea* of me rather than directly to my ideas and words. I am insane, I am arrogant, and I'm a whore. If you've already made up your mind, then, my dear, you are a lost cause to me, and this book is not for you. Don't waste your time here. There's just no point. I want nothing from you and you will take absolutely nothing away from my writing. Might as well be on your way.

I seek no enemies. I am not imposing my views on you, nor trying to convert you. You can live however you wish. I'm not stopping you. And you won't change my ways, even if you send me rape and death threats, as some already have and will continue to predictably do (One man threated to "knife rape" me in front of my child for calling out his misogyny on my own YouTube channel. Guess I hit the nail on the head too hard.) I don't go seeking out trouble. So, ask yourself, if you already have me figured out, and have figured out I'm not worth your attention, then why continue? Unless you are secretly seduced by ideas of Gynarchy, and I am your guilty pleasure. Or... unless you feel threatened by me. And that, my puppet, turns me on to no end. So

do show me how threatened you are by telling me all the violent things you plan to do to shut me up. I dare you. I've already been through the worst, and you are nothing more than another case study.

I am ultimately here for the open minded. I am here to speak to those who see Gynarchy - that is, women having more power than men - as potentially a good practical idea for their own life and who want to be a part of a world where patriarchy is disregarded, dismissed, destroyed and crushed under heel. It is a parallel existence with its own rules. An underground religion with its own rites and moral guidelines - one that combines the kinky sexuality of FemDom with the social and political fire of feminism and the spiritual zeal of Goddess worship and witchcraft. And if one day it becomes the example for how larger systems begin to work, then that would be very satisfying. I seek only to change the world one mind and one small community at a time. If, by our example, we can begin to weave a network of communities that create a web across the planet, eventually choking off and robbing patriarchy of its oxygen until it dies, that would be delightful. My plan is a 150-year plan, but I can only work within the scope of my lifetime. I have hope, but mostly for my immediate surroundings.

My ideas are anti-capitalist and anti-binary (which I explain in more detail within). Ah yes, "cultural Marxism" is taking over the world! We're out to "destroy

Western civilization." But seriously, I would like to move beyond Marxism, if I may, and I'd also like to take full credit for ideas I have had on my own, previous to my reading of Marx. I'd like to envision a future where my ideas are not named after one dude in the "great man" paradigm of academia. And for all those complaining about "the Marxists," have you ever read his books? If not, maybe you should. He had a few pretty insightful ideas, and there are quite a few misconceptions about them.

If you are dead set in favor of capitalism or are convinced that there are only two genders, and are not willing to hear anything to the contrary, then, again, I don't think you and I have anything to say to one another. You are free to stand firm inside your own worldview. I'm not here to argue with you. Unless having your deeply held convictions contradicted is some kind of psychological kink for you, then there's no need to read on. If you have a lot to say about it, I suggest you write your own book.

Still with me? Then the themes of this book likely resonate with you in some way. And I don't expect you to agree with 100% of what I say. I am against fascism except for the playful kind, and I actually appreciate being inspired to think about things from many different perspectives. I am accessible for deeper discussion on the topics I present, and I don't need for everyone to agree with me to get along.

I am well-studied on a lot of things from sex to philosophy, from art to religion, from psychology to neuroscience. I have a Master's Degree in film, and I've done graduate work in Vedic Studies. I am pro-science and anti-scientism. I don't think the masculine god called Empiricism is the holiest of all ways of knowing. I believe in curiosity over certainty. As the Cyberfeminist Manifesto for the 21st Century (VNS Matrix) shouts:

We are the modern cunt positive anti reason unbounded unleashed unforgiving...

we believe in jouissance madness holiness and poetry we are the virus of the new world disorder rupturing the symbolic from within saboteurs of big daddy mainframe

But I also embrace evidence-based approaches to material conditions and problems. In short, I have little patience for cemented minds or obvious bullshit.

Finally, I am a Dominant Woman who runs a D/s (that's Dominant over submissive) household. I am, in theory if not in law, a polyandrist. At the time of writing, I have two live-in male slaves and several that

come to my home to serve me part-time. I have men whom I train across the world (literally, some are as far from me as Australia) and whom I care about deeply. I was at one time a Pro Domme, but I quit as I got tired of catering to others' fantasies and dealing with the emotional and financial hassles of running a professional BDSM studio. I was trained by some amazingly skilled and knowledgeable women who are experts at their craft. I am a Dominant Sadist, doing this because I love it and it's how I want to organize my life. I found out, after some experimentation, that I am definitely not a service top. This is who I am 24/7 365.

And here's the disclaimer: Some of the advice I give within - especially in regard to financial advice - is purely hypothetical. And - I'm covering my ass here - if you try something I recommend and it gets you in trouble, don't blame me. I will accept no liability. You're fully responsible for your actions and this is not formal instruction nor a command to put my words into action. It is just a little book full of ideas. Take that as you will.

Chapter 2

THE EXISTENCE OF PATRIARCHY

The first step in making change is first realizing (or admitting) that there is a problem and identifying that problem. Naming it.

Let's name it. Patriarchy.

Journalist and Feminist Giant, Mona Eltahawy, took to Twitter to explain patriarchy in a way that even a child in elementary school could understand:

"The textbook definition is that patriarchy is a system of oppressions that privileges male dominance, and that kind of just goes over people's heads. So, I want them to imagine an octopus, and the head of that octopus is patriarchy. And each one of those tentacles

is capitalism, sexism, racism, ableism, ageism, homophobia, transphobia... And depending upon where in the world you live, one, or two, or three, or four, or all eight of those tentacles are working in unison to keep that head of the octopus (which is patriarchy) alive. Because people don't see it. It's like asking a fish 'what is water?" When you ask a fish 'what is water?' it doesn't know what you're talking about. Because the very air we breathe is patriarchy. It's global and it's universal." (Eltahawy)

Before I can begin to explain Gynarchy, we have to agree that the patriarchy exists and has existed for a good long time. We have to understand the definition of patriarchy and outline its effects.

Policies of patriarchy came into sharp relief for me recently as my ex and I filed for divorce after 17 years of marriage. I wanted to claim my own name. As an American woman, born in 1972, it began the day I was born. I was given my father's last name. My mother had changed her name to match his, in a custom that began as a signifier of a type of ownership. In times past a woman belonged to her father until she was married and then belonged to her husband. Thus, she took on his family name and left her father's name behind. I left my father's name behind through marriage, but when I wanted to leave my married name behind and take one of my own, the courts said that was not an

acceptable part of the divorce process. But I *could* take my dad's name back if I wanted, without any hassle whatsoever. Because I'd belonged to him in the past.

Customs point to attitudes. And attitudes lead to policies - a society-wide legal cementing of customs. And those things have a real effect on the lives of human beings. To deny the existence of patriarchy is to live in willful ignorance of all of history as it applies to gender dynamics.

There are books upon books of history that show the effect of patriarchy on women and other people who are not gendered as definitively male (or simply don't identify with common masculine stereotypes). I'll give you some points of reference so you can further explore the subject.

I'll start with a recent article by Charlotte Higgins in the Guardian about the history and the resurgence of the word itself:

Part of the idea of "patriarchy" is that this oppression of women is multilayered. It operates through inequalities at the level of the law and the state, but also through the home and the workplace. It is upheld by powerful cultural norms and supported by tradition, education and religion. It reproduces itself endlessly through these norms and structures, which are themselves patriarchal in nature; and thus it has a way of seeming natural or inevitable, or else, in a lib-

eral context, it is obscured by piecemeal advances in gender equality. Because it offers the idea of a structure of power relations, rather than a series of specific sexist acts, "patriarchy" accommodates the idea that not all men enthusiastically uphold it or benefit equally from it; and that some women may, on the other hand, do a great deal towards supporting it. It also allows for the fact that however much we might loathe it, we all, perforce, participate in it.

Only "patriarchy" seems to capture the peculiar elusiveness of gendered power – the idea that it does not reside in any one site or institution, but seems spread throughout the world. Only "patriarchy" seems to express that it is felt in the way individual examples of gender inequality interact, reinforcing each other to create entire edifices of oppression. Take the fact that only about 20% of rapes and sexual assaults in England and Wales are reported to the police, and that of those only a tiny proportion - 7.5% in 2015 - results in a conviction. Why should that be? The most immediate reason is that only a few are brought to trial - a fact that, in isolation, illuminates very little. But the concept of patriarchy helps to reveal that such a trial is merely the pinnacle of a structure supported on myriad props. These props might include all kinds of things without obvious connection: a legal system historically designed by men; the lingering misrecognition of rape as simply an excess of

male desire; a police force carrying a legacy of sexism; the cultural and religious shaming of sexually active women; the objectification of women's bodies; pornography; the fact that women in general are discouraged from speaking out (and if they do, they may expect baleful consequences, as Mary Beard has shown in her book). That is before you scrutinise the act of rape itself: for some feminists, sexual violence is so clearly a means of controlling women that it is not only an outrage often perpetrated under patriarchy, but its very underpinning.

Once you see the world through the lenses of "patriarchy", the thought naturally arises: what would the world be like if it weren't there? Some feminists have argued that if women gain equal rights in society, patriarchy will be at least sufficiently tempered. Others have argued that even if equality were achieved, patriarchy would still exist, because human institutions – political, legal, educational, cultural – are themselves, in their bones, patriarchal structures. (Higgins)

And this is where we begin a theory of Gynarchy. We begin with what it's not. It is not a hatred of men, because not all men uphold patriarchy (although we should never hold it against women when they profess "I Hate Men" as Pauline Harmange does in her book by the same title. One must wonder why it is that women don't hate them in the first place, given the harm too

many have had to endure.). It does espouse a vehement hatred of misogyny, however. And Gynarchy must, because of the very nature of its opposite, patriarchy, tear apart the structures and systems put in place to keep women "in their place." It is a re-envisioning of what power, and empowerment, looks like across the planet. Structures and systems which involve ideas of ownership are an extension of the concept of paternity and are thereby patriarchal in nature. The economic system of capitalism and the competition, greed and inequities it fosters, are patriarchal at the core and must be dismantled for a wider Gynarchic system to thrive. I'll go more deeply into what a Gynarchic economy would look like in later chapters. First, it's important to establish that patriarchy does exist and is harmful.

In 1990, the feminist Sylvia Walby crisply laid out six areas of patriarchal oppression in her book Theorizing Patriarchy; they still seem to be ticking along nicely. In the home, women still do most of the domestic labour. In the workplace, a legal right to equal pay has not resulted in the eradication of the gender pay gap. At the level of the state, women are underrepresented nearly everywhere in the world in parliaments, legislatures, the military and other bodies. In terms of male violence, the charity Rape Crisis estimates that in Britain, 11 rapes are carried out or attempted every

hour of every day. Women and men are still judged differently when it comes to sex. And the "patriarchal gaze" is still strong in education, religion, culture and the media. And so, for feminists right now, the uses of "patriarchy" are greater than its analytic flaws; it allows feminists to perceive the gap between the status quo and what they would like to achieve. "If patriarchy weren't effective, we wouldn't need feminism; if it were totally effective, we wouldn't have feminism," Jacqueline Rose told me. (Higgins)

To deny patriarchy exists is to deny history. To deny that patriarchy is still the underlying power structure, is to live in a parallel reality, steeped in the invalidation of women's experiences, where women are not still struggling for equal treatment. Even the men who benefit from it have ceased to spout off denials and now openly fear what happens when we smash the systems and structures that uphold their dominance.

In the course of a passionate speech, Oprah Winfrey told the audience that "brutally powerful men" had "broken" something in the culture. These men had caused women to suffer: not only actors, but domestic workers, factory workers, agricultural workers, athletes, soldiers and academics. The fight against this broken culture, she said, transcended "geography, race, religion, politics and workplace".

Bannon, Donald Trump's former chief strategist, was one of 20 million Americans watching. In his view, the scene before him augured the beginning of a revolution "even more powerful than populism", according to his biographer Joshua Green. "It's deeper. It's primal. It's elemental. The long black dresses and all that – this is the Puritans. It's antipatriarchy," Bannon declared. "If you rolled out a guillotine, they'd chop off every set of balls in the room ... Women are gonna take charge of society. And they couldn't juxtapose a better villain than Trump. He is the patriarch." He concluded: "The anti-patriarchy movement is going to undo 10,000 years of recorded history. (Higgins)

I will not for a second deny that the movement I represent and this very book is meant to play a part in that undoing. And, it is, in my opinion, long overdue.

Rather than give you a crash course in Women's Studies, I'll refer you to a few very important books in regard to feminism's fight to smash the patriarchy (see References and Resources). I consider these required reading for anyone who wishes to join Gynarchic communities such as mine. You must make it a habit of reading feminist writers in order to fully understand our struggles and the revolutionary impetus behind Gynarchy.

Chapter 3

GYNARCHY VS. FEMALE SUPREMACY

While I am outlining what Gynarchy is not, I have to mention that it is often confused with female supremacy. Female supremacy holds that women are naturally or biologically superior to men, and therefore men are inferior or incomplete beings and should act as such. Female supremacists support this by pointing out natural advantages of the female sex as supported by research. Women on the whole have a higher pain tolerance for example, and greater stamina in long distance track events. Women are scoring better on tests and entering college in larger numbers. They claim

that having two X chromosomes is more stable than having an XY combination and that the Y chromosome is a weakness. In a sense it is an incomplete X chromosome and therefore inferior.

But I argue that all of these factors put together do not make for a superior sex. They simply highlight statistical advantages among certain groups, and this can go in many directions. The whole idea of a biologically superior sex in fact reeks of eugenics and biological essentialism. These are the pastimes of fascists. Both of these are a means of control, based not on real strength or understanding, but on fear of "the other." Fascism is a tool of patriarchy. It has been, and continues to be, a way of oppressing those who are disadvantaged and marginalized. Gynarchists must be better than this. We do not fear the men we rule. Remember, we are dismantling these mechanisms of oppression that have been used to hold us back so that they hold no one back in the future.

Even theories around the effects of testosterone are spurious. Testosterone is necessary for the function of ovaries as well as testes and, though excessive testosterone can cause aggressiveness and poor decision making, any assumed connections between normal amounts of the hormone and specific behavior are really questionable. (Mims)

There was plenty of "evidence" concocted by men to make women out to be "the weaker sex." Biological

"evidence" was presented to make Africans seem more like apes than humans so that they could be bought and sold. Gynarchists must not align ourselves with Nazis and colonists. We are establishing a better world, reinventing the ways in which power is expressed, not just fitting ourselves into the modes of the past.

Another glaring problem with female supremacy is that it relies solely on a gender binary.

The role of transwomen in Gynarchy

It's very simple. Transwomen are women. They are not cis women, but that doesn't really matter when you are considering their real-life practical experiences of transitioning into women. The systems in place that hurt women often treat them even worse than women assigned female at birth. They are pushed to the margins for having the audacity to live as the gender with which they most identify. If cisgender women are oppressed, transwomen face a double layer of oppression. One for being women and another for giving up their male privilege and defying the identity society forced on them. The same is true for those who reject or don't conform themselves to a gender binary at all. Transwomen are not men trying to insert themselves into female spaces. We have become so protective of our female-exclusive spaces because they are the only places that are truly safe for us. Make all spaces safe for

women and we do not need to guard them with such tenacity. Learn that we have true power and we won't feel threatened in the way men have felt threatened by the feminine.

Gender is a spectrum. In fear of injuring their own fragile masculinity, men have tried to reinforce the either/or, in order to know who to treat as equals and who to hold under their thumb. We've made it easy for them by simply ignoring and denying the wide variety of people who just don't fit into the extremes. While we are rethinking the ways in which to express power, we must also reconsider the mechanisms used to misuse and abuse power. Only those afraid of losing control hold onto its trappings so tightly.

I have to note here that my relationship to this idea has evolved and changed greatly in the past ten years. I used to dislike cross dressers, thinking them a mockery of the feminine, fetishizing only to the worst feminine stereotypes. Not that I ever thought they were bad people - most were lovely - it's just I rolled my eyes at their idea of being girly or femme. By extension, I felt trans women were trying to use their "get out of male free card" to deny their own misogyny and fetishization of repressive feminine stereotypes by trying to literally become one of us. My knee jerk reaction used to be "you aren't getting off that easy, buddy!" I was wrong. So very wrong. It's not easy. No one would transition if they didn't need to. It's just not worth the discrimina-

tion and having your identity constantly questioned to do it, unless you really are suffering from being forced to be someone you are not.

Even biological sex is not a strict binary (see Sterling), but that's a subject for another book more focused on science rather than society and relationships. Biology is related but barely relevant when you are approaching this from an angle of power dynamics. Right now, in contemplating the ways in which the patriarchy has remained entrenched as the power superstructure for so long, we must be prepared to disassemble the gender binary and recognize it as a source of oppression for both men and women. The patriarchy only ever cared that humans could be easily fit into two categories: those in power (men) and those without power (everyone else). In the process, the definition of what it means to "be a man" has become so constrictive that it is injurious and oppressive to many men as well

Not Just Flipping the Script

But wait! Isn't Gynarchy the same, but in reverse? Aren't I advocating for women to be the ones in power? At men's expense?

No. Yes. And no.

What I am advocating in this book 150 Years of Gynarchy, is not just a flip of the script. It's a full rewrite.

As you will come to understand, the ultimate goal is to correct the psychological and spiritual effects of patriarchy. These effects are deeply ingrained. They are personal, social and cultural. There is not one aspect of our lives that is not colored by the assumption that men should naturally have more power than everyone else. If you don't believe me, look at how male legislators try to control our bodies. Look at how men in the entertainment industry actively shut out non-men from every role that does not allow them to objectify us. Again, look at something as simple and everyday as the way you can recover your bank password by giving your mother's maiden name. The name she was born with is the forgotten name. Both because it's unimportant, but also because she never really had a name of her own. It belonged first to her father and his father before him.

Try this as a test. Start a conversation about the following quote by Ruth Bader Ginsburg:

"When I'm sometimes asked when will there be enough [women on the Supreme Court] and I say, 'When there are nine,' people are shocked. But there'd been nine men, and nobody's ever raised a question about that."

Watch how both men and women, even those who call themselves feminists, will backpedal and say "no...

four or five women would be ideal. We don't want to take it too far. We don't want to be UNFAIR."

Unfair. As if those 10,000 years of human history that even Steve Bannon can readily acknowledge while he fears their undoing - never even happened. What is true fairness? This is what Judge Ginsburg was getting at. Is it really fair that women only get half a say after having had none? If you have two siblings and one eats all of his cookie and then also steals and eats his sister's cookie, do you offer him ANOTHER half of her next cookie that you've offered her to compensate for the theft? It just makes no sense. To do so is not fairness, but coddling the thief. You'd give him more simply because if he sees his sister eating a whole cookie he's going to cry like a baby.

Some men are going to cry like babies at this idea. And we're just going to have to tell them to be quiet and deal with it.

How, after thousands of years of oppression, can we convince ourselves that women deserve to be powerful, and that men deserve to step down from the seat of power and take a rest? Give someone else a chance to drive? How do we really do this, and not just give lip service to the idea of equality? Not just be satisfied to celebrate each and every time ONE woman is able to break through and accomplish something in a sea of men?

150 YEARS OF GYNARCHY ~ 25

I don't have all the answers, but I do have some ideas. And it doesn't involve oppressing anyone. Let patriarchy hold onto its legacy of oppression. Let 150 Years of Gynarchy be an era of compassion. Gynarchy, to me, simply means privileging dominance of the feminine. I'm sharing another articulate take on this in the next chapter in an essay titled My Life in a Female Supremacy, by Natalia Stroika.

Author and relationship coach, Te-Erika Patterson, has outlined her own idea of Gynarchy in *A Manifesto for a Female Led Society*. In it she states:

"Our Female Led Society is a society that embraces and prefers the leadership of women."

"Our Female Led Society is led by feminine principles, not feminine genitals."

"Our Female Led Society is not a breeding ground for contempt toward men."

Although Patterson and I are in disagreement on specific details of Female Led Relationships (not all Gynarchists agree on everything, and Te-Erika has referred to BDSM practices as "demonic," whereas I find them profoundly healing and exciting), it's fair to say that I'm not the only woman exploring this idea. I estimate that it will take at least seven generations to change our collective psyche. Seven generations of girls and boys growing up in a community wherein

women's leadership and the dominance of the feminine is a given and not an exception. If there is such a thing as Jung's collective unconscious, ours is currently programmed with endless messages of male dominance, reinforced by the way we think and act. It's in the stories we tell and the relationships we form. Time to switch up the program.

Chapter 4

My Life in a Female Supremacy

BY NATALIA STROIKA

I was 15 when I first learned about Female Genital Mutilation and Riot Grrrl and declared myself, officially, a feminist. That was also the year when I had a growth spurt and went on an Atkins diet, and first started to receive a new form of attention. It expressed itself in car honks, and public comments, and aggressive looks, and gossip, and sweet notes written by grungy boys in art class. I felt, for the first time, not as a large pale blob of preteen awkwardness, but as a fully

recognizable female social being (despite my persistent worry that my boobs were way too small to qualify me for womanhood).

Thank god (aka livejournal) I discovered feminism at about the same time, because in addition to being confused and scared by all of these new developments, I also got ANGRY. I saw my own experience as part of a global, pervasive system of inequality and oppression. The same system that now gave men permission to treat me as a public sexual object (see also: rape culture), when expressed to a different degree, denied sexual pleasure to over 200 million women and girls across the world (google: FGM), robbed female workers of equitable pay, and produced such deep-seated self-hate that almost every girl I knew was either developing an eating disorder or fantasizing about plastic surgery. The following year, I took my high school's Women's Studies class and started wearing a spiked dog collar and made a DIY T-Shirt with a cat face inside a Venus symbol and the words "pussy power" across the chest.

Maybe my teenage militarism was a preview of what's to come, but it took me until this year to really decide, you know, being a feminist is frankly not enough anymore. At 31, I am casting my official support for Female Supremacy. I'd like to tell you why, but let's first do a check-in. How does the idea of Female Supremacy make you feel, right now?

150 YEARS OF GYNARCHY ~ 29

- 1. Scared. Ahh, isn't any kind of supremacy super bad Natalia???
- 2. Critical! What about all the other marginalized non-feminine identities?
- 3. Angry. Sounds like Some Crazy Women Making Shit Up.
- 4. Nervous... Um, are we even allowed to think this?
- 5. You're Laughing. This must be a joke. This is satire, right?
- 6. Whatever. It's impossible anyway, so what's the point?

Just take notice of how you react to the idea. Breathe.

OKAY.

Now I'd like to tell you what I mean. Female Supremacy is a structural order where the female sex is dominant and the feminine is the privileged form of expression and social organization, channeled by the rulers and the rule-makers. I use the term Supremacy here as bell hooks does when she describes our current society as a system of "white supremacist capitalist patriarchy" — a structural order that advantages white, male, hetero, economically productive bodies, and in turn disadvantages or oppresses all others. I am not identifying with the notion of Supremacy as those who are White Supremacists do when advocating an explicitly racist and violent ideology of absolute superiority.

I do not believe that the female body is essentially, biologically superior to any other kind of body. But I do support the system of Female Supremacy, where the female and the feminine would be privileged, because I think it would be a better and more comfortable experience for me and other female and woman-identifying beings. I can also make an argument for how it would be a more nurturing and interesting experience for other identities, but I'm not that concerned with that right now. It's a lot of work to think about other people.

I want to imagine the better life experience for me.

How would Female Supremacy benefit me?

By privileging and valuing my sex and gender expression as higher than the others in the ranks of the gendered social order; by providing me with special rights and immunities simply by the virtue of being a woman.

Reflecting on various privileges I've held in my life — White Privilege, Cis Privilege, Class Privilege, Ablebody privilege, Heteronormative Couple Privilege, Educational Privilege — there are ways I surely feel conflicted about my identities. I totally have white guilt; I feel bad for having been such a good student (for succeeding in a system that values a limited definition of intelligence); and I have fantasies about raising a multi-racial trans child in a polyamorous commune (problematic!), stemming in part from my shame of ad-

hering to largely normative social scripts, and also in part from the suspicion I have, based on some experience, that living with and loving more marginalized bodies will likely help me be more #woke.

However, when I ask myself, honestly, would I give my privileges up, trade them in for other (lower status) bodies or histories? My answers range from "um, no, thank you" to "I'm too scared!" to "but, but I deserved this!" At the end of the day, I accept the guilt as part of the benefits of these identities. Because the truth is, I also have the privilege to turn the guilt off if I feel like I just can't deal right now.

So, imagining and identifying with the concept of Female Supremacy means imagining a world where I can also claim Female Privilege. Imagine that. Where being female would give me just a bit of a starter advantage in every interaction. Where my words and ideas, as a woman, would be taken seriously without the need to display extra qualifications. Where I would be given basic respect even if I looked sloppy (maybe even more respect!). People would listen to me with intent, and nod, even if what I was talking about didn't really make total sense. I would learn to stretch into the available space. I would begin to believe my own entitlement. I would naturally acknowledge other women, my sisters, as the main creators of cultural, social and political cornucopia. I would feel a sense of, well, privilege.

Female Supremacy wouldn't just look like Patriarchy, with roles reversed — women smoking cigars in swivel chairs. That sort of fantasy of the lady boss is just tokenism, patriarchy in drag. The feminine power has a different set of values, energies that will be foregrounded and celebrated. Softness. Interdependence. Cyclicality. Wisdom & intuition, rather than abstract intellectualism. Mutual nourishment. Emotional expression as a creative form: the art of feeling of feelings.

Imagine the rituals, practices, timescales, sacred texts, that will realize and reproduce these feminine values.

"We're so wise together!" two children praising each other as they co-learn.

"I wish I could cry as beautifully as you," a lover expressing admiration about a partner's emotional repertoire.

"Today, I discovered my third kind of orgasm, and named her Anabelle," a typical teenager, proudly journaling the day's erotic explorations.

We wouldn't read histories of the Founding Mothers, the hero and his conquests too masculine and separatist for our philosophies. Instead, we would celebrate our Collective Mothers and practice connecting and cultivating their continuing spirits within ourselves. We would chant and bleed together and retell birthing stories, alternating between feeling the

mother's pain, feeling the child's shock, feeling the doula's wisdom. We would immerse ourselves in the warmth and the coldness and the liquid mess to remember: life neither begins nor stops at any point. Life is, and we are its channels, its keepers, its carriers.

"We are all each other's mothers sometimes," a common platitude, said between acquaintances.

No, we wouldn't display exalted portraits of Goddess figures in our homes of worship. Instead, our altars will be quilts, mending together memories and mirrors to remind us of our eternal cycles.

A world organized based on Female Supremacy would create new scientific breakthroughs and prioritize the understanding of the female body and its complexity as one of the principal goals of the current research program. We know so little! Today, in what will be known as the Toxic Era, ruled by the system of Male Supremacy, female conditions are chronically misdiagnosed, dismissed and under-researched. A myriad of contradictory symptoms are combined under vague umbrella terms, like "Premenstrual Dysmorphic Disorder" or "PolyCystic Ovarian Syndrome," prescribed synthetic pharmaceuticals or double bind orders: it will help if you lose weight, except the condition will make it almost impossible to; PMDD makes you crave sugar, but sugar exacerbates the symptoms. In other words, you're fucked, and we don't care to find out why or how to help you. Under Male Supremacy,

Female body parts and processes are shamed, shielded or sexed. Women don't have nipples, except as objects of male pleasure. Menstruation must be either made invisible or eliminated altogether. Vaginas are gross; penises architectural.

Truth: most women I know are living in undiagnosed, chronic pain.

A Female Supremacist science would ask different questions. How does the whole system work together? In what ways do we stay connected after parting at birth? How can we harness the wisdom of our bodies and planet to produce the nurturing and healing that we, as its children, need to survive and thrive?

It's true, this world won't feel comfortable to all, and some members of society will experience it as violent and suffocating. For them, it will feel like drowning in a giant vagina, like being trapped in a womb, smothered by a collective mother. With no more wars to fight, excess aggression will seem like a dangerous and unnecessary appendage. Male anatomy and desire will be seen as terroristic and primitive; to be contained with familiar technologies of shame, shielding and sex.

A Female Supremacist science, just like the Male Supremacist science in which we live, is in danger of positioning its own form as the norm, with everything else as deviant. Society will ask: Why don't men have periods? A Hypothesis: Ah, that's probably what

makes them so angry and emotionally repressed! Maybe we should induce more regularized hormonal cycling! Please fund this, National Science Foundation. Voluntary and involuntary castration and orchidectomy (removal of testicles) might become common, perhaps encouraged by doctors at birth. Some men, the most attractive of the species, will be allowed to keep their organs and trained as entertainers.

But that doesn't have to happen. Who knows, maybe it won't? Maybe men's protests and fights for equality and recognition will be heard and acknowledged by their caring, loving mothers and sisters. A few special grants will be allotted to the continued study of Chronic Aggression Syndrome. Internet message boards (saint internet!) will organize to provide mutual advice and affirmation. Men will learn to fake the emotional depths they don't understand. Boys will be given scholarships to special camps, where they will hear empowering mantras that even without periods, even with stunted emotional and erotic repertoires, they are still human, lovable, worth it. Men will have the beautiful opportunity to share a special bond that comes from being the second sex — a deep, brotherly understanding of their collective suffering.

Maybe it won't be so bad for the men in a Female Supremacy system. Probably not worse than it is for women in the current order of things?

The fantasy of Female Supremacy (are you relieved that I'm saying fantasy? Or maybe disappointed?) is a useful meditation of the imaginative power of the Reversal, as in the system of Tarot.



The Empress card, reversed. The world as it is now.

In the practice of Tarot divination (which will enjoy a deserved legitimacy under Female Supremacy), when a card comes out reversed (upside down), it can mean the archetypical energy represented by the card is blocked or internalized. Energy blocks cause congestion and suffering, and can produce negative effects in many proximal and distant parts of the system (undiagnosed, chronic pain).

The Empress card represents the female energy, fertility, creativity, the Earth mother. In a system of Male Domination, the Toxic Era, in which we currently live, this female energy is perpetually blocked, perverted and repressed. A system of Female Supremacy would reverse The Empress (the "Woman Card") back to its upright position, unleashing the energy that is always there but currently not allowed to be expressed to its full potential.

Imagining and identifying with Female Supremacy empowers me to reverse my energy from anger and suffering towards the celebration and pursuit of female interests and benefits.

Why is feminism not enough to do that? I have consciously identified as and practiced being a feminist in a male-dominated society for over 16 years. Feminism — both the movement that advocates civil rights and equality for all people regardless of gender, and the larger fight to end all forms of oppression — takes as its starting point the losing end of an existing social order. From this position, it can aptly articulate the problems and limitations of the current system and work towards addressing them, but it also undercuts its own potential of taking the lead, of taking up a more privi-

leged position, of articulating the imaginary alternative that begins from a place of power.

I am still a feminist, but I would just really love to be one in a society organized under Female Supremacy. I promise, I will work hard to fight against male oppression and for more trans inclusion and representation. I will donate and volunteer to improve career opportunities for boys and all gender identifications. But I would love it if being a woman in the world gave me the special privilege of getting to choose to do that. It would just feel a little more comfortable, and safe, and like it makes sense with this body that I have. I would feel a little guiltier probably, but that's okay.

So imagine it with me.

How would Female Supremacy benefit you?

How would other forms of Supremacy, that are currently blocked, benefit you?

Afrocentricity. Queer Dominance. The Fat Ideal. What would it be like? How would you feel?

Reverse your cards.

Chapter 5

MY LOVE LETTER TO SUBMISSIVE MEN

Dear submissive men,

Gather round the heat. Feel me pulling you in to me. Hear me. This is my love letter to you.

Your own humility may not have allowed you to see it before, but I see you clearly. You are the future of man. You are the evolving and the evolved. Able to step over the structures of power and control which were built before you were born, to scale that wall that was constructed all around you. Curious, you climbed out. And what you saw - the vastness of possibility outside that wall both ancient and new - lit something inside of

you. It took a while to figure it out. It left you dizzy and aroused. It left your head swimming and your body tingling for more. You felt it in your senses at first, and then somewhere else... some part of you that you were barely aware of. A dimension of yourself that felt new and strange.

You are the evolving and the evolved. The tired old roles and expectations no longer fit you at all. All around you there's a crisis of masculinity. Masculinity has been reduced to nothing more than the rejection of the feminine. "Avoid becoming woman," says the man's man. Reject mother, reject compassion, reject community, reject anything soft or vulnerable.

Freud was guilty of it. He thought the submissive man must want to become feminine. Because feminine is naturally passive and submissive. Freud was wrong. The feminine is both fire and shadow. The feminine will envelope you, aggressively, like overwhelming darkness or blazing heat and direct you without you ever having to see where you are going.

Submissive men are not afraid of the dark, or of the flames. Or if they are, they open themselves wide, arms and legs spread eagle and say to the darkness "Come for me." They are brave. They don't armor up in the face of a goddess with her tongue lapping up blood, destroying anything that stands in her path. They don't quake behind their outstretched sword. They lay down, flesh and bone, at her feet and await, smiling,

the weight of her foot crushing ego into dust. Surrendered and fearless. Only then will she recognize them and make eye contact.

She'll only destroy what you don't need.

Men in a masculinity crisis build giant glass egos all around themselves. Fragile, overblown. And they have to hide to protect it. Pretend it is made of steel, even when it's transparent. They are so scared. Too scared to admit softness. And then, brittle, their ego breaks. And inside they are nothing more than grown children. Unevolved, stunted, fetal.

Bravery and selflessness are the cure to the masculinity crisis. Selfless service ignites evolution. Selfless service grows the heart. Makes it strong, resilient and large enough to hold the entire world inside. Limitless sacrifice - because the more love you give the more you have. And who is braver than the human sacrifice, laid bare?

You may not know it, but submissive men are the future men, emerged from wounds that can only heal through their efforts. Frightened men burned witches. Frightened men have always tried to deny, subdue, control and contain magic. The vibration and the mystery of the feminine terrifies. Frightened men are afraid of the dark. Afraid of the womb. Running scared as far away from mama as they can get and then romanticizing their terror into great wars, and the perpetual need to conquer. Even in intellect they conquer

uncertainty with logic, because they are afraid of that which can never be explained. The feminine is amorphous and can't be pinned down with logic. Positive anti-reason, shifting and confusing you in ways that bring pleasure to those with the sense to go with the flow.

It begins with the awe, appreciation and arousal you feel when being inexplicably overpowered by a woman. You resist the urge to run, and you figure out, that the sweetness of powerlessness is better than any other flavor. You drown in it... and yet you can finally breathe! Free from the trappings of the fear and defensiveness of conquering men. You unfurl and the growth is unstoppable.

I'm not talking about masculinity being feminized. I'm talking about masculinity reborn through the feminine without fear. Allowed to stretch and be flexible and not huddled up afraid of being vulnerable inside a big impressive oversized shell. Afraid of being hurt. Stand up, stretch yourself, and serve something other than your own self-protection. You're braver than that. Mother is always near. No need to carry the protection of the womb all around you now. Grow.

Surrender to the feminine is the antidote to the masculinity crisis. The submissive man is the evolved man. Let the divine feminine crack the shell. Lose the ego. Serve with abandon. Show real devotion. And we can fix this broken world together.

Chapter 6

THE BASIC MANDATES FOR MEN IN LIVING IN A GYNARCHY

Two threads running through my life are major influences on my brand of Gynarchy. One is anarchism, which prioritizes both autonomy and mutual aid and stands in opposition to capitalism. Some may recognize that the name I chose for myself makes the genius anarcho-feminist, Voltairine DeCleyre, my namesake. I chose her first name as my last, because it is the name that belonged to her but never belonged to her father. Now, she *was* named after a dude - the French philoso-

pher Voltaire. But honestly, he was pretty audacious (his polemics satirized the dogma and intolerance of France at the time) and, fun fact, Voltaire was not his given name either. He chose it.

The fact is not lost on me that Gynarchy and anarchy are not the same thing. Anarchy, by definition, is against rulers altogether, and Gynarchy privileges feminine rule. Perhaps I could not accurately describe myself as a pure anarchist. However, the key principles of anarchy hold fast in my Gynarchy. These include the reality that ultimate authority always returns to the individual through thoughtful enthusiastic consent, and that service to others - mutual aid and support of your community - is paramount.

The other thread is my devout Saivism and my study of Indian philosophy. I grew up without the yoke of Abrahamic religion around my neck. My parents were Scientologists. It was an interesting childhood, and it left me with a fascination for all things culty. I never bought into L. Ron Hubbard's fantasies of alien overlords, but my mind was open to possibilities outside of the dominant religion of my culture.

As a teen, I joined a traditional witches' coven and then found myself tracing the essence of its rituals back to ancient traditions that have remained intact, for the most part, in India. At 18, I worked at a big museum and was put in charge of protecting some ancient artifacts from Shiva's temples. From that time forward,

I was drawn in and have never left. I studied academically as well as through bhakti (devotion) and sadhana (spiritual practice). Some of the terms I use to describe what I consider the mandates for men living within a Gynarchy are borrowed from this tradition.

I should note that I do not consider myself a tantric yogi within the contemporary western movement. I feel as if that's a whole different animal, focused mostly on the sexual aspects of the religion. No shade to the tantric yogis here in the U.S., but it's just not my thing. And I do not call myself a Hindu, because Hinduism, practically speaking, is more of a culture and a collection of various different religions. To call myself a Hindu would be to appropriate something that's not mine, whereas to follow a specific religion is being a convert. I am, plainly, a Saiva.

CONSENT

First and foremost, I will share my motto. It is the key that unlocks this whole world and allows you to experience it fully. If you remember nothing else, remember this:

"The only legitimate authority is the authority to which you consent with open eyes and an open heart."

Think of authority as authorship. The one with authority writes the rules and decides how the story plays out.

The most important concept is consent. Consent must be given without coercion. The decision to join this, or any Gynarchic movement - and to give a woman or women authority over your life - must come from within you, after examining your own values, needs, and desires. Let no one talk you into it. It must become a way for you to know your authentic self, not a slow poison that leaves you a hollow shell. It should make you ready to hop out of bed in the morning, not leave you wanting to hide under the covers.

The next important point is "with open eyes." You have to know what you are getting into. It's not just a kinky game. Gynarchy for a man means handing over control to a woman or to women in general. It means willingly giving up your privilege. It means you stop looking at life as your personal vending machine (you put something in, you get something of equal value out), and commit to giving of yourself full time. Commit to TPE (total power exchange) and to a dynamic of inequality.

And finally, "with an open heart." Understand that you will make yourself vulnerable. You could get hurt. You must be brave. You open yourself and expand your heart to become a servant of Her will out of love and devotion. And you learn the kind of love that is nor-

mally inaccessible to those who chose to serve themselves and who see every situation as a transaction.

SEVA - Selfless Service

When people join an ashram to follow a guru, they may suddenly find themselves scrubbing toilets. That sets you up right away for a sense of humility and puts your ego in check. But it does more than just that.

In Saivism, as in all Hindu sects, and even among Sikhs, there is a concept called seva. Seva, in simple terms, means selfless service. The purpose of seva is to get the ego out of the way of obstructing the heart. It removes the self-centeredness in showing love, respect or admiration to another. In a capitalist society it is especially common to expect human interaction to be transactional. I perform a task and I am paid for the task. I do something nice for you and you pay me back somehow down the line. I scratch your back, you scratch mine. If I do the thing, I get the reward. I would argue that these are in fact patriarchal constructs which presuppose that we humans are selfish beings. I am of the opinion that we are by nature cooperative and are merely trained and conditioned to be selfish. We then have to reprogram ourselves to escape from this transactional kind of thinking.

Seva shows us that service itself is the reward. Seva, selfless service, done without any expectation of get-

ting anything in return, opens the heart and in a religious sense, brings us closer to the divine. Seva is at the core a spiritual experience. It uplifts in a way that status, success, rewards, and even pride cannot. Even incredibly generous people can use giving and service as a badge or bragging point at times. The point of service is simply to serve. Full stop. But getting your ego out of the way of that can be a challenge.

Serving your Mistress with the expectation of praise or play time or any other reward is not selfless service. That's a transaction. To me it's far less valuable than seva. And like any good guru, in giving you opportunities to perform your karma - the actions of seva - your Mistress is helping you to become a better person and giving you a chance to experience the heart unencumbered by ego. That is a rare gift, which you should cherish. That is my philosophy of service.

Just a note here to Dominants, it is important that you not abuse your sub when giving him opportunities to practice selfless service. Do not push him so hard or so far that the benefits of his service are diminished or destroyed and his heart closes back up. You must take responsibility for monitoring that line and not overstepping it. At the same time, you never need to feel guilty about telling your sub to do a difficult or unpleasant task, as the point of service is in doing what is needed.

You could call seva one path to enlightenment. It is said when you love someone or something you have an urge to serve - or at least to do nice things for them. And it works in reverse, too. In learning to serve, you find your heart opens up wide and you love. And love is the drug. Or rather love makes life blissful. So, learning to serve selflessly leads to bliss. Anyone who's experienced the psychological condition we call "subspace" can tell you, it's ecstasy.

Soma is another related word in Sanskrit (it can also mean moon, or body depending upon the language and context). It's literally a "nectar" secreted from the pineal gland during deep states of meditation. It's healing and it feels really good - ecstatic. Research has shown that what a submissive feels in subspace is, neurologically, very similar to what one feels in deep meditation. So, you can see the connections here, brain wise. Dopamine is released for masochists when feeling pain. But that's not the full story. Subspace, sans pain, is more akin to the release of anandamide, the fatty acid neurotransmitter named after the Sanskrit word for "bliss."

But what are the aims of seva? To put it simply it is to loose/lose yourself. To give of yourself until you lose yourself so you can finally know yourself. I teach submissives about knowing the self, and now I'm asking you to lose yourself? What in the world am I talking about with all this contradiction?!

After getting to know yourself you'll find one thing that is getting in the way of really knowing. It's the self-protective mechanisms of ego. We each have a unique and individual existence. No two of us are alike and each of us is at a different stage of knowing ourselves and everything around us. And the armor that protects who and where we are right now is ego.

Ego asks if I do good, what do I get? Ego is protecting you from getting used up. Ego protects you from being taken advantage of. Ego thinks in terms of scarcity and limits. I am what I have, and I must protect this. Ego thinks being vulnerable is too dangerous because you could lose - lose yourself. Ego sees the self as what we *have* rather than what we *are*.

Seva enables you to quiet the ego. Makes it shut up for a short while. Long enough that we can glimpse what we *are* instead of what we *have*. Seva says do not do something in hopes of getting anything in return. Do it to add value to everything around you through yourself.

Serve your Lady, not because you want something out of her. Serve her to add value to her world through your service. Even if only at first to see happiness on her face and to bask in that happiness as it emanates out into the environment.

Beyond that, though, do not even have the expectation to be graced with her joy because it takes you out of seva. "To make her happy" is still yet an expectation of reward and can become a transaction in the marketplace of emotional exchange. Seva is to serve. Full stop. To stop seeing your interactions as a vending machine - you put something in, you get something out.

Think about the question of end goals. Let's say in a blink of an eye you could have every goal fulfilled. You have the career, the relationship, the comfort and leisure and relaxation and excitement you desire. Everything you could possibly want for, you have right here and now. Once all of that is done for you - every new goal achieved with a snap of your fingers. What now do you want?

That's a difficult question and I want you to ponder it.

Let me just tell you that seva and devotion are the ways to get to that place - what you want when all the material conditions and desires are no longer a concern - without the weight of all the extra "stuff." The way to see what you are rather than what you have. If you are not an accumulation of what you have, you then cannot lack anything.

The only way to authentically know yourself is to devote yourself to something or someone else. Only in the contrast between the lover and beloved can we understand the clarity of love. It's in the giving of yourself that you will understand that which you really have to give, and even more, the limitless possibility of what you *are*.

Scarcity is a trick of the ego. The more love and devotion you give the more you have to give. They are self-renewing resources. To experience this safely requires trust in the one you serve. It takes a lot of work to get ego out of your way and that work is made swift and easy when you know you can take the first steps held in love. Not everyone can just jump out of the ego plane in one giant leap. It's scary. You're just a soft being with no outer shell to protect you. Knowing you are embraced and seen makes that initial exploration into selflessness more effortless.

I advise you to serve your Lady and/or to serve women as a whole. Focus your seva in areas where wounds need to be healed (It's ok to do that. You don't necessarily have to become a saint and serve the whole wide world in order to have a heart opening experience). Men serving women is a much-needed balm.

THREE REALMS OF SERVICE

Service is a broad topic, so I'm going to break it down into three realms. The three areas where a sub can be of service are in the home, in the streets - that is in your day-to-day interactions with the women you encounter - and finally in what I'll call the system - that being areas of broader influences such as politics and policies that affect women.

Let's start in the home, since that's where many of you feel most comfortable expressing your submission through service. If you came to me through the avenue of kink, sexual service is probably going to be at the top of your mind. And that's ok. Newsflash, when properly motivated most women really enjoy and crave sexual expression. To serve a woman sexually there are two key things to know. You need to have a deep understanding of sex and sexuality. Therefore, you must educate yourself on things like anatomy, hormonal fluctuations, and the other physical stuff like lubrication, and the natural phases in the sexual life cycle. In short, you need to know how to find the clitoris. But you also need to know how it works and how other factors play a role. You also need to understand psychological factors because, chances are, your partner has probably had some bad sexual experiences, and some may have even been abusive. Statistically it's very likely. That's something you'll need to navigate. Sex education is key to being of service in this way. There's a series on Netflix called Sex, Explained, which helps fill in some of the gaps you may have in your knowledge. That's a good start. Make yourself an expert.

The second thing you need to know is that it's all about agency, otherwise known as free will. Women have often been denied agency, and especially in the realm of sex. Typically, sex has been conditioned into us as something a man wants and a woman gives. As women, it's historically been something taken from us rather than given to us. Centering her pleasure is key

to serving her, as is allowing her to initiate and control any kind of sexual activity. This is going to take communication. Because this doesn't always mean being soft and gentle, either. It's as individual as the particular shape of her face or the sound of her voice. Through asking questions and observing what pleases her, you will be able to tailor your service to fit the woman you serve. After making yourself an expert on sex, make yourself an expert on her. Sometimes chastity will help in changing the focus from your pleasure to hers. If you find incompatibility in your libidos and yours is stronger than hers, then try out chastity as a way to learn that your orgasm and your pleasure are gifts from your Mistress, and not the inevitable outcome of the service of sex.

Let's move onto the other kinds of service at home. Personal service includes things like massage, pedicures, running her bath, shaving her legs, preparing her breakfast, and pampering her on a regular basis. A lot of men will reserve this behavior for birthdays and Valentine's Days. In a D/s household, pampering should just be expected as a regular part of everyday service. I get a nightly foot rub from Drum as we watch a movie together, and my Robbi is in charge of dying my hair and getting my breakfast ready - those sorts of things.

Domestic service is another important aspect of service. And this can be as formal or informal as your Mistress wants. It could be you have a list of chores to do each week and it's up to you how and when to get them done. Or your Mistress may want specific things done in a certain way at a certain time in a certain order. Ask her for a list and any special instructions. If she shows you how to do something, pay attention. I like my bed made in a very particular way. If the sheets aren't tucked in at the foot and the blankets and sheets smoothed perfectly and layered in the right order I would have to stop before bed and redo the whole thing, which would annoy me, and my boys would get demerits. In our household, we work on a demerit system. It began with each slave carrying a small notebook to keep track of what they will be punished for each week, but now we have graduated to an app called Obedience for tracking tasks and demerits. Remember to do everything HER way, not the way you think is the best. If it's not done to her satisfaction, she may end up redoing the task herself which completely defeats the purpose.

Note to Dominants here: If he does something poorly, make him redo it as many times as needed until he gets it just right. Watching and giving instructions the first couple of times will save you a lot of headaches down the line. This is why they call it training.

If she does not have a specific way of wanting you to perform a task, and just wants you to get it done,

then it's going to be up to you to fill in any gaps in your knowledge. Ask your Mistress or use the internet. YouTube has a ton of videos on how to do household chores and there's one particular channel by a woman called Melissa Maker who has invaluable knowledge on cleaning (check the link in the Reference and Resources section). Don't just assume. I once had a sub who was told to clean the bathroom. When one of my friends walked in, she saw him wiping everything down with wads of toilet paper. She laughed at him and then came to tell me. He then had to get some formal instruction on proper tools and cleaning techniques. Some men were just never taught this stuff and need to learn. Subs, don't be caught doing things badly. Make an effort and do a little research if you are not sure.

Also, remember that she is your Mistress, not your mom. You are not a child, but a fully capable adult who has chosen this role of serving. Don't grumble if told to do a task or do it half-assed. Don't complain! Complaining is a clear way of saying you don't like doing as you are told, or you resent having to please her. It creates a tension inside your Mistress. It could even hurt her feelings and make her question if she made the right choice in allowing you to serve her. Get that ego out of the way. Nothing is more pleasing for me than hearing "yes, ma'am" with no trace of resentment or resistance. The point of service is to open the heart and

learn selflessness. Making her feel bad for telling you to serve her is counterproductive.

If you find yourself resenting or grumbling, consider that maybe you've taken on too much. Perhaps there's a bad balance between your work and your service to your Mistress, for example and you feel overwhelmed. *Communicate* this before you start bitching when she tells you to do something. Complaining is a passive aggressive way to deal with feelings of being stretched too thin. Instead, be a grown up and make adjustments to whatever else is sucking away your energy, or simply talk about it and work out a better arrangement with your Mistress.

And there is something that a submissive may be afraid to do but should do. Ask for tasks. Ask for a list of ways in which you can please your Mistress on a regular basis. I have a specific errand that I have one part-time sub do for me each and every time he is preparing to visit my home, for example. Whether you serve daily or occasionally, ask if there is something she would like you to do on a regular basis that will make her happy.

Also use your powers of observation and do something if you see it needs doing. Take out the garbage before it's totally full. Wipe the drips of coffee or crumbs off the kitchen counter, replace the toilet paper roll as soon as it's empty, and make sure a spare is handy. Look around. If you notice it, she likely will

also. Don't wait for someone else to do it. Take it as an opportunity to make your Mistress's life better.

Find out what household tasks she just doesn't like doing and do them. Since moving into Cathexis House, I haven't had to do my own laundry or dishes, I don't clean the floors or scrub toilets. If I do find myself cleaning anything it's because I like doing it and it helps me de-stress. It's always smart to ask, "may I do that for you?" if you see your Mistress doing a chore. But if she says no, it could be that she actually gets something out of doing it, so don't feel as if you aren't fulfilling your role if she is cooking a meal or the like. She may enjoy it.

And here's another note for the Dominant women. Be clear. If you find yourself doing a task with resentment because your sub didn't do it or did a bad job of it, stop. It's time for firm discipline and not passive aggressive grumbling. Tell them exactly what you want and how you want it done. You get what you allow. Demand, don't grumble. Don't do a thing that you don't want to do. Only do the household chores you actually enjoy doing. And never feel you shouldn't do a task if you want to do it, just because you have a sub. It's your house, your rules. Do NOT overload your subs with more than they can reasonably handle, but also, don't do any task you hate.

And how each woman's household is run is going to be unique. There may be formal protocols around the house about what you wear and how you behave while serving or performing a task. My sub, Robbi, has to be plugged in at all times while cleaning, for example. Also, when my daughter isn't around, both boys wear their private collars. On the other hand, you may look like an ordinary couple except for the fact that she is sitting and relaxing while you're running the vacuum.

I think I've covered the domestic stuff pretty well. Now what about the two other realms? These realms take your commitment to female domination out of your private life and make it into a philosophy that you live and embody every day. You can do this casually without drawing too much attention to your underlying motivations, and you can go as far as you feel comfortable. You can deepen your submission and express it in ways that are of real service.

If you are like many subs, once you've experienced that subby feeling, you want more and more until you've found that you are wanting it all the time. You are consumed by it and you like it that way. And truth be known, those subby feelings can have a positive impact and they harm absolutely no one. Feeling submissive is addictive in a sense, but not in the same way as alcohol, which, in excess, is bad for your health and affects your ability to function. You have my permission to follow your addiction to subspace to its deepest depths, knowing that you will actually be making

your life better, and may even be improving the lives of others. It's one addiction that you can indulge in, to extremes. Go off the deep end. The only thing it might destroy is an ego that was standing in your way. Ego annihilation is an aspiration of many religions and spiritual practices. Monks spend their lives trying to get there. Saints are revered for it. Experiencing the heart free of the impediment of ego is the purpose of service, and the feeling it creates is your brain's way of telling you that you need this, you want this, and you are on the right track. Subspace is your doorway to bliss.

So, when you are ready, you can take that feeling out of the private meditative space of the home and extend it outward. This can be scary and exciting all at once, but it is the natural progression of your submissiveness. That said, some of you are not going to be ready for this. Especially if you are deeply immersed in and devoted to the status quo.

First, be submissive in the street. And by this, I mean in your everyday interactions out in public. When it comes to serving a particular Dominant, I suggest having a set of public protocols which keep you in your place and generate submissive feelings. Things like carrying her bags when shopping, never walking ahead of her, and following a set of hand signals in social situations. One hand signal may indicate to stay closely by her side or to leave her to socialize

on her own and step away. Another might indicate it's time to leave. Still another might mean "fetch me a drink." These are things which you should work out specifically with her so that everything runs smoothly between the two of you, as if you are acting as one singular organism. And Dominants, do let him know if he misses your cues. You want them to become automatic and effortless for both of you.

In serving a particular woman, keep in mind that you represent her authority over you. If you want to make her look good, be well groomed and neat, pay attention to basic hygiene (check your breath) and leave people around you, especially women, feeling happy to interact with you. Be pleasant and never rude or pushy. Wait to be asked questions before talking about yourself. A lot of men make the nervous mistake of rambling on about their own lives or interests. Ask open ended questions that allow others to open up to you. You don't have to agree with all of their opinions but asking them to explain them can be a fun exercise. Above all else, give women room to speak. Never talk over or interrupt any woman, or over explain things to her in a condescending manner. Don't try to advise her on topics about which she hasn't asked for advice. Avoid the annoying habits women have endured and politely put up with for too long.

And remember these points even when your Mistress is not around. Remember that as women we are

on alert for any sign of threat. If you become aggressive or indignant it can be perceived as a danger. Even if you are having an interaction which makes you annoyed or angry, keep your cool and express your disdain at the situation by talking about how you feel rather than lashing out. It's always better to be able to ask for empathy or explain what you are going through than to shout or explode.

There are times to speak in strong terms, of course. When you hear another man expressing any kind of misogyny, you should firmly speak against it. If a male friend objectifies a woman a simple "Man, don't do that. That's creepy," will signal that you are not the man to bond with over that kind of behavior. The more men who raise the standards, and the more men who set the example of speaking about and speaking to women in a way that acknowledges their humanity, the better conditions will become for women. You can be in service simply by changing the atmosphere.

Also never touch a woman without permission. And ask a woman if she's ok with it if you see any other man getting handsy. Gauge her reactions and if you see a woman stiffly tolerating unwanted touch, step in and simply talk to her. No need to confront the man, as it's her you are concerned for. "Are you ok with him doing that?" is a good intercept, and adding "because it would make me a little uncomfortable," takes the onus off her. It may make the man annoyed with you, but

know that you've just made a woman's life a little easier.

This doesn't mean we women need you to play white knight. I know that the stereotypical macho "is this guy bothering you?" can be a sign of a secondary predator moving in on a vulnerable target. You can do this without being creepy yourself, and while respecting her agency and ability to take care of herself. There's a poster going around on how to help when Muslims are being harassed in a public setting. The tactics shown can also work well for women being encroached upon by an aggressive man. The instructions are to simply start a conversation, while ignoring the harasser. While feigning familiarity and ignoring the predator, you can defuse the situation. Don't persist with it too long, but do tell the woman quietly that you'll hang out nearby if she needs an out.

So just to give an example, you notice a woman in a social setting is looking a little timid while an aggressor actively engages her. She's being polite but something tells you she just wishes the guy would go away. Step up to her and say something like "Hey, didn't I see you at that thing over at Rachel's place? It's Rob, remember me?" If she is relieved and receptive make small talk for a minute. Remember not to get handsy, as that comes off as you trying to mark your territory and will likely be unwelcome. Again, ignore the other guy. He's going to be angry, but unless he's very drunk

he'll tolerate your short interaction, even though it's interrupting him briefly. As you walk away quietly say, "if you need an excuse to break away, I'll be right over there." Leave it at that. You've now handed her an easy tactic to step away gracefully. Women can easily do this for other women too, and often do. If you didn't know this, some of us even have a set of secret hand signals among friends to say, "get me away from this guy." Because most of us have experienced negative consequences of injuring a guy's big fragile ego. Often it will cause him to become more aggressive, and so just finding a safe route of exit is a good tactic.

Of course, if a woman seems to have everything under control, or is being actively flirtatious with someone, there's zero need to step in. In fact, interrupting her flirtations would be rude. Remember you are not policing, but rather acting as a support to a woman's will and desires.

This is the kind of service in the street that a lot of women could really use. First, Change the environment of misogyny by making it clear to others that you speak to women, and about women, as human beings and not objects, and secondly, provide helpful ways for women to extract themselves from discomfort and even danger. You will of course still experience sexual thoughts about women. It's natural to have such thoughts about one another regardless of gender. We all check each other out, believe me. But

expressing these thoughts, except within the confines of an intimate relationship, is bound to make women feel creeped out by you. So, keep it in the spirit of service.

When I talk about D/s, I talk about it in terms of how it can permeate your entire life. I don't think of it as something limited to sexual play between partners. I ask a lot of the men who serve me. I ask them to think of themselves as existing in the world to serve women in general and support female authority. Perhaps this is why I've made FLR (female led relationships) my lifestyle rather than relegating it to an intimate pastime. It feels both natural, but also a little bit revolutionary, considering the history of women's struggles.

So, let's talk a bit about the third area of service, which I've referred to as the system. This is the broader social and political environment of the entire world. It involves policies and modes of living that specifically affect women.

As you will come to understand, the ultimate goal of my vision is to correct the psychological effects of patriarchy through a mental, emotional and spiritual reprogramming of individuals and by extension the communities and cultures we create.

First, educate yourself on how the patriarchy works to disempower everyone who is not a man. Read. I always encourage people to educate themselves, because the discourse going on in the mainstream is superficial at best. It hums along without challenging patriarchal structures supported by the media and entertainment industry.

A good place to start is to read books by contemporary feminists which have built upon decades of women getting together to theorize and find solutions. In *The Seven Necessary Sins for Women and Girls*, Mona Eltahawy goes into great depth regarding the major avenues of control of women, from how we speak to how we are encouraged to sublimate our sexual pleasure. In 1990, the feminist Sylvia Walby laid out six areas of patriarchal oppression in her book *Theorizing Patriarchy*, which are still relevant now. *Burn it Down* edited by Breanne Fahs is a huge collection of feminist manifestos that should be on your must-read list.

In the book Feminism for the 99% the authors make a distinction between neoliberal corporate feminism which only advocates for a small elite group of women to have a portion of the power - a bigger piece of the pie so to speak - and the new more radical feminist strikes in Argentina and Poland, for example, which seek not to reform but to restructure the system itself to fit a more cooperative and essentially feminine philosophy. The book goes into detail about the concept of social reproduction. As women we are needed not only to reproduce human beings to become workers in the current system, but to reproduce human beings who will carry in them a sense of what is a normal and

correct way to live and function. We're needed to reproduce the ideology of our own oppression. This is why you will find women who reject feminism even though it's working in their best interests. If we, as the ones who create life, can also create and reproduce a new ideology which does not rely upon the oppression of anyone, it will inevitably spread as the norm.

So, first, educate yourself.

Secondly, men need to find their Gynarch. This can be your intimate partner or any woman willing to take up a leadership role to act as your guide. Listen to her. Follow her. Find out what she needs and make sure she has it. Simple.

Third, in areas where you have power or privilege use that to uplift women. If you have a platform, use it to amplify feminist voices. Go beyond mere equal treatment and play favorites. Give women more attention, more time, and more resources. Give them your vote. Center them in your life! Remember we are trying to find balance before we can ever achieve real equality. We must upset the status quo in drastic ways. Go out of your way to counter anything that stands in a woman's way.

And finally, embrace the feminine. Reject the idea that to be a man means to avoid anything that may make you seem like a woman. Reject the binary. Realize that other genders don't revolve around maleness. That other sexualities don't revolve around straight-

ness. The world doesn't have to revolve around straight men. Masculinity is NOT the absence of femininity; it is a complementary set of characteristics that are apparent in everyone.

Some men are able to do this by redefining their masculinity to fit them better. Others find feminization helps them immensely in throwing off the repressive roles and characteristics which have been imposed upon them from the outside by patriarchal ideals. Wherever you fit on the spectrum, actively stop yourself from thinking of masculinity as the rejection of the feminine. Stop rejecting the feminine.

Now here's the real fuck you to the patriarchy and the real way to help in supporting women's power. Understand that women don't owe you anything for having served us in these ways. Nothing. Not a smile nor a word. Not praise or acknowledgement as if it's a great accomplishment. We're undoing thousands of years of programming. So, we realize that this stuff takes work on your part. And it's only right that you do that work in the spirit of selfless service. Experience the heart without it being overshadowed by ego. Because male ego is what got us into this unequal place to begin with.

And I have to emphasize that you can do this and be a doormat, if that's your thing. Or you can do it as a form of rebellion and resistance based on deeply held beliefs that women deserve and are worthy of holding power. You can do it because you crave being crushed and subjugated, or you can do it because you are here to fight tooth and nail for Gynarchy. Maybe it will be a bit of both. Either way, whatever your motivation, the effect is the same. If you are centering your needs and cravings still, then the doormat thing is going to have to be your gateway. I can't speak for all women, but I look forward to the day when your reasons are based on nobler motivations. But wherever you stand now in regard to motives, get on your knees and crawl behind us and we can lead you in the right direction.

Chances are once you experience the nature of sub space, you are going to long to go deeper and deeper as time goes on. I'm just lighting that path for you. I'm showing you your place in the Gynarchy equation.

SYMBIOSIS

Symbiosis is a term in biology that refers to the interaction between two different species with different sets of survival needs. Insofar as the definition has been extended into metaphor to describe human interactions, it must be noted that it's typically seen as a positive interaction and somewhat transactional. In other words, both parties are getting a need met through the symbiotic relationship. In biology, parasites are also considered as living in symbiotic relationships even when the outcome of the parasite's survival

can often lead to drastically harming or even killing the host. Nature embraces creation, perseverance and destruction as equals without judgement.

In its essence, symbiosis means either one or both parties have a need that is served by its close relationship with the other. Because we are born into a long-standing tradition of capitalist relations, the question continuously comes up, "so what's in it for me?" It's funny how we pretend to be concerned with fairness when we live in an overwhelmingly parasitic economic system which we view as symbiotic. And using the strictest definition, that's correct. The fact is that our life energy, time and efforts within this system - for the majority of people who must work at a job that is - gets funneled upward in an increasingly narrow flow toward the top, pyramid fashion, making it so that a select few don't have to make much effort at all to survive.

The fact that it's a coercive system, that most have no choice to participate in if they want to survive, doesn't seem to bother many people, or else this system would have crumbled from the sheer refusal of those at the bottom to participate in such an unfair exchange. Without them, the ones at the top would wither and die. As some philosophers have pointed out, capitalism has by necessity created a proletariat the workers to exploit in order to funnel profits to the top - and the proletariat is what can be its undoing, by simply refusing to participate any longer.

But there's a lot to be said for habit and education. both of which work to ingrain this system as the best system in the minds of those who lose the most from it. In fact, the hosts often will defend the parasites and express gratitude for having been given the opportunity to be sucked dry. Perhaps they imagine that one day they too will be able to take on the opposite role and instead become themselves a parasite. That's the story they are told - the brainwashing they are conditioned with from birth for many generations now. They need only be given the bare minimum to prevent their own suffering and death to continue on in this fashion. Even when they are not given that, and they struggle for an entire lifetime and sacrifice themselves wearing their lives away in the process, the conditioning goes so deep that they still cling to this model as the best idea. Anything else is... well... parasitic to those at the top. And that ain't good, right? Right?

So why do human parasitic interactions not crumble? I think this has to do with something innate and beneficial within the human make-up. I think that we have an instinct for the survival of our species over the survival of the individual. Put simply this is why we have proliferated on this planet. Our willingness to cooperate and sacrifice for one another has been our greatest evolutionary advantage. It's our ability to be self-aware and self-conscious that gives us empathy. It's our most advanced trait. Something to strive to

advance even more. The problem is this: the innately positive tendency of self-sacrifice for the benefit of the group can be perverted and exploited, and that exploitation has rapidly increased in recent times. Some will reject the idea of it as a part of human nature, only to turn around and use this built-in generosity as a tool to control the masses. The idea of serving the self is very fashionable among some groups and it is leading to the rapid decline and devolution of the human race.

So, we must not see the concept of symbiosis - in biology or in human relationships - as a necessarily even or fair situation.

There are three basic types of symbiosis - mutualism, commensalism, and parasitism.

In mutualism, both species gain something essential to their own survival and well-being from their close relationship. Though their needs may be very different, both need each other to thrive. In commensalism, once species gains something needed while the other neither gains much of anything nor loses anything through the interaction. The species that gains nothing is simply benevolently and selflessly helping the other. Parasitism is where one species gains what it needs by doing harm to another. So, as it can be seen the majority of symbiotic relationships are not strictly fair. And these three types of symbiosis exist on a spectrum, and not as strict delineations.

To my mind, the ideal D/s relationship exists somewhere between mutualism and commensalism, evolving further toward the latter while never veering fully into the parasitic realm. And rather than being coercive, it is fully 100% consensual. Meaning that the submissive can leave at any time without dying or being seriously harmed, and by extension, in staying, does not come to any serious harm as well.

Remember my motto: The only legitimate authority is the authority to which you consent with open eyes and an open heart.

I view D/s as naturally evolving toward commensalism because the greatest and most valuable thing a submissive can gain from the symbiosis of D/s is the heart opening experience of seva - selfless service and the sublimation and annihilation of ego. Beyond the pleasure of fulfilling fetishes and kinks, submission can have the same aim and ultimate goal as so many religious and spiritual practices throughout the ages of human advancement. Empathy, service and sacrifice being our best evolutionary advantage. As I stated before, these are the innate motivations and qualities that have made the human race most successful and prolific. They are the fruits and the gain of being submissive. Better than getting off, you get the gift of your own evolution. Submission is in itself the reward for submission. Serving the reward for service.

Circling back, perhaps this is the appeal of capitalism - a drive to work towards this evolution - which has unfortunately become perverted, parasitic, and coercive. Why not instead enter into a fully consensual relationship which will in turn accelerate your own evolution? A symbiosis which is neither fair nor harmful.

In our innate drive to evolve our empathy and selfless service - the craving to open your heart fully and sublimate and annihilate ego - humans need something or someone to serve. A focus. A purpose. Often a cause is too abstract without a leader. The job of the Dominant is to be a good leader and guide the submissive on their path. The job of the FemDom is to embody the Goddess and become that to which the submissive will sacrifice. It's also to protect her submissives from veering too far into parasitic relations. The Goddess is the safe container in which the submissive is free to let go and annihilate his ego without destroying himself completely in the process. As selfish a position as it may seem, being Dominant and a Leader is just the flip side of service. We must be empathetic and care for our subs. And we must also push them hard to advance on their path of sacrifice and selflessness.

In my life, I keep going back to the Gita. In the Gita, Krishna explains that the Leader must not have any hard and fast motives. They must simply *be* a Dom-

inant Leader and that is enough to make sure that those who follow and serve them are working to become more evolved beings. Ensuring the success of the human species, not through procreation but through social reproduction of the traits that make humans advance.

I know this is a lot to digest. But if you come away from this with anything it should be this. Your drive to be submissive to another is evolutionarily advanced, and it only needs a focus to be honed and refined. And so long as it does not become entirely parasitic, the best and most coveted thing you could strive to attain is your own deepening submission and drive to sevaselfless service.

And for Dominants, we have a duty to be that safe container for our submissives so that they can expand and stretch their seva to extreme ends of sacrifice without coming to serious harm. It is our duty to maintain consent and set the pace. It is our duty to become the focus and purpose of their journey and to embrace that without becoming parasites. It's a delicate balance and requires both confidence and empathy. But we have much to gain in our mutual enjoyment and fulfillment in this life together. A happy Mistress will make for a happy slave. Positive symbiosis. Never ever hesitate to demand and expect great service and pleasure from your sub. As women, we sometimes feel hesitant to make demands. And there are many books written

about how that serves a patriarchal and parasitic capitalist system. But we must take our role seriously and command without fear, taking the lead to further push the advancement of a thriving human race.

That seems like a tall order and a huge responsibility, and it is. But it can be enacted as simply as telling your slave to kiss your feet and get back to work on folding the laundry.

The final question many may ask is couldn't women just as well benefit from being in service to men? And technically the answer to that is yes. But we have seen the extent to which patriarchal rule has become parasitic, abusive and coercive and has been harmful in the spiritual evolution of the majority of men as well as women. It is in fact reversing the course of human evolution altogether with irreparable damage to the planet through selfishness, greed and manufactured scarcity. A woman could benefit from service to a highly empathic man, but the chances that a woman's capacity for such empathy would not be already much greater than her male counterpart is, frankly, unlikely.

A woman would advance her own evolution much more by being in service to another woman, if that is her preferred path. Male Dominants have a tendency to have women serving only their most basic primal sexual desires, and they tend to echo and reinforce the abuses of the patriarchy. In short, they have a conditioned tendency to become parasitic and coercive without even knowing it. Also, women have been so psychically harmed by the abuses of patriarchy from day one that a woman may have a higher likelihood of further abusing herself in following that path, rather than using her empathy to help men spiritually evolve. This is a massive generalization, of course, but also an observation after years of exploring BDSM. I find the FemDom/malesub relationship to be much more healing to society, acting as a kind of medicine and recompense for oppression.

Of course, all women should feel free to pursue whatever path they wish toward their own fulfillment, so I try, rather unsuccessfully, not to judge. I'm admittedly not very objective in this regard. In her book The List of Shit That Made Me a Feminist, poet Farida D. refers to the sexually submissive feminist as serving her own orgasm rather than serving a man. In this respect, I can envision a place for the male "service top," who is roleplaying in order to get the woman off. When I was younger, I would play at submission in order to have the types of intense sexual experiences that I craved, and to work through the abuse I had endured. It was an internal psychodrama that I needed to gain control over through play. I wonder how true that may be for at least some of the other sexually submissive women out there, given the hugely disproportionate number of kinky women who identify as subs. Is it any coincidence that the wildly popular BDSM fiction 50

Shades of Grey is essentially the fantasy of an abusive relationship? Whatever the case, discovering that I was more naturally Dominant was quite a revelation, and far more healing for me.

The Feminine has been repressed for such a very long time. I feel very strongly that it needs and deserves to be served. I personally feel that it's important to reverse the damage done by patriarchal control, and for men to step down from positions which can serve to inflate their egos. The time for that is over, to my mind, and has gone on much too long.

Symbiosis, though not necessarily even and fair, should not, whenever possible, result in one party being destroyed and irreparably harmed by the relationship. At least in human interactions, we've seen how badly that can go wrong and we should steer away from it for our own collective benefit. The needs and roles between two symbiotic beings can be vastly different but very complimentary. And done right it can further the best and most highly evolved traits of our species.

NO PET ZOMBIES

Author Jeff Brown is good at sussing out the pitfalls of certain spiritual communities and ideologies. He's been speaking out a lot about the nature of "patriar-chal enlightenment."

In an excerpt from his book *Grounded Spirituality*, he begins to listen to his partner and his own inner voice - his authentic self:

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I have heard this from Hannah for years. She often says that there is a "Nazi-like rigidity" about the spiritual community I come from. That they are soft-voiced sadists, mocking the human condition from their airless mountain-top hideaways.

Jeff's criticism is that a lot of spirituality causes people to disconnect from their bodies and that real, grounded inner part of themselves that wants them to be happy and healthy and loved.

It's easy to mistake dissociation for detachment. Especially when talking about ego annihilation and becoming selfless. And it's especially tricky for the trauma survivor who has had to sublimate the authentic self as a survival mechanism.

So, I want to clarify something that I think would be more evident if you knew my slaves in person. I do *not* want to leave submissives as hollow shells with no core self. My slaves are always uniquely themselves with their own sets of concerns and needs and interests.

It's important to understand the nuance between experiencing a deep selfless kind of love, losing yourself in service in an ecstatic and heartfelt way (while stripping away all that is not needed, such as ego protections which concentrate on what you have rather what you are) and just becoming a pet zombie.

There is a tightrope we always walk in these kinds of relationships of unequal power. There is something amazing and erotic and profound about giving your personal power over to someone else. But you need to make sure you are set up in a good place and know yourself well enough to do that. Know yourself well enough to be able to say "no, this is no longer giving me life, but poisoning me slowly," if that becomes the case.

Check in with yourself. Do you feel more fulfilled serving your lady? If not, then why are you doing it? There is a world of difference between a good D/s relationship and one that drains the life out of you because it's abusive.

I feel like the bulk of the responsibility is on the Dominant to check in with the sub. That is, if they are a responsible Dominant. It needs to be something the submissive does for himself as well, however. Because as connected as we are with our subs, FemDoms are not always mind readers. And there are some women out there who are just not very experienced, not quite emotionally mature, or may unfortunately be downright abusive. And that doesn't even include the scammers and fakes

So, when I talk about annihilating ego, I mean it, and I want you to experience that. But in the process, I don't want you to disappear into the void. I want the

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process of surrender to peel away the excess "stuff" so that you can experience the real you.

Chapter 7

ADVICE FOR WOMEN

Throughout much of this book I am assuming that most of my audience is submissive and male. I just wanted to take a moment to address the Dominant Women reading. I am hesitant to tell you what to do, because I think you can easily surmise that Gynarchy gives you a lot of freedom, a lot of power, and a responsibility to look out for the wellbeing of your submissives and slaves. You can shape your relationships and community however you see fit. You take the lead. You create the vision.

A lot of women have indicated that they could use some advice on how to reclaim their power and to deprogram their own automatic conditioning from having grown up under patriarchal rule. The first step is to admit outright that you *want* to take the lead and embrace that. Once you do that you'll likely come up against some hesitancy, or even fearfulness about how you will be received and perceived.

As long as you are not abusing or harming anyone, stop worrying so much about being agreeable. Allow yourself to embrace any rage you feel about past harms and pains and acknowledge that it's justified. And then start to actively envision the world you want to live in. Don't just focus on what you don't like, but, like Natalia Stroika in the previous essay, envision how you would like things to be different. And then demand it. Take responsibility, and honestly convey what you want to partners and friends. How do you want to be cared for? Don't settle for less. There are so many submissives out there who are just waiting to find someone like you. Grab them by the short hairs and tell them exactly what pleases you. And don't allow men to manipulate you into their version of the perfect Domme. Pay attention to the flow of power.

Kasia Ubaniak is a former Pro Domme and a women's empowerment coach (check the References and Resources for one of Kasia's talks online). Her classes sell out. She talks a lot about inward energy and outward energy. Neither of these are gendered and yet women tend to turn inward when outward energy is directed at them. From childhood men are condi-

tioned to projecting energy outward. We focus on what little boys do, and we focus on how little girls are.

You can turn all of that on its head. Whether forceful and stern, or sweet and gentle, you can direct your energy outward by putting the spotlight on the submissive. This may seem counter-intuitive, because the focus is on what you want. But you need to focus on how you want him to *be* and what you want him to *do*. His attitude and his behavior. Be direct. Expect compliance. Remember that he is asking you for your dominance.

If you don't get compliance, and there's no good reason for his resistance, tell him that you get the feeling he doesn't really crave your dominance. Let him know that you will put an end to the D/s dynamic and withdraw your spotlight of attention from him. If he is not compliant, then you will stop commanding him. Watch how quickly he changes his behavior and attitude. Remember, he has already decided that this is what he wants. Once you've established control in this way, if you care deeply for your submissive's well-being, and you've mastered communication as I will discuss in the next chapter, you are on your way to a very happy relationship.

Chapter 8

THE GYNARCHIC HOUSEHOLD

The very first step in establishing Gynarchy is to create Gynarchic households. We must begin our endeavor in the traditional domain of the feminine - the home. I am the leader of one of these myself and they can take on different configurations. Some are referred to as a FLR (female led relationship). Some may refer to themselves as a family, a hive, or a house. They may be monogamous or polyandrous. They may by polyamorous or have elements of cuckolding. They may be run by one woman with one or more men, or may be led by a lesbian couple or a group of women. The common denominator is that the women in the

household have more power than the men and have all of the decision-making authority.

In my household, the two men who serve me also work full time and split household responsibilities fairly. We split household expenses three ways. Both of my slaves have very different personalities, and we have different styles of relating. But the one thing that has made things go smoothly is our ability to communicate.

COMMUNICATION

First, we need to establish the framework on which a D/s relationship is based. And for this I'm going to refer to some writing done by several very clear-thinking authors on this topic. First, Ms. Rika whose series of books on the subject of full time D/s relationships should be required reading for anyone interested in making this a lifestyle. I've read both *Uniquely Rika* where she talks about her personal D/s dynamic and how she set up her own loving and functional relationship, and *Uniquely Us*, where she gives examples of how others manage it.

She points out that most good D/s relationships have two parts. First is the foundational relationship. And that's exactly what it sounds like. It's the basic relationship of love and respect between any set of partners, no matter what their lifestyle. Just because

you are in a Mistress and slave relationship does NOT mean you forgo the human need for connection, intimacy and caring. The fantasy of being with a woman who doesn't give a shit about you, is usually just a fantasy. If your Domme did not care for you, you'd just be an annoyance to her, and it would not last. She would want you gone. Or at very least, you would be trampled in ways that are not fun or good or healthy for you in any way. That's also known as an abusive relationship. I don't want the subs reading this to get into abusive relationships. I want to see you in functional D/s dynamics, inside loving relationships. Your Domme has to enjoy having you around and care about your wellbeing. You can be viewed and treated as an object if you like it that way, but you still deserve an owner who values and takes good care of her objects. And if a sub didn't care for his Domme, well, he'd be the worst sub one could imagine. Why devote your life to someone you don't care about?

The best D/s relationships are built on love, trust, a general respect for the needs of the other person, and clear communication. That's the foundational relationship. On top of that relationship the second part - the D/s dynamic - can be built. Through the D/s dynamic, the sub's surrender can deepen in very satisfying and life changing ways.

The D/s dynamic is created in the rules by which the relationship runs. It's the contract, whether written or just agreed upon verbally - the glue keeping the Domme and sub together. The foundational relationship is your love for each other, and the D/s dynamic is the way in which you express that love in ways that make both of you feel good and right.

We've established that the foundational relationship involves respect for each partner's needs. What are these needs as expressed and fulfilled through the D/s dynamic? For the submissive it is usually the need to have their role openly acknowledged by the Dominant. Typically, he will want to be SEEN by his Dominant as the servant, the slave, the one who has given up all control and has little to no say. Some want to be viewed as objects to be used, or as minions (and I don't mean the cute little yellow animated critters, but an underling, devoted entirely to serving someone powerful and important). The stereotype in BDSM circles is that subs seek lots and lots and LOTS of attention. That's why subs act out sometimes. But I would say it's not attention, but acknowledgement and reinforcement of their role that subs really need. And they need it on a regular basis. And they need it in multiple ways, which I'll talk about in a bit.

The Domme's responsibility is to frankly and consistently remind the sub that he's lower in rank. And to graciously accept his submission knowing that she deserves to have a sub who strives to make her happy. Her role is to be clear about what makes her happy

(and ladies this does require some introspection because, as women, we're accustomed to having our wishes ignored). Dominant Ladies, your role is to expect him to cater to that. To let your wishes be known in a straightforward manner, and to let the submissive know when he is and is not fulfilling those wishes to your satisfaction.

That may sound simple, but believe me, from experience, it can be exhausting to consistently expect someone else to live up to your standards without caving and just giving up. Men need to be trained and that training takes effort. I think this is true of all submissives, but I've found men in particular need lots of repetition. And it can be tedious. But every relationship requires effort, so that's nothing new. A D/s relationship, though easier in many ways, does take work from both partners.

The sub's responsibility in the dynamic is to really listen to his Domme's wants and needs and preferences, and to do all he can humanly do to make sure her expectations are met. If you crave being in the subjugated role, you must be a good subject. Be humble and really strive to please. Otherwise, the whole thing falls apart and it makes nothing but boring work for your Dominant. She'll get burned out really fast on having to correct you around every corner.

Ask yourself if your desire to serve is really a desire to serve or is it really all about you. Is it all about you

wanting her to tie you up, humiliate and beat you? Do you want to be told you're a bad boy and have her be mean to you? Of course you do! For many that's part of the appeal. But if you want to take this to a new level - if you want a D/s lifestyle, full time - you're going to have to work at leaving fantasy mode and getting real.

Key Barrett writes about the internal motivations for leading a female led lifestyle in his book Surrender, Submit, Serve Her. He knows that it takes a change of mindset to go from wanting to bottom to a hot dominatrix, to really wanting to be a long term serious submissive to your partner. It takes a sincere wish to make your partner happy, and to be the best submissive you can be so that she is pleased. Being a submissive partner is 100% about making Her life easier and more pleasurable, not about getting your masochistic fantasies fulfilled. And if, from the love of the foundational relationship, your Dominant wants to make you happy too by incorporating kinky play, then that should be her choice, but never expected of her. If you're lucky, she'll be kinky and sadistic like me, and you'll get those fetishy fantasies fulfilled without ever having to ask. But first, you have to adjust your core motivator - change your mindset from doing what you do to get kink out of your Dominant, to being the best sub you can be.

As a man you're likely brought up to think that sex is something men want and women give. It's talked

about as "getting lucky" or "getting laid." The traditional way of seeing sexuality leaves out women's desires completely, which is a shame because we can be horny beasts. It also puts you on the consumer end of a transactional encounter. And sex should, in my opinion, not be unintentionally transactional. I mean if you're paying for it, that's one thing. But your FemDom partner should not be your sexual service provider.

For people like me, and probably like you, the kinky stuff is our sex, even if no penetration or even genital contact happens. It's physical, gets those endorphins pumping... it's erotic. And there are lots of professional sex workers who can give you that intense experience of sexual submission. But when it comes to the realm of a full time D/s relationship, you need to leave that transactional mentality behind. Your intrinsic motivation to please must be front and center.

In a consensual long-term D/s dynamic you have both agreed that Her needs, Her wants and Her pleasure take absolute priority. That is the framework. This is for real. It's not a game. Your thoughts should always be on how to best please Her, not how to get your fetishes serviced.

Ms. Rika talks about the fun sadistic and masochistic stuff in a different light. Kinky fun is a treat. It's not a reward or a punishment. Any psychologist worth their salt will tell you that behaviorism - a.k.a., rewards and punishments - is the least effective form of psy-

chological molding or behavior modification. It's fun and may help a slave maintain the right mindset when needed, but you aren't going to get real and lasting psychological change from such a system. It's superficial. And the truth is, if you're a Dominant giving a submissive the pain or humiliation he craves, how can you ever tell if it's a reward or a punishment?

If you think you'll get sexy time if you're a good boy, drop that notion now. If you think that if you act up and become a resistant brat that you'll get that lashing you've been dreaming of, stop right now and kill that idea. That works for a play scene, or a transactional encounter, but that does not work if you want this to last as a long-term serious D/s relationship. You will please her whether or not you're getting what you want or fantasize about, because that's the contract! That's the explicit agreement in a D/s dynamic - Her wants are the most important part of your life together.

Now, those who follow my household at cathexishouse.com may be utterly confused at this point, because you know that I use a demerit system and punish my boys when they displease me. But you must understand my motivation behind this is to indulge in our mutual kinks. I do it because I get off on playing with my power in sadistic ways. I'm a sadist, and I deliberately set up ways for me to play with my sadism. I thoroughly enjoy humiliating and giving pain. And

if that's something that excites you, then best find a sadist who will enjoy it as I do.

Still, I don't *need* to bind, paddle, cane, cut and whip in order for my boys to obey and strive to please me. That's *not* the deal. Even if I stopped enjoying that kind of play, they would still be required to serve and obey. But I do enjoy it. It's my form of sexual expression. Whether or not my slave has demerits, I'm still going to be giving him pain on a regular basis. That's just my way, and that's why these particular subs chose me to serve.

My use of demerits is quite simply a tool for communication. If I turn to him and say "three demerits" he knows he displeased me. If I say "ten demerits," he knows he's really fucked up. That's the shorthand I have chosen to be clear in my communication. If you look at things from the perspective of the driving motivation, it all makes more sense. And in D/s it is *always* helpful to look at the motives.

As a Dominant Lady, knowing what you know about your sub, you may feel like playing with him in the ways he likes because you want to see him happy too. That stems from the loving foundational relationship though, and *not* from the D/s dynamic. If you are like me, you engage in kinky play because you're kinky and you feel like it, it makes you feel more powerful, or you just love to see his reaction. Not because he's earned it. Not because he's a bad boy who deserves punishment

or because he did as you wanted and is being rewarded for good behavior.

Let's get this straight. You, as the Dominant, are in charge. Your wants and needs are the main concern. And he should always strive to please you, regardless of whether or not his fantasies are being fulfilled. That's how this works. All you owe your submissive, your entire responsibility in this relationship, is to 1.) acknowledge and accept his submission, 2.) be clear what you want, and 3.) clearly let him know when he's doing it right or doing it wrong. That's it. You need not feel obligated to do anything else aside from enjoy him and enjoy yourself. It's your world, now. He just lives in it.

For the sub the only way to approach this is from the perspective that kink is a way to play together. And when she wants to play, you get to play. Not because you did all your chores - you should be doing those whether or not you are punished or rewarded. Kinky play is a gift to you, given only when she really wants to give it. No expectations. This is why I require that my boys thank me when I beat them. That kind of attention is a treat for them, given because I love them and we equally enjoy it. It's one way we bond.

So now that that framework is clear, it's time to move on to how to best communicate to avoid conflict in a loving relationship with a full time D/s dynamic.

I think one thing that's absolutely essential is that you have some established avenues of communicating when something is not feeling right, or even when things are going really well. Some people call it porch time or couch time. For me, it's long walks with my boys. It is a relaxed regular check in time, where you can speak openly, setting protocol aside for a bit.

I also use journaling. I have my subs journal to me daily, just speaking openly about what they are thinking and feeling. I will sometimes respond, and often I will use this input to direct my training. A dominant needs to keep her finger on the pulse of the relationship. She needs to continually reaffirm consent and know how her actions and expectations are being received. Without this feedback misunderstandings can and will happen. I recommend you send your Dominant an email or text message either every morning or every night and really express your inner world to her. Get used to being vulnerable. And keep doing it, even if she doesn't respond directly to each message. Trust that she is reading what you write and taking it to heart. And Dommes, read what your sub is writing, and use that info to understand how to further guide him in the right direction.

Subbies, If you find it's been a long time since your Domme has felt like playing with you and you miss it, then by all means do check in. Without implying any pressure make sure she's feeling content and relaxed and ask her if she ever thinks about playing with you, and if she enjoys playing with you. Let her know you miss it without ever asking her for anything specific. If you have fantasies about her, you may include them in your journals. It might be just the erotic inspiration she needs to rev up her engines again! And feel free to make your journals into love letters at times when you are feeling particularly devoted and appreciative. You have no idea how good positive feedback feels to a Dominant. We are taking on a role that's not typical, and no matter how confident, we do sometimes feel unsure. When you express enthusiasm for our dominance, without wrapping it in requests, it gives us joy.

The other author I wanted to mention in regard to communication styles in D/s is Ingrid Bellemare. In her book *Owning & Training a Male Slave*, she gives the Dominant Woman clear advice on how to communicate with a submissive man. First, you have to know what you want. This may be a tall order at first and Dominant women, you may need to spend some time contemplating what will truly and genuinely make you happy.

After you know what you want, you need to state it clearly and in no uncertain terms. Remember, it is a command and not a request. If you want something done in a specific way, say so. And you will need to say so more than once. Submissive men need things repeated to them in order to absorb it. Bellemare goes so

far as to create drills where she has a slave repeat a task over and over and over and over until he's perfected it to her liking. This may be a little too intense and time-consuming for some Dominants, but I'm certain that it does save time in the long run. Ingrid says you get what you allow, so you need to let the sub know in no uncertain terms when something is unacceptable.

Nagging should be taken off the table. A sub will inevitably fail to live up to your expectations sometimes. And it should be enough to tell him that you are not pleased and demand that he correct the mistake. If sub and Domme find themselves engaged in a situation where the Domme is nagging and needing to remind and cajole a sub, the sub is failing badly in his duties and you have fallen into a vanilla dynamic. The two of you will need a reminder of what the rules of engagement are and what you've agreed to. You need to review the relationship contract.

And for the subbies, I want to make one thing crystal clear: Complaining is D/s relationship poison. Whining, complaining and resisting doing a task when and how your Mistress commands it will be a drag on her Dominant energy. You risk draining her and her interest in maintaining the D/s dynamic if you make things too frustrating for her. You are failing her each and every time you complain.

Remember the couch time, journals, and walks I mentioned? There is a time and place to voice a con-

cern or issue. There's a way to let her know you feel stretched too thin. In the moment when you are told to do something is NOT that time. Moaning about having to do something to make your Mistress happy is NOT acceptable behavior and you may be causing your D/s dynamic to deteriorate. Do you want to lose the dynamic and end up being an average couple? If not, then DO NOT grumble and complain like an average man.

Everyone gets in a bad mood or gets tired now and then. But you need to keep in mind your top priority in life: That is to please your Mistress, even if it feels like a sacrifice or a pain. That is what you signed up for. Keep the framework always at the front of your mind. DO NOT sour your partner on the whole arrangement by being a big baby. You want her to be dominant and commanding, so let her be dominant and commanding. Negative feedback, like positive feedback, can really affect her confidence. Support her in finding her assertiveness, and don't impede that.

So, what are some ways to always remind ourselves of the D/s dynamic so we don't lapse into the boring typical problems of boring typical couples?

First, you can create a pledge. It can be a few sentences or a few paragraphs that a sub is forced to memorize and repeat at certain specific times or on cue as needed.

Secondly, you can have a written contract and review it in any time of tension or conflict. Having the

rules and goals of your relationship agreed upon and unmistakably spelled out is a great tool. And you can modify this contract over time if it no longer fits, but you will always know that you're on the same page.

Daily rituals like kissing Her feet every morning and every night are a sweet reminder of his place as well.

As a Dominant, you can find little easy ways of putting him in his place quickly. I find grabbing a boy by the balls and squeezing hard while asking him who makes the rules is immediately effective in snapping him back into his submissive mindset if he shows resistance. A pat on the butt, a kiss on the cheek and a nibble on the ear when he's pleased you has a similar effect. A subtle signal that he's on the right track. Allowing him to kneel and press his face into your crotch for a moment is both a reminder of dominance and an erotic trigger to realign his attitude. Even a quick sharp slap to the face can be just the thing to snap him out of the mundane world and back into service. Figure out what does it for your sub. And subs, let your Domme know when something she does gets you back into the right headspace to be her good and obedient subbie again. Give her the keys to drive you into surrender.

All of this from the outside might seem a little contrived, but it also makes it easier to stick to the rules of engagement and avoid conflict. Do what feels the most fitting and natural to you and your partner. And always always remember you're doing this because you want

to. If it stops being satisfying or fulfilling, you need to stop and reevaluate if this kind of relationship is really for you. There's always a way to work out individual issues and maintain both the loving foundational relationship and the D/s dynamic. But don't let things become so contrived that it becomes a total bore. Remember why you are here. YOU CHOSE THIS! It is the life you wanted for yourself. Remember why you want it and how it makes you feel. Ongoing consent from both sides is an absolute requirement to make things work for the long term.

So just to review: Dominants, your role is to accept and openly acknowledge his submission, to be clear about what pleases you and to let him know when he succeeds and fails at doing so. Know that there are no other expectations of you, and be confident in asserting your wants, needs, and whims. It's what he lives for. Submissives, your job is to do all you can to please her without complaint. Make sure she is relaxed and her life is made easier so that she will be inspired to play and want to engage with you in the ways you both enjoy.

And both of you are responsible for communicating. This is done verbally through your regular relaxed talks together, in writing through journals, contracts and love letters, and through subtle actions, rituals and reaffirmations of Her power and control.

FAMILY: REALITY VS. FANTASY

I still remember the words of a friend of mine when we were out to lunch one day. He said to me "you live in a fantasy." And as I began to argue that I am not, in fact, delusional, he stopped me and said that what he meant was that the world I have created for myself most people would have only fantasized about.

Which immediately brought me back to the thesis speech I gave upon graduating art school. I said my art was to live a life that was interesting enough to write about. And here I am.

I have created my own Gynarchy that I live 24/7, 365 days per year. It's very real for me and for my slaves. And I'm adding to my community all the time. Needless to say, I've taken the whole concept of Gynarchy very seriously.

But I also can appreciate the power and joy in pure fantasy.

I am in a lot of online groups that share common themes: BDSM, FLR, Gynarchy, FemDom. And in one of these groups a woman had typed out a fantasy of what a world dominated by women would look like. She wrote about the education system and how boys would be forced to serve the girls and made to understand that they are inferior. Another person added to the fantasy that the boys would have to clean the shoes of the girls with their tongues as they came in from outside.

Later a man voiced his fantasy that boys should be pierced and put in chastity cages with the keys kept by their mothers before later being passed on to their girl-friend or wife. He suggested that they be pierced at the same time as being circumcised as infants.

And I found myself feeling strangely very, very sad. I felt that no one was taking the idea of Gynarchy, real Gynarchy, very seriously. I began to feel that the girls in the story were being fetishized, and the boys abused in a way that in real life would be just as horrible as the violence thrust upon girls by the patriarchy. I had a flashback of a video that popped up in my Facebook feed of a real little boy of about 6 or 7 years old being beaten by his mother. Some monster had uploaded it to a FemDom page with the caption "Is this what you want to see?"

No. It's not what I want to see. I am an empathetic person. And that is an innocent child.

I sometimes see images of young girls with captions about the future of Gynarchy, making me feel that these girls are objectified by submissive men, in the very same way that vanilla men objectify barely legal models. And I have some thoughts on that. You see, I have a young daughter. And I want to explain the reality of that. I'm transgressing the taboo subject of bringing up a child in a D/s household.

There is a way to ensure the future of Gynarchy without ever objectifying my child, or fetishizing her.

My slaves treat her appropriately, as a child. They assist in supporting the boundaries I set as her mother in gentle ways, without ever allowing her to lose her sense of autonomy or authority. She knows, without anyone having to say a word, that mom makes all the rules. She knows that if she gave an order the men of the house would have to follow it (checking with mom first) and she knows that the men around her could not give her an order without it coming from mom. Nobody has to tell her that she can boss grown men around. She knows. And she will always be confident in stating what she wants and needs and expecting to be heard and respected. And because of that, she feels safe and strong. A gift some young girls are never given. A contrast to what she will eventually have to face in the outside world.

But she is also allowed to be a child and maintain her innocence. Nothing is ever explicit around her. Adult activities and adult matters are kept between adults. We don't do anything around her that we wouldn't do in public. We have discreet protocols when she is around. The men DO NOT fetishize her role here. She is the Princess, but it's not sexualized in any way, and if there were a person fetishizing my child, that person would be ousted from my life permanently. Period. She is not to be objectified, but respected and protected.

She is never spanked or physically disciplined by her father or me. We don't even raise our voices to her if we can help it. And she is more well behaved than most children who don't feel empowered or treated with respect.

And it might surprise you to know that if my son was still a young child, I would not spank him either. Because I think of all spanking as sexual and inappropriate for children. It's my opinion that spanking serves only to release tension in the parent and studies show that it does not aid in a child's learning in the least. It's a temporary deterrent at best and only teaches them that you can hurt people to get them to do what you want. It's done for the parents' benefit only. And I think it's perverted and disgusting. Spanking, the smacking of an area as intimate as the buttocks, is a sexual activity in my book, and you don't engage in sexual activities with your children. Period. Argue with me if you will, but if I find out you spank your kids, I consider you a sexual abuser.

Plus, I'm a Gynarchist and don't buy into patriarchal styles of authoritarian parenting. If my adult son were still a young boy, he would learn by example from all the men around him that I am to be respected and deferred to on all matters because I'm the leader of the family and of our community. It would simply be the natural state of things.

But I'm going to back up a little, because I know sexuality starts young and a lot of people's fetishes begin as children. Things we experience at a young age have a huge impact on the formation of our personalities. So, I don't mind listening to people's real-life stories of how they discovered their interest in D/s or sadomasochism. I had a sub whose fascination with FemDom began when a gang of girls would force him to carry their books and bullied him ruthlessly. Another man told me of a story of when he had just entered puberty and an older girl trapped him in a room and masturbated him until he had his first orgasm with another person. I find these real-life stories interesting because I like to know what makes people tick and what has brought them to where they are.

But at the same time, we cannot expect that all boys who are bullied or molested would come out of it with the desire to bow down to dominant women. Many would and do come out of it hating women and feeling damaged. Boys' brains don't even finish developing until age 25 (see Johnson). They don't have the capacity to consent as teens and children. So, the fantasy of all boys being treated in this way just makes me queasy. And here is where I come to one of my most important issues, both as an anarchist and a Gynarchist: Bodily autonomy.

Being a Gynarchist means being bound and determined to undo the wrongs of the past by focusing on

empowering women, and eliminating the harm and violence done to them day in and day out all over the world. Being an anarchist means bodily autonomy is paramount. Since I feel so strongly about autonomy, you would think that I would NOT be into total power exchange, and D/s (Dominance and submission) at all. You would think I would only accept absolute equality. But I am a woman who can live with, and even appreciate, contradiction. I am into D/s, and for me, it is the act of surrender that is the missing part of this puzzle. Surrender is the most enthusiastic form of consent. It requires trust and vulnerability and a monk-like release of ego. It's this release of ego which allows for empathy in the submissive man. Without empathy you cannot be of real service. And striving to be of real service is the kind of selflessness that will make the entire world a better and more functional place. The patriarchal, greedy, entitled, authoritarian attitudes that have caused the most harm to the world all stem from selfishness and lack of empathy. Cultivating selflessness in others is a worthy goal which serves the world as a whole

And I do that by finding that sweet spot of surrender.

I understand the joy and power in pure fantasy. A submissive pointed out to me that, in order to get to the point of surrender, he needed the fantasies to open him up. He needed his sexuality stimulated in order to

be attracted to the idea of service to begin with. Fantasy plays an important role, and fantasy is a healthy way to find your way toward surrender. So, if you need to imagine a world where all boys are subjugated from the very start, and bullied and humiliated by girls, then so be it. If you want to fantasize about the strict sex ed teacher who teaches all teenaged boys how to properly pleasure a woman and deny their own pleasure, that's hot too.

But there is a time to step away from the fantasies and think about what Gynarchy really looks like. It looks like the life my slaves and I are creating for ourselves. It looks like empowering a young girl to be commanding without fetishizing her. It looks like teaching a young boy to revere women without abusing him. It looks like a new world where a woman promotes cooperation and harmony by being both benevolent and deliciously cruel, while men fall willfully at her feet, craving nothing more than to surrender themselves. A choice. A desire. A wish for something different.

The future of Gynarchy is possible and real. It's very much my reality and it can also be yours if you want it. It's fun to play in fantasy, but let's have some frank discussions about what it can look like in real life. Let's cultivate fantasies that help to shape the future. Fantasies that we can live in.

Chapter 9

What's Wrong With All The Submissive Men?

BY PEARL O'LESLIE

Relax, this isn't a hate piece. I'm being sympathetic and trying to solve the problem that a countless horde of submissive men have brought to me to solve. Just get a cup of tea and get comfy while I focus on you and fixing why you are so lonely and unhappy, ok?

FIRST, WHO AM I TO SPEAK ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF SUBMISSIVE MEN?

This problem has been made my problem because submissive men keep asking me to solve it. If you are a dominant woman on the internet, you will be a magnet to the lonely "please help me" queries of sub guys. I still think we are some of the least qualified people to opine on finding a Domme precisely because we are the last on the list of people trying to date us. Nonetheless, beyond the usual how to find a Domme/how to find a mistress articles, some challenges are a little out of the scope of some simple checklists or quick tips.

Often a submissive man asking me also has no idea how to find a vanilla partner, or if he can find one, how to talk with her about getting his needs met. With that as a starting place, unpacking how to help him is a big ask indeed.

So why still try? I like men, so I'm interested in them. I don't just like them as people to fuck, or boss to obey, but as a nerd, I learned to like 'em as friends. Being part of the minority of women in a stereotypically male hobby came with having a lot of male friends. And guys would repeatedly seek in me a soft safety and toolkit their peers didn't have. So, I am not a therapist, but I've been drafted into trying to help guys. A lot. And I am (mostly) ok with it.

Unlike many she-nerds, I escaped the identity of being Not Like Other Girls and was largely comfortable with the fact that I couldn't escape the pressures on my own perceived gender by opting out of normal. But I was not blind to the fact that the boys were Not Ok.

And I was drilled enough both in my right to rule as a benevolent princess, and my toolkit of humanism, that I almost immediately wanted to know why it seemed to suck so freaking bad for the individuals of the so-called ruling gender.

SUBMISSIVE MEN DEFINITELY HAVE A PROBLEM.

You guys get it coming both ways. You're under immense pressure not to let your kinks show, as your desires transgress masculinity in ways which we put a lot of effort into punishing men who do. On the other hand, you are awash in porn that has evolved to cater to your fantasies without much concern for the practical, including a thriving market in lying to you about how things work to indulge wishful thinking.

The net result is an amorphous blob of men who REALLY want a dominant woman, but have no idea how to find her, or relate to her. These guys don't just fail to get a Domme, but can often destroy their participation in groups, making dominant women gun shy about talking to them, and women who might be Dommes reject trying it for fear of being eaten alive. I talk a bit more about that problem from my side when referring to my challenges of being the oft chased femdom unicorn. But I am not so unempathetic to fail to notice that while some of the behaviors I receive or witness from men are downright terrifying to me, a lot of sub men are suffering, and they don't know where to start being ok.

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Caveat time: this isn't going to tell you the secret is to stop being male, or that men just suck. My exploration is seriously concerned about your happiness and fulfillment. I am not here to scold you. But there is a problem and it does need fixing.

IT STARTS IN BOYHOOD, BECAUSE THE PATRIARCHY.

Patriarchy is a system (simplifying here) in which a few men have power over everyone, and use a system intertwined with familial alliance and influence on gender roles to maintain that power. The extreme is, say, the FLDS cults, where polygyny is sustained by booting out enough boys when they come of age that the gender ratios let the rulers broker power by trading around women and girls.

Patriarchy sucks for everyone in that (to quote mangle) it convinces people that it's not men versus women in so much as men versus men with women as the ball.

More painfully, because even in literal slavery, people don't stop having thoughts and some capacity to act, the system rewards women who play along. While they usually can't grasp supreme power, if you are female and buy in, things get significantly less shitty for you than if you opt out. And by being a wife, mother, daughter, etc... who props up the people in power, you can even get power over some men and other women!

In my opinion, this creates a feedback loop where men are incentivized to lash back at women, as safer targets (they have less power to retaliate) but also to associate women in power with an extreme threat to their social position. Notably, in online gaming harassment, it's the guys with the shittiest game scores being the nastiest. That nasty is more likely to spill onto female players, minorities and people who otherwise are already marginalized. And holy god is that not a good place to be starting from when your fetish is literally being "beaten by a girl".

ALL THE BROKEN BOYS.

If you go down the ridiculous MRA rabbit hole you may find yourself nodding along - hey society is weirdly quiet about the piles of dead men. We often hand wave this data as men killing men, as adults and equals, so it is just the way of the cruel world. There's some data there to belie this, but there are other pieces, including parts which the bizarre, self-harming manosphere doesn't bother touching.

You know the standard facts: shorter male lifespans on average. More successful suicides. Higher murder rate. What you may not know is where the count starts.

The first two big male die offs are in the womb, and in the early years of childhood. We cannot blame society for the fact that there are significantly more male to female conceptions, but the miscarriage rate for males is much higher. We think this is a product of the lack of genetic redundancy on the Y chromosome. Perhaps this causes the same effect in the next early childhood phase, but I think we need to consider when a possible baby is sexed is the minute that we apply external gender onto something/someone that doesn't really have it. As much as you might see a different rate of certain genetic disorders, in so far as we can measure, sex differentiation in infants, in their cognitive and physical capacity, is minimal.

Despite that, whether shown in how you tie a baby's scant hair, or the elaborately themed layette of princesses versus dinosaurs at a baby shower, gendered parenting is going on long before the kid would remotely demonstrate any differentiation in behaviors. To give you an idea of how blurry physical sex is: some infants are even born with ambiguous genitals that finish growing in one approximate pattern or another. Boy brain versus girl brain is completely irrelevant when you have a cute blob that sucks on things and can't roll itself over yet. But... the external gendering of a baby starts before the body really changes.

NATURE VERSUS NURTURE: TOUGH BOYS AND TALKING TO GIRLS.

Outside of modern western pink/blue framing, there are two fundamental differences in how we treat infant boys and girls. Female infants receive more gaze

time and social interaction, and male infants receive more exposure to risk and physical challenges.

(Summary from parenting article here (see Collins), dig into scholarly search if you want to know more. If you can't afford the article, email the writer - they will usually be happy to share it for free. You may also be able to access it at a university library)

And if people don't know the sex of a baby, they will default to the behaviour they think matches the presumed gender. This is the important bit. Girls are getting more social time and boys more exposure to physical challenges long before we can measurably tell any difference in base capacity. There is also a minor but significant boost in skill acquisition in what you train your kid to do.

Particularly in the culture which, if you are reading this in English, you are at least partially immersed in, we hammer into boys that being feminine, soft and vulnerable is bad. We emotionally and psychologically cripple boys, while building up certain skills in girls. Sure, we also try to stop girls from developing certain skills too, but boys are particularly restrained from associating with the feminine. No babydolls, house-keeping toys, dressing up, or associating yourself with female fictional characters. Later, in school, the presumption that you can't empathize with a female protagonist.

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The problem with submissive men is encapsulated in the unsolicited dick pic.

You, the reader, know that women do not like getting nudes from strange men. Unless this somehow goes viral and reaches into the far pockets of places where women seldom go (doubtful). If you are this many paragraphs into a theory essay on gender, you are unlikely to think it's an effective strategy.

The brain breaking part is that when there was an effort to survey guys who do send unsolicited nudes, the general finding was that the guys assumed that it was wanted behaviour that would be reciprocated.

WHAT? HOW???

Yes, I know, that sounds bizarre. But bear with me here... You have an audience that was fundamentally discouraged from developing skills that improve empathy from day one. Then, you rigorously punished them for even considering associating with girl things. Are we particularly surprised that they popped out on the other side of that with no knowledge of the inner lives of half the population?

OK, THAT'S NICE, BUT NOW WHAT?

There are three schools of advice on how to "fix" sub men: mumsy belated parenting, scolding them to suppress their needs, and fap. Fap is the masturbatory passing off of "training" via BDSM play as helpful, and we can discard this as fun but ultimately nonsense.

Scolding is born of exasperation, as there's only a certain amount of sexual harassment and clumsy entitlement you can take before blowing out a cutting screed on why sub men suck. And the maternal effort to get men to learn how to be people can be both incredibly patronizing, and as we came in here, not necessarily giving men the toolkit to self-teach.

WHY NOT SUB TRAINING?

I toss out any program of "slave training" or the demands of the small line of sub men asking Dommes to use kink to teach them to be a sub, because it isn't practical. Wrapping lessons in sexy pants tends to favour the norms of people equipped to do mass teaching, which creates a few issues. It puts the onus on the Domme to figure all this shit out the non-sexy way, first. It overemphasizes sexual openness, not itself bad, but not how most people hook up. You shouldn't need to also be poly or into teaching sex to figure this out. And, more cynically, it creates a dedicated market for selling the fantasy at the expense of the practical.

THE LIMITS OF SCOLDING.

Some men report learning from the angry Domme screeds, or the advice to learn to sublimate the self. However, although a safe space to be fucking pissed at how we are treated is a crucial fire that provides the light to attract femdoms to a community, it feeds two

problems: self-hating subs, and radical over correction. Radical over correction is the more subby than thou guy announcing that he is basically a passive recipient of literally anything a Domme might do. It's not sustainable for most men, so it can be dishonest, and it still puts the onus all on the female half of the couple to make things function. Human interactions are complex, and most Dommes want their partner's needs as part of wanting them. The other problem with the trend of endless sub shaming is that you have a population that is already incredibly insecure, being reminded they are all, by and large bad and nobody will want them.

GETTING BEYOND BEING HIS MOTHER.

Even me, the author, on the autism spectrum, has a whole toolkit I noticed most of my male peers do not. While maternal flavoured leadership is part of a typical woman's gender training, unfortunately this is also one of those learn by rote versus teach critical thinking problems.

If you are a sub man you may find the greatest emotional fulfillment from the perception that you pleased your partner, but unfortunately getting there often means developing resilient and effective social tools that can adapt to the inherently ambiguous nature of all human social interactions. It's not enough to give men a couple of etiquette rules local to your

pocket of BDSM (like "always call her Mistress", "no dick pics" or "tribute first") and hope for the best.

Broadly the meat of my advice is as follows:

SEEK OUT THE (SOMEWHAT SCANT) MEN'S LIB RESOURCES.

It sucks that the men's movement is largely occupied by grifters and misogynistic dingdongs, because men need space to examine the problems that go with living as their gender without having to get just hand me down resources. I know you feel like a needy tool hanging out as a feminist trying to unpack your own problems, but spaces like r/menslib are slowly getting you a bit of traction.

Maybe you are cool with gendered shit, but if you are feeling hecking alienated in this guy thing but still aware it's your gender and you are stuck with its challenges, there are at least other humans being thoughtful about your real problems.

REACH OUT TO OTHER SUB MEN AND TALK TO THEM.

This one fucking sucks, but the observation that we Dommes have made is that straight sub men don't really like each other very much. Men have a hard enough time with community building, but the kink scene is particularly a mess. Every category of female + fetish seems to automatically build cliques, work groups and sisterhoods. Male tops tend to gravitate

to showing off top skills, which I think is silly, but at least they can trad bro out about their erotic macramé or their awesome flogger swishing, or whatever trendy performance kink grants power and attention.

I can't tell men how to order their business to have fun. However, if you *must* have a prestige skill anchor, like the cis male doms, to excuse your clustering, pick a couple of core archetypes you know sell well with women, and obsess over that in a social way with other guys. What to pick? I dunno, strength training to give people piggybacks, being "the butler", chastity marathons, endurance fucking, flogging bottom meditation? Pick something, anything, to use as a beard to open the conversation if the vulnerability of just directly admitting you need a community is too much.

Or talk about the guy dominated vanilla shit you already do outside of kink with them. If you MUST make this, ultimately, about finding a partner rather than your own psychological wellbeing, remember women will be lured to existing interesting conversations. There are more women who will feel safe talking about football than casually slide into a conversation about how fuckable they are. It works a heck of a lot better than standing on a corner holding a metaphorical rose and making overwhelmed worship noises.

QUEER IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR.

I cannot call straight sub men "queer". That label is indelibly attached to homosexuality. However, it's

the closest frame of reference most submissive men will have, regardless of their firm attachment to being straight and cis. Queer guys are also heavily policed for displaying "weakness" (like you) and have valuable insights on being the object rather than the subject of gaze (e.g., how to be hot to get taken and fucked).

This isn't the end state, as some things don't directly translate. Your average m4m courtship is way more comfortable with in-your-face sexuality. For example, femdoms pretty much pan on the grindr special rosebud close up. But queer is also a back door into understanding how women think, because queer culture has a lot more support for escaping "only for boys" aesthetic and social straight jacketing. It's also a rare space where you can see other modes of being masculine (e.g., chubby "bears" being celebrated).

EMBRACE FLIRTING AS AMBIGUITY.

All humans are bad at knowing when other humans are flirting with them. We dedicate much of our massive brain power to trying to parse this out, coming up with elaborate schemas that still never successfully model every nuance of how we go from "Hello" to "Fuck". Sorry, it is what it is.

But what you do have is this: if you can't tell if she is interested in you, neither can she tell if you are interested in her. Until one of you pops, it's a big playful game of "maybe". I bring this up because sub guys are often trying to reconcile not trying to terrify the

pants off of her, with the belief they have to lead aggressively, in antithesis to what they are trying to select for.

You may (still) need to be the first "hello". I am super sorry about that. You also have to wrangle the grey area of finding and locating each other's boundaries. This is a topic that deserves its own essay, but broadly, flirting is an intriguing push-pull that lets you both deescalate in a way that saves face. Scared of being too bold? Socially, be mindful of maintaining an avenue of easy escape for you both. (Trust me, once you flirt a lot, you too will appreciate learning to let her down gently).

CONSUME HER WORLD THROUGH ART.

Remedial consumption of media targeted at women can be one of the best ways of learning both what sells to her, and what she is likely to talk about. Even in the kink space, femdoms usually consume different porn than you probably do. Taking the time to know what pervy scenes get repeated a lot in her fanfic, terribad urban fantasy TV, and so on, can be key to getting into the larger conversation that is your mutual sexuality.

There's a theory that reading fiction significantly improves all human's "theory of mind". That's the ability to imagine the thought processes of others accurately. If you had a typical male childhood, keep in mind that one of the reasons women seem to have more "empathy" (a predictive capacity as well as a sen-

sation of shared feeling) is that they have been encouraged since day one to enjoy and identify with male characters. You, on the other hand, were robbed of a world of female protagonists. Some nervous pedagogue thought you might check out of learning to read if the story was mostly about a girl.

The damage is not permanent. From fanfic by women who share the same taste in media as you, to picking out shows aimed at women on Netflix, you might even find stuff you genuinely like. Also, you may end up feeling a lot less broken when you see the number of women who are not bastions of awareness, and who write men very poorly. But even that lets you know what they think you are like.

NOW WHAT?

It sucks. I'm sorry, I can't undo a couple of decades of gendered damage towards keeping you lonely in the name of making you more competitive. But I can say that you are not without allies or people who care about you. You can't necessarily fill the empty place with a singular Domme and be whole, but your pain, bewilderment and confusion in the landscape of seeking fulfillment isn't invalid just because you don't have problems as bad as some other group.

If you take anything away from this, I hope you understand I am writing with a deep feeling of love for you. You matter and the world is better with you in it. I am sorry you got handed a lot of hard work, but I think

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that we can build communities where you can feel better.

Chapter 10

THE GYNARCHIC COMMUNITY

The next step toward establishing Gynarchy is to establish Gynarchic communities. I'm stealing this definition from a friend of mine who recently posted it to social media, but it's a good one.

Community is a group of individuals "who have learned how to communicate honestly with each other, whose relationships go deeper than their masks of composure, and who have developed some significant commitment to 'rejoice together, mourn together,' and to 'delight in each other, and make other's conditions our own. (hooks)

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The benefits of living in a household with three grown adults range from sharing the financial burdens of survival, to sharing in child rearing responsibilities, to having multiple avenues of emotional support and a variety of opinions to help spark innovation and creativity and to solve problems. Take those benefits and multiply them by three or ten and you've discovered the boon of community. It relieves so many of the stresses of everyday life to have other people around you who care about you and share some of your same concerns. Community is a feminine principle, and is often discouraged in the lone wolf, real-men-need-no-body realm of constrictive masculinity.

Community can be as simple as befriending others online who share your goals and interests. It can be as easy as having a circle of friends in your town who all believe in Gynarchy. Networking with like minds should be a goal and the basic m.o. within the Gynarchy movement. Dominant women will often support and encourage one another in their respective visions. Remember, community is a feminine specialty.

I asked one of my subs to start work on an app that enables localized Gynarchic hives to begin to form. Each hive would have a Queen, or an association of Queens. Then there would be workers who are dedicated to one Queen, or to a group of Queens, or who would act as floating subs who serve a number of different hives within a certain region. There could also

be positions for international liaisons between hives subs who travel extensively between cities and countries as ambassadors. Each would have a profile describing their skills, personality, limits, schedule of availability, etc. Queens could review the submissives' service, and any who act inappropriately could then be disqualified and excluded from the app. This would not be an app for submissive men to find Pro Dommes nor a dating app (there are plenty of those), but a place for women to find submissive men to serve their needs. No money exchanged.

I'm not the first woman to envision physical locations where Dominant Women and submissive men can gather together either temporarily or permanently. There was the infamous OWK (Other World Kingdom) founded in 1996 - a fantasy playland of extreme FemDom activities. It was started by a submissive man, but headed by Her Royal Highness, Queen Patricia. It lasted only a few years, but the stories told of this small, exclusively FemDom township in the Czech Republic make heads spin.

In 2004 plans for a FemDom EcoVillage in the Southeast U.S. called Femquility were laid out by a woman known as Ms. Lisa. The web site lists some of their goals as:

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- To try to live sustainably. Ideally growing our own food on our land and/or buying organic food and recycling as much as we can so as to sustain the planet and ourselves.
- To strive for matriarchy and to be matrilineal. For example, submissive males would be encouraged to take on the last name of their wife and for finances to be managed by the female of the household.
- To encourage strong confident Females and to encourage a supporting Sisterhood among Women

And their listed beliefs include:

Decision making power is earned by active participation in the shared life of the community.
 Females make the decisions, but males will have a way to give their feedback via written suggestion forms or by discussing it with their individual Female matriarch and asking her to give voice to any suggestions.

- We believe in living in tune with nature as best as we can. Sustainability, permaculture, conservation, and alternative energies and ways of thinking are encouraged. We believe that we should live in respect with the land and one another.
- We believe that every woman should be treated like a Goddess by the male in her life.

Renee Lane, author of *Love Through Female Domination*, often writes about her plans for the NAQ (North American Queendom) where college-aged women get free room and board and slaves to serve them. Strict and experienced older women train the men in the art of surrender and service, after the submissives have liquidated their assets and given most of their savings over to the organization. Wives can even send their husbands there to whip them into shape.

I personally hope to purchase a boutique mountain hotel in which I will live and work with my slaves, grow food in gardens and orchards on the grounds, and allow guests to openly live out their FemDom visions.

Community can begin simply by serving one visionary Dominant Woman as part of her stable or harem of slaves. Dominant Women can feel free to have as many slaves as fulfill their needs and desires. Stables, harems, hives, queendoms, or whatever you choose to call them, solve the ratio problem. It seems to be a

common complaint among submissive men that there are far more submissive men than Dominant Women. It makes sense then, instead of insisting upon monogamy, to find a woman who is willing to take on more than one submissive male partner.

BROTHERHOOD

So, you've entered the world of D/s, Gynarchy or a Female Led Relationship. That alone is new territory for most. You've already had to eschew a whole lot of societal norms to embrace what feels right to you — giving up power to a strong, commanding woman. But now you've discovered that there's a whole other layer to this fascinating new way of being. Your Dominant either already has, or wants, a harem of subs, otherwise known as a stable.

Chances are you are already quite enraptured by your new Goddess. You feel like you'd do anything to please her. But how does sharing her time and affections with a group of other men (or men and women) feel to you? Are you a natural cuckold? Do you already feel inclined toward polyamory or non-monogamy? Or is this a real challenge? Can you learn to accept and even enjoy such an arrangement?

If ethical, she's already been clear about her need and desire for more than one submissive, and she's given you an idea of what that looks like for her. In

harems of old, a household would include wives, concubines, and servants. There was an internal order and specified roles, each serving the Sultan's many needs. The women of a harem were ostensibly viewed as the Sultan's property to be hidden away from other suitors or competitors to the Sultan's ownership. They held a special place. Protected.

But how can this model be carried over into female led relationships in a contemporary context where monogamy is the cultural norm? How do you deal with your own conditioning, your needs, and the potential judgement of those close to you?

Always remember that you have a choice. You can choose to be a willing part of this model or leave it and carry on with a more mainstream or monogamous style of relationship with someone else should the harem arrangement make you unhappy. That's a choice women never had in historical harems. It also makes your commitment and surrender all the more important and all the more appreciated and valued by your Domme. You are there because you worship and adore her and see her wants as priority, regardless of the ways in which you are accustomed to relationships taking shape.

Why would a woman want more than one dedicated slave or sub? Sometimes she's just wired that way. Keep in mind she has had to fight off her own share of social stigma, cultural programming, and the complex-

ities of her own emotions to come to a place where she knows this is what she truly wants. Having a collection of lovers and servants makes her feel good. Otherwise why bother going against the grain? It makes her feel fulfilled, or it wouldn't be worth it.

Every partner is different, and every partner improves her life in new ways. Most provide emotional support and affection. Some are more romantic. Some have particular skills that make her life easier and more pleasant. Some meet her need for friendship and fun, and some fulfill specific kinks and sadistic desires. She may have a very high libido that craves variety. She may have a really active brain with many different interests that she's found one partner can't keep up with. She may also feel most comfortable in the role of a communal leader and like to be the head of her own. little tribe - the natural matriarch in heart and soul. If you've met a woman willing and excited to take on this role, you've met a complex, energized, and magnetic person who thrives on worship and adoration and wants you to give it to her. A real Goddess!

Also remember that she is taking on a very large responsibility to be a good partner to several people! Ideally, she strives to truly understand you and to figure out how you best fit into her world. She is always examining your strengths and advising you on ways that you can improve. She knows where the two of you connect well and she really wants you, or she would

not have chosen you. A woman with a stable doesn't really NEED more subs, but she's seen something in you that she loves and wants in her life. It's a choice untainted by desperation or loneliness.

Women who are purely egotistical and narcissistic won't keep a good harem for long. Subs will enter and leave with the shelf life of overripe fruit. The failure to make it work won't be for lack of trying on the sub's part. If you find a good leader, she will be very intentional and cultivate each relationship with care. She will see to it that her needs are met without ignoring yours.

There's a difference between wanting to feel used, humbled and objectified (and having your Domme understand this deeply and construct your interactions to fulfill that need), and simply being forgotten as a human being. You'll know the difference when you're in it. "Mistress is looking at me like an object, a plaything, a slave," feels nothing like "Mistress does not see me or even care that I exist." You WANT to be a consensual slave or servant to her, you want to be seen by her in this way, and she is symbiotically fulfilling that desire.

From the outside, this can seem complicated given the unusual nature of D/s relationships. To understand, it can be helpful to look at the history of religious gurus. Followers come to a guru, drawn inexplicably to that magical something that pulls them in. They feel an energy, an electricity around this special person. Gurus tend to allow a select number of followers into their inner circle. The qualities of these followers are such that they support the guru's vision and mission. They make the guru's life better, easier, and more pleasant. And the guru recognizes these followers in such a way that makes it feel like a true blessing to be of service. The guru fulfills a deep need in them to be close to something sacred or divine, and as a result, their selflessness gives them joy and ecstasy. It's the ecstatic love and devotion of the disciple. It gives life purpose. This is the same way a good Domme will inspire her stable of subs. Through a real love and affection between the worshipper and the Goddess incarnate.

POTENTIAL ROLES.

I mentioned that in the original harems there were wives, concubines, and servants. The harem was a sacred container of this collective, all of whom lived for the benefit of the Sultan. In a contemporary stable, subs may have varied roles. Some may be focused on domestic service. Others will be more like sex toys or enjoy the sadistic impulses of the Domme. Some will be like beloved pets, playful and affectionate. Some will be the builders and fix-it types, others more like executive assistants. And these roles may overlap and evolve with time. A good leader will be able to see your

strengths and play to them and steer you toward a sense of usefulness.

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS WITHIN THE STABLE?

Does a slave have rights? Yes, in fact, as a CONSEN-SUAL slave, you do have some basic rights when serving in a D/s relationship of any kind. The ultimate right is your right to leave the relationship should you become unhappy or feel unwanted. If the relationship no longer feels right, or if you feel it's veered into a kind abusiveness that you don't consent to or didn't sign up for, and you've tried to have your concerns addressed with no success, by all means, get out!

The rest of your rights are a matter of my opinion, and there may be Dommes who disagree with me, but I think that a stable can only be a happy stable with these rights in place. You have a right to your Domme's time and attention. Unless it's something you've negotiated, being ignored or dismissed on a regular basis is not a real relationship. You also have a right to what I call "couch time" or what others might call "porch time." This is a time when you can sit together with your Domme and check in. The power dynamic is softened, and you can bring up things that may be bothering you or concerning you. You have a right to be heard and acknowledged in this context, even if your dynamic doesn't allow it at other times.

You have a right to not be harassed or undermined by other members of the stable or house. Sometimes, especially among a group of men, egos can get in the way, competitiveness can take root, and jealousy rears its ugly head. Treat your fellow stablemates as brothers and expect the same. Sometimes brothers have disagreements, but they should be handled as reasonable adults, not bratty little boys. Practice nonviolent communication and try to see the emotional need behind any confrontational behavior. Try to be a good friend to your Domme's other subs. You have a right to be treated as a friend.

One way a Dominant can better facilitate the integration of a new member into an existing house or stable is to have a little welcome gathering. Perhaps organize some kind of ritual where all members pledge to treat him as an ally and comrade in pleasing the Mistress and making her life easier. Making this promise in front of your Domme will help point everyone in the right direction.

You also have a right to have your life. You have a right to keep the people who are important to you, close to you. A Domme who isolates you from family and friends (without first negotiating to do so for a set amount of time), is not totally secure in her power. She may fear that your loved ones will take you away from her. This is not a healthy approach. Be wary. Some members of a stable may even maintain a vanilla marriage in some cases. Anything is possible when the

Goddess allows it. Your focus can remain on Her, even while you maintain your regular human existence.

Remember that your surrender to your Mistress should make you feel fulfilled and useful. I feel that if your Domme becomes constantly critical of everything you do and how you do it, something is off. She has every right to demand and expect excellence, but if you are performing at your very best and still feel like you are never pleasing her, you may need to address this with her. You have a right to constructive feedback. When your purpose is to please, you need to be given instructions on how to make that happen. You may learn to anticipate her preferences, but even a good servant should not be expected to read minds.

WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR DOMINANT AND TO THE STABLE?

Your responsibilities are many in a stable, as they are in any D/s relationship. You must be responsible for making sure that you clearly understand what's expected of you. Ask questions, clarify, and communicate when you are unsure. When given rules and routines, memorize them and follow them. If one person is slacking off, the duties of one sub could fall on others and that's not going to make anyone happy. Strive to be your best self and be the best servant to your Goddess that you can possibly be.

Help your brothers and other members of the house when they need you. Generate goodwill. Remember you all have one purpose and that is to please and serve Her. You are all in this together, and she chose each of you for a reason. Try not to question that.

Stable members should try to work out personal differences between one another before bothering their Mistress with petty squabbles. And don't be impatient or needy. Your Domme is running an entire house and is doing her best to make sure it goes smoothly. Understand that Dominant Women are also not perfect. They make mistakes. They get sick, exhausted, distracted with life's troubles. Try not to be one of those troubles. Be gentle and compassionate in your approach. And keep your service-oriented nature at front and center. She knows you are also not perfect, and if you make her happy, she'll extend the same courtesy and understanding to you. This is not to say you won't be disciplined and corrected as needed. But a pleased Domme makes for a happier house and happier subs.

Always admit when you make a mistake. Remember that Mistress is *usually* right. Be humble, and even if you don't think her way is the best or most efficient way, it's HER way. That's what counts. If you mess up, apologize.

Your main responsibility is to see to it that your Mistress is energized by you and your interactions. You should never drag her down and wear her out. She should be able to count on you to make her world feel

right, even when everything else is going wrong. You do this by being a good communicator, focusing on your love and devotion, trusting her, and keeping your purpose in mind at all times.

POTENTIAL PERSONAL HURDLES.

One hurdle some subs will face is the question of how to introduce close friends and family to a relationship that's so out of the ordinary. Especially when you are completely and totally in love with your Goddess and never plan to leave her. Like anything in the realm of BDSM, be sure not to involve people in your D/s dynamic without their consent. That means you shouldn't be expected to be naked, wearing only a collar and eating from a dog bowl at a dinner with your family. But beyond that, talk to your Domme about how to present yourselves together as a couple in vanilla situations. There may be subtle undetectable protocols that will just come off as politeness and good manners in the eyes of the unknowing, and help you maintain that subbie feeling.

If you move in with your Domme and want to be able to have friends over, you may have to come out as a member of a D/s household. That will take some explaining, but all you can do is hope that those who know you well will see your happiness and respond with acceptance. Be brave, and don't let societal expectations get you down. They know you're different. You know you're different. Own it. Look to the polyamory

community for tips on how to reconcile a loving relationship that exists outside of the monogamous norm.

Jealousy is another one of those personal hurdles you may need to overcome. Again, the societal norm for most of us is that of monogamous coupling. Anything outside of that is all about blazing our own paths and deprogramming ourselves from the homogeneity we grew up within. My boy Drum and I share an inside joke. When I talk to him about my interest in a new sub, his response is "I don't experience sexual jealousy." We both know that's not entirely true, but it's our way of poking fun at what is nothing more than a bit of discomfort that is easily remedied with good communication and lots of love. He once became jealous of my vibrator, in fact, because we had to be away from each other for a long period of time and he missed sexually servicing me. There's always something else behind jealous feelings. Jealousy within a fully consensual non-monogamous relationship has little to do with the possessiveness associated with monogamous patriarchal relationships.

Scheduling and logistics is the most practical hurdle you may need to jump. The more people involved, the trickier it becomes coordinating so that everyone gets time with the Goddess. In traditionally polyandrous relationships like those in Tibet, the brothers all take turns spending private time with their one wife on a regular predictable schedule and this helps stave off

conflict. Just remember to make your relationship a priority and be as flexible as humanly possible and it can all be worked out. Respect her moods and preferences, and if you're ever feeling left out, make sure you communicate about that during your "couch time." And during the times when you are not with your Mistress, make sure your life is filled with things that make you happy. Spend time with friends, or do activities that you enjoy, so that you don't stew in loneliness. Subs who can be independent in their off time are usually best suited for life in a stable.

With a good, clear headed Dominant who acts as a strong leader, living in a harem or stable can be quite an amazing experience, akin to having a chosen family or tribe. You can all be the worker bees living to buzz around your Queen. And when you see her in this light — as the matriarch, the guru, the boss — you won't be able to help but admire her power.

Chapter 11

SEXUALITY

Phallic Dominance

FemDom porn is a gateway drug to Gynarchy. Not that that's a bad thing. It works in the same way that Catwoman did for a whole earlier generation of submissive men. It all begins as "Oh my God, the idea of a sadistic dominant woman is turning me on!"

The procreative force - the hard-on - is often a signal that there's something life affirming in a certain act, image, or idea for you. I always tell submissive men to pay close attention to what turns you on (mentally and/or physically). It can indicate what will make you feel happy and alive, and what you find taboo or embarrassing. The hard-on doesn't discriminate in regard to which side of the coin a given act or image falls on, but it sure can tell you a lot about yourself. You know

what has a powerful effect on your psyche, and what falls flat.

In terms of D/s, the hard-on is one exciting way to give up control and submit to a woman. The cock is the literal phallic object, used as a symbol of power itself. Common turns of phrase reveal a society-wide, macho sentiment. From how we refer to competitions as "dick-measuring contests," to how we refer to confidence as "big dick energy." The bigger and harder the dick, the more it represents dominance itself - that virile outward moving energy. Dicks have been used as weapons to try to control women, by the threat or act of rape. It's time we flip that whole thing around, don't you think? Not with the threat of rape (remember the importance of consent), but by women harnessing phallic power.

There are two ways to hand over powerfully symbolic phallic dominance to your Lady. One is to get fucked by her strap-on (a.k.a. pegging). And the other is orgasm control and chastity. And women, if you are just starting out dominating a man, these are two amazing shortcuts to a whole new set of behaviors and ways of thinking that will make him compliant and agreeable.

Both pegging and chastity have grown enormously in popularity, along with cuckolding, wherein the woman mocks the submissive man for his inability to please her properly, and then enlists the cocks of other men to do so while he watches or hears about it later. And, following the revealing language of our era, "cucked" is the term du jour for someone who has been fully dominated.

A recent fake news item popped up on my feed stating that a large breasted, overpowering, female zombie character in the video game *Resident Evil VIII*, now appears in scenes where she pegs the player's avatar. Even though it was a joke, it was met with much excitement and spontaneous orgasms across social media. Surprisingly, only a few men expressed that they really didn't like it.

Back in the real world, one company alone reported sales of over one million units of one of their male chastity devices. If sales are indicative of interest, and there are a number of companies selling these devices, that's quite a high percentage of men experimenting with chastity and denial.

One of my submissives recently quoted a comedian as saying something he thinks is really accurate about men. "We're simple creatures. We're just two eyes and a dick," he said. I think that's a little more than insulting to men in general. But there's something to the fact that if you control the dick, you're halfway to controlling the entire man. And when you do, you have the power to show him other amazing parts of himself from which his dick was only distracting him.

Orgasm Control and Chastity

First and foremost, those of you who are old enough to have passed a certain point of erotic urgency and those who have experienced prolonged chastity will understand much of what I'm saying from the perspective of lived experience.

From puberty on, men have cycles of arousal that persist throughout much of their adult lives. They become aroused, the penis becomes erect, and stimulating it to the point of orgasm offers at least some relief from the urgency of that feeling. The unfortunate part of this cycle is that men will repeatedly stop themselves from experiencing what is on the other side if they only allow that feeling of urgency to continue on and transmute into something new.

From a FemDom perspective, most think of chastity as another means of control of the submissive. Asserting control through regulating a bodily function such as ejaculation is an intense form of dominance, for sure. Just as controlling his diet and making him sit down to urinate can be.

Many subs report that even after a few days in chastity they feel more docile, more obedient, more devoted. They are more concerned with their Dominant's pleasure. Those who stick with it longer will notice that they get a sense of intense arousal from the simplest things: a woman's smile, the sound of her voice, the way she walks, certain words.

This is a process wherein the senses are being refined more and more. Your appreciation of beauty and a feeling of liveliness is magnified and enhanced. It's an upgrade from your mundane life. Others have also said that it is simply a relief from the expectation of male sexual performance.

But unless you've experienced long term chastity, you may not know the ultimate purpose that it can serve.

Let me back up just a bit and talk about what I consider the nature of reality (a much bigger topic than your cock, I know). To me, physical experience comes in a gradation from gross to refined. By gross, I don't mean disgusting, but the general, the coarse or the obvious aspects of existence. The gross aspects are simply the common sensations. The five senses, followed in terms of refinement by things like the vestibular sense, and internal senses (feeling the non-voluntary functions of the body). Of all of the senses touch and sound are the most refined.

Following sensory input are conscious thoughts, then emotions, and then things like intuition. Unconscious thought and intuition are the most refined elements of human experience. All of these, from gross to fine, make up the experience of being alive.

Arousal has a similar gradation. The gross experience is the procreative animal instinct. "I'm horny, I want to get off." Some men, being erotically unsophis-

ticated, will never make it past that stage of erotic experience. What chastity does, is it begins to refine your senses to the point where you start to realize, consciously or unconsciously, that arousal need not have anything to do with procreation, nor with orgasm, nor with the genitals at all. Suddenly you realize that the generative force of arousal can be an exceptionally refined experience that can last for long long periods of time.

And, as it transmutes from a force that begs to be released through action to a more long-lasting state, it can become a sort of buzz. A drug without drugs, if you will. It's an altered state. And NOT the kind that comes with hangovers or ill effects on your health.

The human body and brain are uniquely capable of these experiences through chemical and electrical actions connected to our natural erotic energy. But once you understand what arousal is like in its most refined form, you may never want to experience its less sophisticated expression again. This is both the benefit and the risk. The simple cycle of getting aroused, then getting off, may become the least interesting thing in the world to you. You are permanently changed.

Having a chastity device is helpful in that it takes the control out of your hands and so you must surrender to the ride. Because, let's face it, there are many stimulating things going on around us at all times. It is a bit difficult to maintain the resolve to abstain from relieving the urgency of arousal. And at times, it may seem like too much. Having a Mistress to keep you on track is necessary for many. Also, when you have a woman guiding you in the process, she takes on a new quality in your mind. You begin to see the divine in her and form an attachment and intimacy that mere sex can rarely offer. Especially if you spend periods of time focusing on her pleasure and gaining a vicarious understanding of her sensations. Through compersion, her pleasure becomes your pleasure, in a very real sense, and not just as a nice sentiment.

My advice is to first try it for a week. To do this you will need to find a comfortably fitting cage. I am a proponent of investing in a custom fit cage if you are committed to trying this long term. Cheap, ill-fitting cages are nothing but a distraction. You won't be able to get to the benefits if you are constantly being pinched and chaffed. Everyone's anatomy is different. Some will need the type with a scrotum ring, and others will slip out of those and need the tube type. Take your time making a selection. For custom cages I've seen wonderful devices from both Mature Metal and Evotion. I'll include their links in the references.

Finally, if you want to give this a go, and you are thinking in terms of permanence, I highly recommend a piercing to which the cage will be attached. It removes the temptation to tamper with the device, and has intense psychological significance, as it becomes a

part of your body. You'll need two cages to swap out so that they can be thoroughly cleaned, and a keyholder to manage when you are allowed out for hygiene and health. I recommend a milking once per month, or if you are able to achieve a milking through prostate massage, you may want to do that every other week. Some are of the opinion that milkings are not necessary because the body will spontaneously ejaculate when needed. I prefer to remove the device monthly and do a quick systems check just to be conscientious.

Whatever schedule your keyholder chooses, I also recommend that you ingest your semen any time you ejaculate. Eat as much of it as you are able. Not only is it erotically humiliating for many men, but it also has a physical and energetic purpose. It retains your sexual and creative energy and lets none of it go to waste. I have a more sophisticated explanation of this, but I prefer to share this with those for whom I am the keyholder. Think of it as a secret rite of Gynarchy.

Just a note on safety: Your keyholder should keep one key on her person but keep another one stashed away in a safe place just in case that one gets lost. And if you are planning to travel, you may want to invest in a plastic cage with a plastic tag lock so as not to have to drop trou in the airport.

Beyond a certain point in a sub's personal evolution the device may not even be needed. He may be simply unable to disobey his Mistress due to psychological conditioning. But leading up to that phase, the device is a huge help.

Now there are many opinions on this subject, and as you can tell I'm an advocate of chastity (with or without a chastity device) and orgasm control in general. However, I recently read an interesting take on the subject from the wonderful Ms. Rika, author and D/s relationship expert in her book *Uniquely Us*. I thought I would share her thoughts with you here as well, from the perspective of an experienced FemDom.

Male or female sub, the concept that chastity is a mechanism to achieve better submission is one of my pet peeves. It's a very common belief that the denial of pleasure makes a sub feel more submissive and more attentive to the dominant. My take on this is 'BULL'. Chastity makes the sub more attentive to their own needs. It focuses their energy on what is being done TO them rather than what they can do FOR their dominant. It creates a goal (that of getting an orgasm) which becomes the reason to submit rather than submitting to a dominant for their enjoyment. Lastly, it links their libido level with their submissive performance level — which then becomes something the dominant needs to regulate and control (read: More work). These are counter-productive to a dominantcentric definition of submission. Realize, this is coming from a woman who enjoys using chastity devices

with her subs. I do like to play that game. I enjoy the moment the lock clicks and I enjoy creating frustration and blind hope in my "victim". But I would NEVER put a sub in chastity unless I was satisfied that their submission was already demonstrated as Top-Notch without the chastity. Only then would I consider that kind of play. To me, I EXPECT a submissive to be fully attentive, whether I choose to keep them in chastity or not. I demand it. Fact: If a sub can be fully attentive and focused on serving a dominant's needs with chastity, they can also do it without chastity. It's simply a matter of commitment.

I agree with Ms. Rika on this point: Chastity should not be a requirement for a sub to obey and serve. They should be able to do so fully and without any hesitation without any such incentives, and they should be able to demonstrate this before relying on a chastity device as a crutch. I want that to be very clear. I have a sub who is out of chastity but who religiously adheres to my orgasm control protocols (he cannot and will not have an orgasm without explicit permission and observation), and another who has experienced the results of long-term chastity, locked into a chastity device for over a year. And I know from experiments such as these, chastity adds a layer to the submissive's experience that has incredible effects that I really enjoy, and I recommend giving it a try if you want to take your

submissive on a deep and meaningful journey in regard to the experience of arousal and denial.

An experienced submissive, and a student of mine, shared his thoughts on chastity in his journal, and I am including an excerpt here as yet another angle on the practice:

Mistresses are busy people and often have more important things to do than interact with their slaves, so chastity and orgasm denial fill the gap by constantly communicating to a slave that he is owned and controlled, whether Mistress has time for him or not. What is that statistic? Men think about sex every 6 seconds during the day? Then controlling his sex then means he will be thinking of YOU every six seconds during the day!

That said, I do not enjoy chastity, though I would of course submit to it as punishment, or if it really was enjoyable on some level for the woman demanding it. As the long-term partner of a pro-domme and having met several other pro-dommes socially as a result, I can tell you the majority opinion amongst them is "yawn" and an eye-roll – which is very humiliating when what they are yawning at is part of your kink.

At least for me, chastity diminishes my arousal almost completely. Perhaps it comes from experience of being locked in a cage for months and ignored, but once I am, my cock seems to know the futility

of attempting an erection and doesn't even try no matter what erotic thoughts I have. My mind, hence, my desires, become mundane. The chastity, less a focus of eroticism, becomes a source of discomfort and annoyance. And when I am uncomfortable, I am an eye-rolling grump, and about as far from a willing submissive as a guy can get.

So, unless that is your goal, then by all means use chastity as a punishment, but not as a long-term means of control. Perhaps you think of it as a symbol of ownership? An irremovable collar or cock ring could accomplish that as well, without the discomfort and energy sapping of a chastity cage.

Furthermore, chastity talk always seems to revolve around the holy grail – the ultimate secure device. Why does it need to be secure? Because once you lock a man in one, his thoughts turn almost immediately to trying to get it off so he can stroke his almighty dick... our source of all pleasure. That means as soon as you put it on him and turn your back, his mind is occupied with sneaking a way out, lying and deceiving you, and subverting your express desire that he not be uncaged. So, you are now pressed into becoming his vigilant jailer at great cost and energy to you.

And the caged male, plotting his deception and escape. Lying to you and undermining your authority should be a game-ender in my mind. If he doesn't ac-

cept the authority he's willingly submitted to, then what's the point?

Let me digress a bit here and express another opinion. A male slave in a committed M/s relationship should be a battery to his dominant woman, giving her far more energy than she puts into him. Tantric energy, mental stimulation/energy, actual physical energy through his working for you. I'm not advocating a one-sided power exchange; I'm saying that the point of owning another human being is that they should empower you. If they are draining more or even equal amounts of energy, then that's an egalitarian relationship in my opinion. Not an M/s one.

Edging and denial is a better means of control in my mind. After a short amount of time, the caged male will become compliant and more obedient for sure, but not to you in my mind. He is focused on being nice to you to get the cage off! It's just a transaction to him. His focus is on the discomfort of the cage and wanting to remove it, not really on you! You've just become an obstacle to his pleasure. By dictating his edging though, the when and how, you become a partner and ruler of his pleasure. And what do you really want to teach him? Stay soft in the cage or practice getting hard and staying hard without orgasm for me. Making him a human dildo seems far more useful in my mind.

On an esoteric plane, a chastity cage prevents arousal, the spark that ignites tantric energy and whatever dribble (pardon the pun) of energy is there, is completely blocked in the root chakra. Masturbating and edging allows the spark to ignite a bonfire of erotic energy and pumps it up and up through all the chakra points, pulsing and throbbing in beautiful energizing light. Which without permission to release that energy through orgasm, leaves it available. Available to pour into work, into giving orgasms (by that I mean by sex or by being the masochist to a sadist or whatever floats your dominant boat) - or into deeper submission. Because masturbation is an altered state. Yes. It is. Your breathing, the pattern of your blood flow, your musculature all change. The chemical makeup of your mind changes during masturbation. Dopamine and endorphins flood your synapses and open pathways that aren't open during your normal day-to-day. And I would state even further, this opens your mind to powerful suggestion. Much like hypnosis. Think of edging as an induction!

If chastity says, "I won't let you orgasm. Try and stop me." Then edging and denial says, "We agree I am the power in this relationship – I can and will take you to the brink of ecstasy and then you will deny yourself orgasm because I wish you too. Because I desire your generated erotic energy focused on me. Because it amuses me." The point is he will willingly sacrifice

his basest male desire because you order him to obey. Because he must come to love the feeling of when his dominant taps into his battery of energy and uses him all up!

In summary, chastity focuses his attention on his relief and pleasure. Sure he serves you in hopes of 'getting some', but with edging and orgasm denial you can brainwash him into you as his pleasure (edging) and not cumming as his obedience to you. Mistress = pleasure = obedience = Mistress. An endless cycle.

-Brett

In the end, I think the effects of chastity will vary depending upon the submissive. There is something to be said for the psychological effects of physical emasculation, wherein the primary sex organs of the submissive are transmuted. Suddenly he is only able to use his mouth and ass as loci of sexual pleasure, and this has the effect of changing how he thinks about sexual interactions altogether. He is in a more receptive mindset, wherein sex means that he will likely be penetrated in some way. This may be more suitable for submissives who grapple with gender identity questions, who want to be in touch with a more receptively feminine part of themselves, or those who wish to surrender and shed what had previously been a hypermasculine and dominating approach to sex.

There is no one right way to control a submissive man's sexuality, however it is clear that having some form of control over it can be both beneficial and enjoyable for both partners.

As a side note, a lot of religions concentrate on the value of a girl's "virginity." It's a made-up concept which ties her intrinsic value to whether or not she's had a cock inside her vagina. Because, apparently, cocks have the effect of bringing down the market value of human chattel. But if Christian and Muslim folks really wanted to keep their daughters pure, and unwanted pregnancies and promiscuity, prevent shouldn't they be more focused on keeping boys chaste? If the penis has the potential of doing such damage, wouldn't that be a lot more effective? The answer to that little bit of blatant hypocrisy lies in the simple fact that in patriarchy boys are seen as autonomous beings and girls are seen as property - of their fathers, and then of their husbands. I bring this up just in case you needed evidence that Abrahamic religions, as they are commonly practiced, are totally male dominant, with no real room for an autonomous feminine force. The premium placed on girls' virginity, and control of the female body, is just an example of the way religion is used to uphold patriarchy.

Chapter 12

THE DIVINE FEMININE

"JESUS DIED FOR SOMEBODY'S SINS,
BUT NOT MINE."
PATTI SMITH

In a 2018 article in *Vice*, Christobel Hastings wrote an article titled "God Has Been a Woman Since the Beginning of Time"

In it, she summed up decades of archeology, anthropology, and historical research into Goddess worship throughout the world.

When women rise to prominence, misogyny often ensues, and by 1500 BC, Goddess-worshipping civiliza-

tions had mostly fallen from grace. Scholarship differs in its analysis of why, but many experts assert that the dominant masculine religions and patrilineal customs brought to Europe by invading Indo-Europeans seriously upset the state of play. The suppression that followed makes for bleak reading. "At the dawn of Western civilization," writes Rogers, "25,000 years of 'her-story' of the Goddess' bountiful creativity were obliterated." Creation myths were rewritten, symbols of Goddess worship were denigrated, and "the ancient belief in the Goddess as the Ground of Being, The Universe from which The All emerged, was overturned."

As Judaism, Christianity, and Islam evolved in the Middle East and Europe, the monotheistic religions began to cement the worship of a new, exclusively male order: God, King, Priest, and Father. These new theologies placed the goddess in a subordinate status, with a man as her dominant husband, or even as her murderer. In her book, Stone writes at length about the erasure of female deities, arguing that at that time Goddess worship became the victim of "centuries of continual persecution and suppression by the advocates of the newer religions which held male deities as supreme." Worse yet, this major about-turn in religion meant the status of women around the world declined. too.

Jaggi Vasudev, known publicly as Sadhguru, is one the most popular speakers on Saivism, Tantra, and Indian philosophy today ("sadhguru" by the way, is a general moniker that denotes a guru whose area of expertise is the nature of life itself, rather than concentrating on any one area of interest). He has a whole series of videos on-line where he talks about the violent forced decline of Devi (the divine feminine) worship across the world. She was actively destroyed all over the planet with the rise of patriarchal religions, except in India where she has been preserved. "No female prophets," he says about Abrahamic religions, "only male prophets. Because a woman might say something else. Because she may *know* something else."

He tells the story of one warlord from Afghanistan who rode 1400 miles on horseback to destroy a Devi temple 17 times over. Not to pillage for riches, but to unseat a Goddess from Mecca who had been transferred there after Mohammad destroyed the pagan idols. "This is how important it was to destroy a woman," says Sadhguru.

Rather than just transpose the Abrahamic idea of "God" to the feminine, I want to discuss a little more in depth the idea of what the divine feminine is within my religion. Goddesses are particular expressions of the divine feminine. What is the divine feminine? It is the creative force of the universe which takes nothing

- darkness, silence, stillness - and allows it to vibrate and enliven into what we call reality. In my religion, it is said that everything is created by vibration. By vibration, I literally mean the universe is made of sound. Simply explained, inaudible sound is what makes all those atoms move. Every atom is in a constant state of motion. Every cell in your body, every molecule in an object is in constant movement. Devi - the divine feminine - is that movement. That movement can crystalize into forms. And some of those forms are the forms of Goddesses. Some are comforting and motherly, but many are terrifying. These include Bhairavi, Kali and more.

I'm not the first FemDom to invoke and/or evoke Kali as my personification of deity. I have a copy of a booklet printed in 1987 by the Service of Mankind Church in San Francisco. Like me, they concentrate on the image of the Goddess Kali standing upon her consort, Shiva as a central image of the sacred. Their *Essemian Manifesto* (see the play on S/m there?) explains initiation rites of their church, some of which mimic this imagery, and all of which involve female domination. There's a reason why this image resonates with Dominant Women and submissive men.



The image of Kali and Shiva represents the holy mythology of our time. Kali has just finished destroying the demon king, Raktabīja, and his minions who have been wrecking the planet. She was called on be-

cause the other gods didn't know what to do. Every time they slashed at the demon king, every drop of his blood that hit the ground turned into a replica of him. To me, this is the reproduction of patriarchy, and it is wreaking havoc on the spiritual and ecological health of the world. Kali comes on the scene - the angry, aggressive, terrifying, violent image of the divine feminine who laps up every drop of blood as she dances, on a rampage to wipe out that which is doing harm. She wears a ring of severed heads. She is not to be fucked with.

But once all the demons are slain and their blood swallowed, Kali still dances in her rage. Her dance is frightening and dangerous. What will it take to calm down her fury? Not force. No one could possibly take her. There's no god powerful enough to destroy time (as Kali is also time itself), or to destroy the Goddess of Destruction Herself.

Shiva is her husband, her mate, and he knows exactly what to do: He lies down docile at her feet. As she dances and stomps atop him, she looks down and is filled with his love and soothed by his submission and self-sacrifice. And this is where her rage finally ends.

The role of the submissive man is the same role as that of Shiva. When women have conjured up the holy rage of Kali against the plague of patriarchy, and the divine feminine comes back with a vengeance to kick ass and behead the demons, it's the evolved man's job to then lie down at her feet and prostrate himself in loving devotion.

You know what to do.

It's said Devi can create anything. This is why people pray to Devi. But as with all things, this has been perverted into a transaction. Prayer is trying to make a deal with Devi. "I will worship you if I can just get a new job," for example. That is disingenuous and the quickest way to make her angry. There are two elements of Devi worship that will draw her into your life and make things possible that you might see as miraculous. Devotion is the first. Total selfless, committed devotion no matter what. Prostrate yourself to her, expecting nothing. Pure love for no other reason than love itself. Spend time in that state every day. The second part is play. You have to be willing to play with her, to delight in her, to dance with her mentally, psychologically, and physically. And she is a bit of a sadist. She will use you as her toy. But the joy that you will get from it is ecstatic.

You can devote yourself to Devi by worshipping the feminine in the form of women.

Can a Woman become a Goddess?

Is such a thing possible? It is very much possible within my own practice. There is no heresy whatsoever

in a woman embodying, and not just embodying, but BECOMING a Goddess. But there are pitfalls.

These are quotes from Sadhguru:

"If a human being is willing, why can we not consecrate a human body to become a Goddess?... Very much possible."

"The problem is... just to convince you, my lifetime will pass." (he laughs)

"This living Goddess tradition is an absolutely fantastic tradition but the problem with such processes is, if there is one such person who knows what it is, then it will happen in a miraculous way. Otherwise it will be misused... But that's the whole thing about everything, isn't it?"

"It is absolutely a fantastic tradition to make one woman into your Goddess... If you can make one woman into a Goddess the possibility is open to anyone, isn't it?"

"You know the history of Europe, where the spiritual process was so widespread, and where systematically it was uprooted and thrown out when they wanted to establish an organized religion. All of those millions of witches who were burned were just those women who exhibited different qualities which did not fit into the logic of that society... We need witches. We need witches in the world. We need women who are more capable than their logic... We need human

beings who are capable of perceiving, understanding, experiencing life beyond the horrible limitations of logic."

"I want at least three to five real Devis... really, flesh and blood women to convert them into true Goddesses of different qualities, and people can experience them as such. Only thing is the risk of what happens later is holding us back. Now you make somebody into your Goddess for a certain period of time, now people have such funny expectations out of that person, that they won't let her breathe. That's what happens now. She's not supposed to do anything which is normal, so people are disappointed if she goes and pees. 'Oh, she's a Goddess, how can she pee?' This is the kind of silly expectations that people have. So this danger is holding me back..."

"If you are willing to consider someone for seven days as your Goddess and then afterward you are willing to behave normally with them, we could do that. But these people who are Goddesses, either the thinking people will say 'this is total bullshit!' or non-thinking people will have all kinds of unfair expectations of that person with which nobody can live. So, the living Goddess is a very beautiful tradition, but how it is now, I don't know..."

Saivism is not the only ancient tradition that turns women into Goddesses. In the pagan coven that I

joined as a teen, we had a tradition brought in from Celtic witchcraft, and it was something my ancestors also practiced. It's now called "Drawing Down" or *Drawing Down the Moon* as Margot Adler's book is titled.

...in this ritual, one of the most serious and beautiful in the modern Craft, the priest invokes into the priestess (or, depending on your point of view, she evokes from within herself) the Goddess or Triple Goddess, symbolized by the phases of the moon. She is known by a thousand names, and among them were those I had used as a child. In some Craft rituals the priestess goes into a trance and speaks; in other traditions the ritual is a more formal dramatic dialogue, often of intense beauty, in which, again, the priestess speaks, taking the role of the Goddess. In both instances, the priestess functions as the Goddess incarnate, within the circle.

Now, you might take this as figurative in all of the cases mentioned above. But those with some occult leanings will understand that what is figurative is also quite literal. If you simply understand what a Goddess is (in short, a particular vibration that allows various aspects of life to take shape), you can begin to understand how very real it is to make a woman into your Goddess.

The tendency of men is to lean heavily upon logic. It is easy to contain and conquer the world around you this way. Logic forms straight lines. The problem is there are all sorts of squiggles happening all around those lines. A string is straight until it vibrates. That vibration is the feminine - the Devi. The only way to know Devi is to play with her, the way freestyle jazz musicians play with one another. The way dancers dance without choreography.

And when your heart is open from doing seva (self-less service) and learning to be like the Shiva's bull Nandi (alert and infinitely patient), something can happen inside you whereby Devi sees an open invitation to play. And if she shows up as the Dark Goddess, looking like Kali, so frightening, so bloody and full of fire and aggression, you must know through the sweetness of your heart, that it's time to play and you must surrender fully to her whims, and lay yourself down fearlessly at her feet.

Of all the men in the world, submissive men are uniquely cut out for this opportunity. Don't waste it.

Witchcraft

You may have noted the close relationship between Gynarchy and witchcraft. This is not incidental, but deliberate. Witchcraft is a feminist rally to power. Witchcraft is "positive anti-reason." If you are not a

big reader, Abigail Thorn covers a very important post-Marxist feminist book on her YouTube channel Philosophy Tube (https://youtu.be/tmk47kh7fiE). I recommend it to anyone who will watch. The book discussed is *Caliban and the Witch* by Sylvia Frederici. It's about the transition from feudalism to capitalism.

Much of the resistance to feudalism and to early capitalism was led by women. Until they were brutalized, they wielded a lot of disruptive political and social power through witchcraft. Magic was a place where women dominated. Or, as Sadhguru put it, they were the ones "capable of perceiving, understanding, experiencing life beyond the horrible limitations of logic." But beyond that, as Frederici puts it, magic was the "refusal of work." It's not really transactional. It's inexplicably invaluable. It is, by its very nature, anti-capitalist and anti-patriarchal.

As for capitalism, and the alienation between workers and their labor, women had to be oppressed so that they could become factories for turning out new workers to make profits for the owners and bosses. The act of defining women as their reproductive roles was a part of a violent grabbing of resources akin to slavery. It hid their role as workers so as to extract unpaid labor. The subjugation of women, and the policing of their bodies and their place in the hierarchy, was crucial for the successful move to capitalism. And it had

to be done by squelching their locus of control and influence - witchcraft.

Peter Grey writes in his book *Apocalyptic Witch-craft*:

The creation of the purely malefic figure of the witch was an attack on women, though men too were burned. Woman was attacked in this way to enable the state to enclose common land. Woman was attacked to remove control of her womb. Woman was attacked to divide the sexes and rend the social fabric. Woman was attacked to destroy the sense of the sacred in nature. Woman was memory of ancestor and clan.

We do not need to follow Marx, we need simply to follow the money. The process has continued because the enemy has inexhaustible greed and diminishing returns. It is not just the commons that are enclosed, everything is being sold into the hands of a few. This means war, and the war is upon us.

Witchcraft can also act as a significant tool of liberation for men as well. Grey did a talk called "Becoming No-Man." In it, he pays particular attention to the intersection between BDSM and blood rituals in witchcraft. These provide an opportunity to reconnect blood and penetration to nature and sacrifice rather than masculine rites of battle and conquest. They in-

tervene directly with the body to create intense empathy with the feminine. They involve direct experience over abstraction of the intellect. As Grey says, "The body speaks and it says, I am made of my mother's blood. I cannot contain it forever..."

Chapter 13

ECONOMY

Is money your final taboo?

By now you've gotten the picture that I am not fond of capitalism. So then I can't leave off without first discussing the uncomfortable issue of money as power. Often, I find that money is the last thing men want to lose control over, especially if they have a lot of it.

As a Dominant Lady online, I get a lot of questions. I thought I'd share a common one.

Hi Mistress,

I have been in communication with online Mistresses, and it seems that they all try to run a congame with me. They will say that they are sick and need money, or they will visit me but need money. I have even bought things but never received them.

Do they think I am stupid because I am a sub? Women in general have no interest in me because of this.

I have a degree in aviation and computational sciences, I am very intelligent, just a submissive man. Is this what women have gone through for years?

This is a huge problem for genuine and sincere submissive men. You are not alone. There are a LOT of factors at play.

First, there are a handful of women out there who see submissive men as easy marks, and will tell you what you want to hear, get as much out of you as they can, and then disappear. Some of these women are quite simply financially destitute or desperate and are hoping to hit the jackpot. They may even have failing health or mental health issues. Capitalism is a game some can't seem to win at. That desperation can turn really toxic.

The inverse of this for Dominant Women is all the supposedly submissive men who come on very strong as willing to do anything. They ask for pics and keep you engaged in chat with promises of doing everything you say, while they use you as wank-off material, and then disappear the moment you make a demand of them. This is sexual desperation, and it feels a lot like financial desperation on the other side of the coin.

This road goes both ways, and it is bound to make anyone feel a bit jaded. It is incredibly draining.

As a result, other phenomena take shape. The sincere online Mistress may put up what I like to call a "firewall" to keep the wankers out. That is, a show of serious intent to give of yourself, via either a gift from a wish list or financial tribute. It definitely keeps the energy drainers out. It repels the users and abusers instantly. The problem with this is that the sincere submissive often can't tell her apart from the con artist. I'll come back to this in a second.

Another complicating factor is the fact that some women — even ones who genuinely enjoy BDSM — ONLY want to Dominate men on a professional basis for pay. These women are typically clear about that, if they are ethical. They won't lead you on to think they want a serious long-term relationship with you, unless it's a purely professional one. These women provide a great service and should always be respected. They provide an outlet for men who are struggling to get their needs met otherwise.

But you also need to be aware that women just starting out as Pro Dommes may make the mistake of telling you what you want to hear in order to get your business. They want you as a client and will play out the fantasy of it being more, quite simply because they think that's how they get paying subs. It's a misunderstanding on their part.

Watch out for this in very young Dommes. They haven't mastered how to run a business yet. They will learn, and it helps if both submissive men and other Pro Dommes encourage them to be clear about it. They may be unsure or embarrassed about how to go about doing sex work because of the stigma. They may also be terrified of being arrested, and the new laws in place now are deliberately making it very difficult to advertise their services through the usual routes. FOSTA-SESTA laws in the U.S., intended to help stop trafficking, mean that law enforcement can charge a web site or newspaper with a crime if a sex worker uses them to advertise her services. As a result, Pro Dommes may feel the need to be deliberately vague so as not to be kicked off social media, for example.

The difference between these women and the con artist is that they will actually follow through and play with paying subs. They are eager to meet and session to get you coming back as a repeat client. And they don't actually mean to lead you on or do you any harm. They just don't know what they're doing yet. They haven't learned how to properly run the business side of things.

Another factor that no one ever wants to talk about, but is very real is this: Sometimes, Dominant women just want to be taken care of. Of course we are CAPABLE of supporting ourselves and may be successful in doing so. But often we are in creative fields — artists,

musicians, writers, etc. Patriarchy values our cultural contributions the least. Which means we are sometimes broke as broke can be. And we want to improve our lifestyles through willing submissive partners who would LIKE to take care of us.

We're the opposite of "kept" women. We want your work to be an integral part of your service and sacrifice to us. We want you to pamper us, give us a sense of security, and help us to have the mental space, freedom, and time to invest in Dominating you. A stressed out and broke lifestyle Domme who's constantly worrying about how to pay the rent is not going to be any fun. If you really want to be of use, then be of real use to her. She's 100% for real, and she just needs your service in this way. It doesn't make her a con artist or insincere. She just sincerely wants your support in this form. And if she is everything you want in a partner and more, then WHY NOT give it to her? Is she not worth it?

And finally, FinDom, or financial domination, is a legit and real fetish. This is where men with expendable income (or even sometimes without it) get psychological and erotic pleasure from being financially used, while the woman laughs at them for being a human ATM or a pay pig. The women get off on knowing that they can just take and take and take until he's at his absolute limits. Like any form of sadism and masochism, there is an intense and complicated power dynamic. This is because money is a source of such

incredible power in our society. Subverting and perverting that can be a lot of fun! But again, consent is essential in these arrangements, with clear limits outlined from the start. For it to be ethical, both parties have to enter into it knowingly, so most FinDoms will be very clear about what they are doing. And for those in the Gynarchy community who hate on FinDoms, just stop it. The gall of these women to engage in a consensual fetish, right?! Don't be that person. Stop privileging money as the last untouchable taboo.

And one other thing I want to be sure to illuminate: If you want a sincere Dominant Woman and you are broke yourself or you just, for one reason or other, can't or won't let go of financial control, you need to make that clear. But to be frank, you will be greatly narrowing your possibilities. Independently wealthy lifestyle Dommes who don't want, at the VERY LEAST, occasional pampering, are almost non-existent. And I've had slaves who make \$20,000 per year be far FAR more generous with what they are willing to give than the wealthiest subs who often think that their bank accounts are a much more important investment than their relationship. It just demonstrates where their priorities lie. Generosity is an attractive trait in anyone, and surrendering control of your finances, though not required, can be a part of a real and healthy D/s relationship. Often it's the last bastion of control and autonomy for men (you know, those things that submissives so often fantasize about giving up?), especially when they have worked hard to achieve financial stability. It's as if they see it as entirely separate from everything else in life.

Some submissive men have the "kept slave" fantasy. And I have to admit that fantasy is VERY attractive, even for me. And if I were wealthy, I would most certainly have slaves around whose only job in the world would be to service me and attend to my every whim. I LOVE THAT FANTASY! (It's kind of a life goal.) But I'm one of those creative women who chose a financially precarious career as an independent film producer, and therefore don't have the means to make that happen. (Yet.) But I have chosen to change the focus of my life to training submissive men full-time. I've turned my hobby and lifestyle into the kind of "work" that I love more than anything, so I can feel closer to this fantasy — to be financially comfortable AND in command of a stable of submissive men willing to please me and do my bidding.

Money is one of those topics that seem taboo to talk about, but it's an important one. Especially since I hear of so many submissive men being taken advantage of and ripped off. It's a real problem. And it may make you hold tight to your wallet. I understand that completely. It's one thing to serve and contribute to the well-being of someone with whom you are forming a genuine relationship, and quite another to be

conned. You may be wondering how you can make a real connection with a truly Dominant Woman and be able to tell the difference between someone who will take all they can from you and then ghost you, and someone who just knows no other way to weed out the wankers.

My advice is this: Be as generous as you are comfortable with being. Serving a woman financially is still serving a woman. It is a power exchange. Give at least some small token of sincerity. Don't assume the worst. Get through that firewall. But also spend a lot of time talking with the woman. When you feel you've found the real deal, you may be very eager to move forward. But don't rush it. Any good relationship is going to take time. And then, when you are comfortable with each other, ask direct questions. Ask what she really wants from you. Ask for her honesty. Is she hoping for financial support going forward? Is she supporting herself comfortably, or is she broke and stressed out? And ask yourself how much of yourself you are willing to give in this capacity. Are your hopes and expectations in that realm aligning? Just like in any other realm of relationships, from compatible kinks, to relationship style, to life goals, you need to be on the same page.

Do NOT think of money as some separate and outside negotiation from the rest of life. It's not. It's part of the package of relating in a D/s dynamic. TPE is total power exchange, not clinging onto that one really big

aspect of power for yourself as a sacred cow. If you think "no way, that's where I draw the line! I will always control my money!" then maybe you should ask yourself why? Is financial control that much different from allowing the woman, whom you trust with your life, to control just about every other aspect of your existence? Is money the most important aspect of your world?

And if you are in financial dire straits and you still have a deep need to serve, consider any and all of the other ways you can be useful. Work really hard to help her in any way possible. Because let's face it, being both poor AND lazy aren't going to help you find a mate. Dominant Women don't exist to be fetish dispensers. A need to serve is not a need to serve if you aren't really being of service in any way that has a real impact on your Dominant's life.

Finally, you are not stupid. I don't think of submissive men as stupid, but as brave and thoughtful and unique. If a woman thinks you are stupid because you are submissive, she quite simply DOES NOT understand D/s. If you're stupid, a Dominant Woman isn't going to want you. Who wants to have an idiot around all the time? I want control over intelligent, self-aware men who make life interesting. Not just brainless doormats. And I think most women would agree.

How to fund a Revolution

OK, if you didn't like what I had to say about money above, hold on to your pearls.

First I'll talk about the legal and above board means of funding Gynarchies. The most obvious and practical way (my way) is to pool your resources within your community. Sell books, make movies, and gather the funds through collective work within the capitalist system that we're all stuck in. Support each other financially, and if you want to start a physical space for your growing community, find like-minded people to invest in that.

My idea of a Gynarchic economy is hive-like and collectivist. A Gynarch sets the vision and the goals. She's a responsible leader and others get on board by choice, because they trust her vision. Those who agree with her vision gather round, pool all their resources, contribute whatever skills they have and gain new skills to fill in any areas that need filling. As a result, the entire group thrives. Not just the Queens at the center of the hive setting the agenda, but everyone involved is secure and cared for. Because an empathetic Queen realizes that without consent and cooperation her rule is unsustainable. She remains Queen for as long as everyone trusts in her ability to lead them. They are free to leave the hive if she becomes too greedy or stops prioritizing the welfare of the hive as a whole.

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Another, somewhat similar way, would be having submissive men buy into slavery, as Ms. Renee Lane suggests when she speaks about establishing the NAQ. On Fetlife she writes:

Soon, I'll be starting a 501c3 to build the North American Queendom. To avoid taxes and governmental interference I intend to found a religion devoted to the Dark Goddess. Thus, discipline for slaves will be under the mantle of religious practice. Ecstasy and agony are different sides of the same coin. With religion as a shield, we can push the envelope of physical endurance.

This is how it will work.

After several visits and serious consultation, a man who desires to serve the Queendom will be required to liquidate his wealth no matter how big or small and put it into an irrevocable trust. He can at this time make provision for any inheritance he wishes to pass on. The remaining funds will go into his trust.

Let's say that after selling everything he owns, a man is worth 300 thousand dollars. From that, he would receive 4% a year in income for as long as he lived plus his Social Security. He will not be rich but he will have paid for himself. At his death, the principle would be turned over to the North American Queendom. He would also receive a great tax break

for giving his wealth to charity. With his gift it would be years before he owed taxes again.

After he moves into the Queendom, he will turn over his monthly income to our female money manager. This manager would fulfill his family obligations and allow him a short holiday twice a year to visit family. Let's say he changes his mind. He can leave the Queendom and his monthly stipend would instantly return to him. We could not stop that. The income of his gift would still be his. That's the way a trust works. However, at his death, the Queendom would receive the principle. He could not stop that.

After tasting the life of which he has dreamed, I believe most men would stay. Freed from all of the responsibilities of life, he could serve with his whole heart and mind.

Imagine what it would feel like to get rid of everything but a few family photos. We'll allow a man a small box in which to keep a few memories. You'd put your box in storage and walk into the Queendom with nothing but one set of clothes and your toothbrush. Think how freeing it would be! It would be like entering a monastery as an initiate.

Picture yourself there. You would be free of all cares. As you aged the Queendom would care for you. Of course we would match abilities with responsibilities. Those wanting to enroll as maids would be

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stripped of their manhoods by strict chastity. Others would follow different routes. Where do you fit in?

These are both decent ways to make these dreams happen. But I have to take a minute to talk about totally theoretical "fuck the system" ideas, which kick patriarchal capitalism in the teeth on the way toward building something self-sustainable. A double fuck you to patriarchy.

Let's take the situation with stock in the company GameStop. There was almost a stock market "accident," as the brokers called it, around this company in January 2021. Hedge funds suffered large losses at the hands of individual investors organizing as a collective online, and regulators had to step in. It was a result of the practice of short selling. From Wikipedia:

Short selling is a finance practice in which an investor, known as the short-seller, borrows shares and immediately sells them, hoping to buy them back later ("covering") at a lower price, return the borrowed shares (plus interest) to the lender and profit off the difference. The practice carries an unlimited risk of losses, because there is no inherent limit to how high a stock's price can rise. This is in contrast with taking a long position (simply owning the stock), where the investor's loss is limited to the cost of their initial investment.[3][4]

Short sellers are exposed to a risk of short squeezing, which occurs when the shorted stock jumps in value due, for instance, to a sudden piece of favorable news. Short sellers are then forced to buy back the stock they had initially sold, in an effort to keep their losses from mounting. Purchasing the stock to cover their short positions raises the price of the shorted stock, thus triggering more short sellers to cover their positions by buying the stock. This can result in a cascade of stock purchases and an even bigger jump of the share price.

Short sellers game the system, and in turn a group of gamers decided to game them by driving the stock prices back up. Reddit users hacked the stock market through collectivist action. It's apparent that there are lots of ways to manipulate money when your economy is largely based on nothing more than high stakes gambling. Finding those ways both exposes the weaknesses of capitalism and can provide enough short-term gains to build whatever it is you want to build. Win-win.

And what about credit? What if a bunch of people with good credit max that out? They cash it out along with whatever savings they have, and put that money into an LLC. Or they first invest it in something like Bitcoin, which will be handed over to the LLC, with one legal owner who doesn't max out his/her credit.

That money is used to create a sustainable community - land, housing, equipment, off the grid energy, etc. Make it as independent as possible, so that operating it is super cheap. Create a small business that brings in enough for the group to survive (hotel, farm, FemDom porn, whatever). Then all of those folks quit their jobs and collectively run the business as employees taking a very tiny salary. Those people then individually pay only the minimum payments on their debts for three to six months, and then each one declares bankruptcy (their income took a big hit, giving good reason for it). This leaves the banks to foot most of the bill. Seven years later all of those people have decent credit again with the bankruptcy wiped off the records, and there's no real issue for them.

Now, many will see this as unethical. But it's no less ethical than the banks making billions on over-draft and low balance fees from poor people who are charged money for not having money. Banks are evil that way. Doing evil to evil entities is ethically neutral.

I am NOT endorsing this. Again, it's a theoretical WHAT IF. Haven't done it, don't plan on doing it, just as I don't plan on trying my hand at manipulating stocks. It's not my forte. But I am entertained by the ultra-romantic notion of contemporary kinky bank robbers who never get caught. A group of cheeky Robin Hoods bowing to their Oueen.

It's fantasy, of course, but imagining all of the possibilities is essential in building something new. There are a lot of women with lots of vision. What we need most are resources. Playing with wild, and even untenable ideas, shakes you out of seeing difficult tasks as impossible. Unstick your brain, shake off your programmed reactions. Most of all, stop treating money as a sacred cow and see it as a tool and a means of handing power over to the Gynarchy until some other system can one day take capitalism's place. What kind? Socialism? A trade economy? As a business owner, I operated following a co-op model wherein both profits and responsibilities are shared among workers. I have a few ideas, but I'll leave that for another book. Right now I'd like to keep my aim directly on the head of the octopus.

Chapter 14

IN CLOSING

Gynarchy is a movement for the dominance of the feminine and empowers the dominant woman. In my book (and this is my book, after all) it's not a type of genital supremacy. It's a healing balm that tries to right a history of misogyny and correct the harms of patriarchy. And it would take 150 years, or about seven generations of it being the norm, to come to a place of balance where we can even discuss gender equality.

Seeing as there's a huge backlash against feminism itself, which only asks for equal rights and not dominance, we have to begin our movement on a small scale, by creating localized Gynarchies.

One only need to look at 2014 Gamergate to see how violently the patriarchy reacts to the slightest criticism within spaces typically dominated by men.

Death and rape threats - hyper masculine kinds of terrorism - try to overwhelm women in defense to any challenge to male dominance. Silencing women through fear and violence is the m.o. of patriarchy throughout time. Remember the witch trials.

So let's begin in the traditionally feminine spaces. Begin in the bedroom and in the home. We can then expand into communities and networks (a real strength and a specialty of the feminine), and into religion. Hopefully Gynarchy can eventually begin to bleed over into the streets and then into policy and larger bodies of governance. It will take a long while, but prioritizing the feminine - in a peacefully assertive rather than reactive mode of action - can begin to undo the damage that the hyper masculine attitudes of conquest, greed and hierarchy have done to the planet. And we can do it through relationships and social reproduction, not by force.

A surprising number of men are very much into the idea of Gynarchy and support this movement. I think that fact itself has made a lot of women suspicious that it's just another ploy to get us to serve male fantasy. And there are plenty of so-called submissive men who really are only in it to get off on the taboo idea of female dominance ("I'm a bad boy, punish me, mommy"), but who would run far away from giving up their privilege within this male dominated world. Those men tend to see life as a vending machine and

relationships as transactions. They always ask, "what do I get out of this?"

In reality, they do get something out of it: Heart opened, exploring their authentic self, fantasies fulfilled, becoming a better more joyful person, and living in a healthier, kinder, gentler world in general. But there are a growing number of men who understand that rewarding themselves is no longer the point. A growing number of men are also tired of patriarchal rule and the constrictive requirements of manhood that it promotes. They want to see women take the wheel or at least want us to navigate - to give men some direction. They know they are missing out on the feminine and want it in their lives. They don't see their identity as dependent on rejecting the other. They love women - not as objects, property or prizes - and hope to see us thrive. They've seen how their fellow men treat us and they don't like it. They want to mutiny - to turn this ship around and make women their captains.

So women, let's captain this thing! Right now, submissive men tend to dominate this conversation. Let's begin, like Natalia Stroika in her essay, and like Renee Lane, Ms. Rika, Marisa Rudder, Te-Erika Paterson and all the many many other Gynarchs already out there, to use our imaginations and think about the kind of world we'd like to live in. And then, let's grab up these wonderful, vulnerable, strong submissive men and

make those visions real. The specifics can look like anything you want. I'm just suggesting the framework.

Don't be afraid. Don't let the sabre rattling of the patriarchy deter you. You may have to fight hard to shut them out and get them to leave you alone. But as women, we're already kind of used to that, aren't we? Don't hesitate to turn your attention outward, away from how you will be perceived and, when attacked, toward annihilating those fragile egos inside which patriarchs armor themselves.

As Mona Eltahawy writes in her book *Seven Neces-sary Sins for Women and Girls:*

We have a right to declare war on patriarchy. As long as patriarchy holds the patent to violence, it knows it can count on women's real and legitimate fear of patriarchal violence. It counts on its use of violence to keep women scared shitless.

We must make patriarchy fear us. We must consider how best to do that. We should declare war if we must. (Eltahawy)

Side note: I happen to be a big stan of the show *American Horror Story*. At the end of *AHS: Cult* - a very prescient season in regard to the political zeitgeist - the villain Kai Anderson (played with Shakespearean brilliance by Even Peters) paraphrases a quote by Nelson Mandela and states "there is nothing more danger-

ous in this world than a humiliated man." In the last episode, Kai has been outsmarted and out-politicized by our third-party-voting heroine Ally (Sarah Paulson). And in their final confrontation she says "You were wrong. There was something more dangerous in this world than a humiliated man. A nasty woman." And granted, that is a totally cheeseball callback to the mostly white feminist reclaiming of an insult thrown at U.S. Presidential Candidate, Hillary Clinton. It's cringe. But, as silly as it came off, I have to say, she's actually right. One nasty woman reclaiming her power could strip the paint off a carload of misogynists with a glance.

Take a look at the 2020 movie *Promising Young Woman* (and if you haven't, skip this part and go watch it now, because I'm including some spoilers). In one of the first scenes, our protagonist, Cassie, is walking down the street when she's catcalled by a group of construction workers. It's the classic example of catcalling, so prevalent as to become a trope. Too many of us have, myself included, experienced it. Just as Kasia Urbaniak instructs women in such situations, Cassie doesn't hunker down inside herself. She doesn't think about how she appears - disheveled in a sexy outfit after a night out as the men shout at her about the "walk of shame." She very simply turns her attention outward. She stops and stares at the group of construction workers. She stands there, still, just directing her en-

ergy at them like a laser. The men are not used to this. They do not know what to do when they are made objects of her aggressive gaze, and they eventually scramble away, discombobulated, calling her "a crazy bitch."

There's that word again. Crazy. The go-to defense of men who want to invalidate us. Do we have to be crazy to shift the power dynamic? Do we?

The film is a rape revenge fantasy, about a young woman getting justice for a dead friend. And things don't turn out so well for the heroine in the end. Which is realistic. It reminds us that, after all, no matter how powerfully we fight back, we still have a long way to go toward destroying the patriarchy that promotes and benefits from violence against us. Patriarchy is still the air we breathe, as Eltahawy pointed out. AHS and movies like this one are just fiction. But fiction is often a reflection and indication of the concerns of the era.

Gynarchs, let's have each other's backs! This is my invitation to become comrades in building lives that defy and destroy and overwrite patriarchy. Let's be "saboteurs of big daddy mainframe," reprograming users and upgrading the operating system. Become the glitch! Let's support each other's unique visions inside this broader movement even when we don't always agree on the details. Let's share our resources, and let's use our greatest resource - our army of submissive men ready to fight with us and to build the life we all want.

Submissives men, get your shit together and get behind us. Now. Let the patriarchs call you a traitor to your gender. You have a bigger calling. Let me see you snap to attention with a "yes, ma'am!" Let's live the fantasy, and then make it a more widespread reality, together. Serve women at home, in the streets, and in society.

As for the others, we need not engage. The men who do not wish to concede control and serve women? The women who prefer the status quo and continue to hand their power over to men? That's their right. Let them be. Remember my motto: There is no legitimate authority except that to which you consent with open eyes and an open heart. There is no need to impose ourselves on others, or try to proselytize or convert. They have been the norm for a very long time and some men and women still enjoy the comfortable familiarity of patriarchy.

If patriarchs come at us hoping to do us harm, or feeling threatened and itching for a fight, that is when we unleash the Dark Goddess, chop off their metaphorical heads and drink their blood. Allow no one oppress or silence our Gynarchs. "If you go low, I'm coming for you," says Feminist Giant, Mona Eltahawy.

Our role is to educate and inspire. Social reproduction is our model. Research done by Erica Chenoweth, a political scientist at Harvard University, shows that it only requires the engagement of 3.5% of a population

to spearhead real cultural and political change. Live the example and show those around you by your very existence that Gynarchy is a viable alternative. Let this be a persistent, deliberate, powerful and visible movement. And eventually, one day, we might just outnumber the patriarchs. We may cease to be a parallel underground power structure and become the norm. And thus begins 150 Years of Gynarchy.

Surrender
Submit
Sacrifice
Serve
Survive.
To Her, For Her, Through Her.

GLOSSARY

- Abrahamic denoting any of the world's religions
 including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam that
 are said to have begun with the biblical patriarch,
 Abraham.
- Agency the capacity of individuals to act independently and to make their own free choices.
- Anarchy an ideology with an emphasis on lack of authority, personal autonomy, community, and mutual aid.
- Authority the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.
- Autonomy the state of being self-governing.
 Freedom from outside rule.
- BDSM a combined abbreviation of bondage and discipline, dominance and submission, and sadism and masochism.
- Bhairavi the terrifying aspect of the Goddess of Wisdom, representing uncontrollable divine wrath and anger. With terrifying shrieks and

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- hissing fury, she dispels all things that stand in your way of spiritual evolution.
- Bhakti devotion, especially of the religious type.
- Bodily autonomy the ability to make any and all decisions in regard to one's own body.
- Capitalism a hierarchical economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, as opposed to being controlled by the state or by the workers themselves. Owners receive the surplus value of the workers' labor, often keeping the workers occupying the lowest positions in poverty, and coercing them to work via withholding resources for survival, while funneling massive profits to a few shareholders at the top.
- Chastity refraining from sexual intercourse or masturbation.
- Chastity device a device which prevents the genitals from being used for sexual intercourse or masturbation.
- Coercion persuading someone to do something involuntarily, through threats or force, either blatant or subtle.
- Community a group of individuals who gather together to share in the same interests and concerns.
- Compersion the opposite of jealousy. Feeling happiness or joy because of the happiness and/

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- or joy of another person. Feeling pleasure at witnessing another person's pleasure.
- Consent permission or explicit agreement, clearly and freely communicated without coercion.
- Devi Sanskrit for Goddess or the Divine Feminine
- Divine Feminine the vibrations which enable all life to exist as particular forms, patterns and movements instead of remaining in silence and nothingness.
- Dominant(n.) one who assumes the role of authority.
- D/s Dominance and submission or Dominant/ submissive.
- Empiricism the theory that states that knowledge comes only from sensory experience. It is
 one of several views of epistemology, along with
 rationalism.
- Esoteric obscure, only of interest to a particular group of people, or intended only for the initiated.
- FemDom a dominant woman or femme, or Female Domination.
- Feminism a social and political movement which strives for equal treatment of all humans regardless of sex or gender.

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- Femme a form of queer identity historically a feminine lesbian, but also including feminine gay and bi-sexual men, transgender and non-binary people. "Femme is intentional; it's a way of simultaneously challenging and celebrating femininity. It recognizes that I identify with aspects of femininity but don't identify with the heteronormative system that trivializes and demonizes them" (Donish, 2017)
- FLR female led relationship.
- Goddess a feminine person or figure who transcends the status of mundane human either temporarily or permanently and embodies the Divine Feminine.
- Guru literally "one who brings you from darkness to light." The traditional Sanskrit name for a teacher, initiator, or spiritual guide, usually instructing in philosophy, esoteric rituals and practices, and through storytelling.
- Gynarch a woman who chooses to lead and rule others.
- Gynarchy an ideology and system of social and/ or political power which favors the dominance of women and the feminine. Literally rule by a woman or women.
- Hive the complex, coordinated behavior of a colony of social beings, and/or the place where that activity is centered.

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- Ideology a system of ideas and ideals, especially one which forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy.
- Kali the Dark Goddess, Goddess of Destruction, a fierce Goddess who saved the universe from demons by drinking every drop of their blood. Shiva's consort, also known as the controller of time, and time herself.
- Logic the position that things follow a particular set of patterns based on definable rational suppositions. If this is true, then, that must therefore be true. Using logic, the only correct and reliable inferences are made through testing the validity of a proposition.
- Mistress a dominant woman whom you personally serve.
- Master any person who has mastery over a person, activity, concept, etc.
- Mutual Aid a form of political participation in which people take responsibility for caring for one another through the voluntary sharing of resources, rather than forcing individuals to fend for themselves. Mutual aid is not charity, but instead creates a symbiotic relationship, where all people in a community offer material goods or assistance to each other.
- Nandi the bull of Shiva, a symbol of alert and patient stillness and readiness to serve.

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- Occult beyond the range of ordinary knowledge or experience; mysterious, mystical, or supernatural.
- Orgasm control consensually giving up control over when or how one has an orgasm. Can involve teasing, denial, edging, asking permission to orgasm, or "ruined" orgasms (removing stimulation just before the point of orgasm creating a sense of frustration upon release).
- Patriarchy an ideology and system of social and/or political power which favors male dominance and the masculine.
- Pegging being penetrated anally by a dildo or other phallic object, sometimes attached to another person via a harness.
- Phallic resembling an erect penis.
- Power the capacity or ability to direct or influence the behavior of others or the course of events; a right or authority that is given or delegated to a person or body; physical strength; electrical energy.
- Positive Anti-reason the idea that valuable knowledge and wisdom can result from irrational or even undefinable types of thought, emotion and experience. These include ecstasy, poetry, metaphor, madness, magic, chaos and absurdity.
- Sacrifice to give something up which has value or importance to you.

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- Sadhana self-discipline and meditation practice.
- Saivism the oldest living religion in the world.
 A practitioner is called a Saiva. According to Saivism, all that exists emerges from Shiva, a.k.a.
 "that which is not." Shiva is stillness itself and the original yogi.
- Seva a concept, present in religions such as Hinduism and Sikhism, of selfless service done with no expectation of reward or compensation.
- Serve to attend to someone's desires or needs.
- Slave in the specific context of Gynarchy and BDSM: a submissive who consensually concedes authority to another and also gives up some or all of their autonomy in service to another. Usually, a slave will hand control of some of all aspects of their lives to their Dominant.
- Socialism a political and economic theory of social organization which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole.
- Social reproduction the duplication of social structures, habits, ideologies, behaviors, and norms from one person or group to another, passed down generationally or through social proximity.

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- Soma in Sanskrit "to distill, or extract," it is the "nectar" secreted by the pineal gland which brings a feeling of ecstasy or bliss.
- Submissive(n.) someone who consensually concedes authority to another, sometimes with specific conditions.
- Submit to accept or yield to a superior force or to the authority or will of another person.
- Subspace an intense feeling of euphoria or transcendence in a submissive, triggered by things like BDSM play, humiliation, sublimation of ego, or selfless service. The brain activity is akin to that of deep meditation.
- Surrender to cease to resist.
- Survive to continue to function or prosper into the future, often against difficult odds.
- Tantra a text, theory, system, method, instrument, technique or practice. See witchcraft.
- Transactional functionally based on an exchange of one thing for another thing of presumably equal value.
- Queen a woman who rules others, or who is highly respected and revered.
- Witchcraft the practice of occult arts, which can include sympathetic magic, earth-based rituals (solstice celebrations, full moon ceremonies, etc.), spell casting, herbology, healing, divining, fortune telling, the reading of signs and omens,

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necromancy, hexing, communicating with paranormal entities, sacrifices and prayers to pre-Abrahamic deities, and other esoteric practices which are often rejected by practitioners of orthodox religions.

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