

Sunmi Q&A Transcription

CK: Ok, good morning everybody, really thank you so much for being here. I'm Cherry or CK, and I am a queer disabled person and sexuality educator. I'm really interested in the connections between sex work and disability. I feel like people, especially non-disabled or newly disabled people, want to ask surface questions about how to make sex accessible, but I really take that question seriously. It goes beyond modifying sex positions. I think we have to start from a place of connection with ourselves and our bodies and our desires, which is something that is actually freaking hard to do and it's not something that we are used to doing or that we are encouraged to do.

Before I go further, content warnings, I think we are going to talk about a lot of things today, you know body stuff, disability stuff, trauma, sexual trauma, medical trauma, sex work, obviously. So take care of yourselves as much as you need, always. As new people come in I'll just ask you to make sure you're muted.

Personally I feel like I'm recovering from years of compulsory sexuality, where I was pursuing things that I thought that I wanted and needed in the realm of sex. And as I've started to excavate a lot of my trauma – sexual trauma and disability and medical related trauma, I've been able to understand myself and my desires differently, and the ways that I define sex and the things that I want from sex have changed so much.

Something that helped me on my journey has been working with sex workers to figure out and practice what it is that I want from my sexual connections. Figuring things out within our intimate and sexual relationships can be scary and high stakes, and it's not always safe. And if we are survivors of abuse it can be really easy for us to fall into patterns of disassociation or of just doing what someone else wants or needs. We are much too comfortable having whole relationships or connections where we are not in touch with our own desires, and where our needs are not being met or even known.

I know that there are so many folks out here with similar experiences, and who want to explore the option of working with a sex worker, especially given how hard it is for us to find therapists who can understand our full queer and trans and disabled and mad and kinky, hyper sexual, asexual, scared and or hungry selves. I love sex workers so much. They are powerful care workers and they have always been at the center of our communities and the leaders of our revolution. I want us to lift up and honor the different types of work that they can do and the ways that they can be a part of our healing journeys, and not separate from it. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to talk with Sunmi today, they are someone who I reached out to to have this conversation after I saw them having conversation online about offering different and lower rates for working with community.

So that's a little bit of my background and how we got here today. Thank you for listening and trusting and being here. And now I will ask. I have a list of a few questions and then we got a lot of really good questions from yall and we're just going to go down that list.

So my first question is "How would you like to introduce yourself to us today? Who are you? What is your work?"

SUNMI:

Hello everyone. CK what a beautiful heartfelt introduction for yourself. I already feel moved by your vulnerability already starting this conversation and so thank you for that. So I'm a professional dominatrix. I work in BDSM. I wear a lot of different hats. I do in person session work. I also do online digital content creating through OnlyFans and other social media platforms. I also do some sex educating, I do free consulting for sex workers. I do, wear a lot of different hats in the industry and so...I guess who am I...some signifiers: mixed Korean and French, queer, young, and let's see, I am a leather daddy, very involved in the leather community, very queer trans and identify as a daddy, femme daddy. And that translates not only in my personal but in my professional as well. And yeah, I've been in the industry, this month is actually my 5 year anniversary of being a sex worker. I didn't start out as a dom, I worked in many other parts of the industry, I've only been working, I started mentoring under my dom mentor in 2019, and now it's 2023, so yeah! And for the question about what my work is, so I love what I do (laughs). I really do.

The thing that I love to do the most is in person session work. That's what makes the entire job worth it for me. Content creating and social media is very laborious for me, but a necessity that I have to do to reach people who want to seek my services. And honestly in terms of what I do in session and what I do with my clients, I love connecting with people. What I do allows me to access the most vulnerable parts of a person and hold them in that and to push people and help them explore themselves and their limits and make fantasies come true and, you know, it's a lot of fun. So what I do for work could probably be summarized by erotic theater (laughs). And so, yeah it's a good time.

CK: Beautiful, yeah, thank you. Erotic theater, cool. I've heard erotic labor, but not erotic theater, I love it.

SUNMI: Definitely both (laughs).

CK: Okay, I know I shared a little bit, but from your perspective, what are some of the reasons that somebody might want to work with you or another provider?

SUNMI: Love this question. So there's lots of reasons why people seek me out and the reason why somebody would seek me out as a dom might be different from why somebody would seek out a different dom. So, everybody in the sex industry, me providing professional videos is just one area of the industry, but there's a lot of commonalities between industries a lot more than one might think. But there's also each provider offers something very specific and unique to

themselves. People, I can speak from my own experience, people seek me out to hire me for lots of different reasons. Sometimes it's novelty, like it's a bucket list, they've never done it, it's exciting, they want to explore and experience it. Sometimes people come to me seeing me as a part of their journey and this is very, I would say the most common when it comes to my queer clients, people are on a healing journey or they're on a sexual liberation journey or they are trying to tap in and maximize their sexual pleasure and so they will see me as a part of that journey. And I see people along a spectrum of this kind of self exploration. And sometimes people might not even hire me initially for that and then it ends up being that.

And so, people see me and we might be doing inner child work. We might, they might see me and we might be doing like, they might have a fear they feel some kind of blockage around Feeling limited sexually and they want to explore that in a safe environment with a provider. And of course I want to make the clarification that seeing a provider and doing a BDSM scene isn't therapy but there's definitely healing that can come as a result of hiring a provider.

People see me, people hire me because they, I've had people actually recently this summer has happened a few times where people are like, okay, I'm new to BDSM, I know that I'm kinky, but I'm not sure if I'm a dominant or submissive or top or bottom, so we do a session where they're like okay, I want to hire a provider and just try different things and see like okay, is this hot in porn or do I actually enjoy it. Or, it's I don't know, like it's been fun to do those scenes with people where they're like, I don't know, like I think like I've had, there's this one Cis man coming to mind, cis straight man coming to mind, he was like you know I really like pegging porn, I want to get pegged. And then we were sessioning and he was like yeah, actually, I'm not into the DS or submission, I just want to get pegged. And I was like, that is good to know about yourself! And that's totally fine, you know what I mean, people learn so much about themselves in a scene. And I think that knowledge is really sacred because sometimes with BDSM, or with sex in general, you might not know what your limits are or your desires are or you might not know what really turns you on until you actually do it.

And that's a really fun part about sessioning with a provider because we're all professionals, and we're all very good at what we do, and a lot of us, I mean I can't speak for everyone but, all the BDSM professionals I know, we're just like sex nerds and so people hire us because we know so much about sex, we know so much about the human body. We just know so many ways to provide pleasure for so many different types of people.

Like I've had trans women in the past hire me and want to do gender affirming sessions where you know they've never like had sexual experiences that have been, penetrative sexual experiences, that have been not apparently like violent or against their consent. And so being able to do scenes like that stick out to me as being very special.

But yeah, and sometimes people are just like masochists and they're such intense masochists that there's nobody in their life who can, who is sadistic, or they're married and their partner's vanilla, so they hire a provider because hiring, because hiring, because the boundaries of hiring of a provider in their specific relationship is aligned with their couple agreements. I see a lot of

married people who have like, a lot of married people who are bottoms, submissive, and their partners just don't feel comfortable you know, hitting them, or being sadistic to them and so they hire providers like me, yeah.

CK: Yes, thank you. Yeah I love that you sort of ended that great answer with how being a sex worker means you know a lot about the body because yeah, I think that could be a barrier for a lot of queer, and trans, and disabled people- having many feelings about our bodies and being safe with people. So yeah, maybe speak a little more about that but also, what is your experience working with queer and disabled community in the past? And before you answer that, I will address something that came into the chat. I will drop again the link to the questions form, and if there are more questions that come up, would love to drop them there, because Sunmi asked to see questions in advance, and so this will just be our screening mechanism for questions. So I'll drop that link again and if you want to submit new questions, we'll put them there and then we can get to them we will get to them. Thank you for asking.

So ok, yes, again what is your experience working with queer and disabled people in the past? You spoke a little bit about it, but let's hear more.

SUNMI: Yeah, so being able to be out as queer as a sex work is such a privilege its not always been something I've been able to do. And so I'm at a place in my career where I can be really vocal about my authentic self and it won't infringe on my business or my income. And so to be able to be outwardly queer and to be able to provide like discounts for queer POC has been such a beautiful plus of my job and it really feels like, you know, I'm very passionate about my work and I meet lots of different people.

But my sessions with other queers have always been a lot more sacred. They've always been a lot more special. I put a lot more intentionality into those scenes and my ongoing DS dynamics with my queer clients that I see on an ongoing basis, and it has just been so special. I've been able to, it's interest, most of my queer clients are POC and I think that it just adds this extra layer of richness where I know what it's like to be fetishized or I know what it's like to be going to kink parties and it being white majority or I know what it's like, I don't know, be like taken advantage or tokenized in these spaces and so to be able to create safe containers for other queer POC. I mean it's just so overwhelmingly, it feel like it's work that really fuels me. Like my cup always feels really full when doing these sessions.

I mean, yeah and so when it also comes to working with different disabled clients, so my mentor Mistress Lina Lavender is disabled and they do disability consulting work and they're just absolutely amazing. So even from the inception of when I first entered professional BDSM, I've always been kind of considering different, people of different abilities. And so my application form I have a spot where people can list any like medical things that I should know about, any disabilities, medications they're on and so forth because as a provider it's really important for me to know these things that I can make proper accommodations nad be able to adjust myself as needed. And I'm of course, I was very happy to make those adjustments.

And so it's interesting, like, I've seen my clientele varies across a spectrum of different abilities, so like evening for myself like I've had different disabilities that are less visible and I've adjusted my own BDSM and practice to be able to accommodate for those. One being like, I've broken both of my wrists. And so like, I do, like over the last several years I've just gotten really good at strap on play, because it feels like a disability for me, because my wrists have a certain, like, threshold. And it's also geared to my practice towards using lighter weighted implements. Like I loved single-tailed because paddles like wooden paddles can be very heavy and I just can't even hold them for a sustained amount of time. And so things like canes and whips are just like easier on my wrists, but I do the same for my clients on the other end.

So, like I have clients who, it's interesting, like I have clients who might not identify as disabled, but definitely have limiting abilities. So like, I think something that I see the most often is they can't be on their knees for too long or if they're in bondage they have a bad shoulder and so I'm like adjusting for, you know, that's their words that they would use, I'm adjusting for accounting for that and the bondage that I'm putting them in or the positions that I'm putting them in. I'm only putting them in it for a short period of time opposed to a prolonged stress position.

And so, I see a lot of that/ And then I feel like also being able to see different clients of differing abilities where there's a certain place that certain types of play that we don't do. Like we might not do electro play, or we might not do inverted suspensions. I think one of the more challenging aspects that has come across is like, you, this hasn't happened to me, but I know that it's happened to other people where like for example the dungeon that I'm at in Baltimore is not wheelchair accessible. It could be like there's basement door access, but there's like, it's just not like my dom mentor has sessioned out there and one of their client is in a wheelchair and like it's just really like the dom who owns the dungeon is like, oh yeah, it's wheelchair accessible, but then it actually in actuality isn't.

But I also do work in hotels and oftentimes hotels at least have elevators and they have wheelchair accessible rooms with wheelchair accessible showers and that has been, that's kind of a plus, but I don't know I've been in dungeons that are wheelchair accessible, and I've been in dungeons that definitely aren't, and so that's something that I wish in general all dungeons were wheelchair accessible.

But yeah, there's the good thing about BDSM is that there are lots of ways to get very, very creative and lots of ways to we're always thinking outside of the box. But yeah I think for me, whenever somebody has, whenever somebody has a limit and like this is just in terms of like BDSM limits or like a physical or yeah like disability limit, like I never see it as a limit. I see it as like a very creative place for my brain to be, okay, like how do we work around this and give this person like a really amazing experience? And how do we like, using it as a way to get really creative. I've always felt that way and it's for me as a top, like I love. The same reason why I love bondage because it feels very like I have to think through a puzzle, I feel like it's that way when working through people, working with people of different abilities where I'm like okay, like, how can we, how can I like get really creative about this and that makes it really fun for me. So yeah, I hope that answers the question.

CK: Yeah, amazing, thank you so much. I agree. that's one of my favorite things about kink and BDSM too: it's all about creativity anyways and it's all just an opportunity.

Two other follow ups. And maybe we'll include these on our resources, but you said a lot of dungeons are not accessible. For dungeons that are wheelchair accessible, we would love a list of those. And then also, if it makes sense, drop the handle of Ms. Lena Lavender, that person sounds amazing. Yeah, okay.

SUNMI: Yeah, yeah they're retired. My dom mentor retired, so they are no longer, and they also were never on the internet. They were a dom before you had to be- they were like raised old guard in the Bay (Area). So I love my mentor so much. They were much a Craigslist, Backpage kind of dom. In the golden ages where you didn't have to sacrifice your entire face and identity for the sake of getting clients online. (laughs)

CK: Uh-huh

SUNMI: So yeah, but I love my mentor and I can connect you all. Like you know, outside of this, but yeah.

CK: Great ok yeah that makes sense. Thank you so much for all of that. And I feel like you sort of answered my next question, which was gonna be- what's your favorite thing about these types of connections?

I think you kind of talked about a lot of that. So maybe move onto the next question, which gets into a little more about how can people go about having these creative and exciting and exploratory and accessible experiences with you or somebody else? So, sort of generally, how would somebody go about finding a good fit? If you see someone who you think you want to work with, how can you explore that? So m, there are a couple of parts to that. Like, what can we be thinking about personally? And then also, what is the protocol for being able to figure that out? Right? So if I want to send you some messages and then I send you some emails, should I also budget and expect to pay for that time as well? Or can there be a first "get to know you" session and things like that? How can we figure out a fit and then go about reaching out to someone and seeing if it's a fit?

Does that make sense?

SUNMI: Yeah that makes sense. I love this. So, I would recommend find somebody in your area who like, or even if it's, you want to do a virtual session, right, find who you want to work with. So I would say **Tryst**, **Arrow**, **Sticky Virgin**, there's lots of different websites. There are mistress directories online. But most, most people, if you find them online, you can then go to their Twitter or their instagram to kind of get a feel for them before reaching out. Look at their websites. And so, because of course like when finding a provider, you want to find somebody who is still active, still in the game, somebody who is professional, somebody who is real. You

don't want to fall for a catfish! The best way to do this I would say, is to, there are websites that are like verified sites where this person has to like upload their face to be real. So like advertising sites like Tryst and Arrow. And then go to their website.

Where like **Only Fans**, for example, you can only make one Only Fans. You literally can't catfish somebody on Only Fans. And so if their links are matching up with their face, then that, you know, I mean just making sure you're talking to an actual person.

Sex Panther is another way to, or there's other like sexting sites, that are like verified websites.

So, I would say if you find a provider that you like and you're sure that you're talking to that actual provider, then I would read their website because most likely this person's website is going to have all of the information that you would need hopefully. But if you still have questions after reading their website, writing them an email. Sometimes it's hard to find peoples emails on their websites. I know I've had that issue when trying to reach out for client references. So like for example, I don't check my Twitter DMs but I do sometimes check my Instagram DMs. I always check my email. Sometimes emails go to spam. So there's kind of all of these different things that if you're trying to contact a provider you might have to contact them through different things. I would say sending a respectful email is the first step.

I wouldn't DM on Instagram first. I would say email is the most appropriate way. If you can't find their email, then I would maybe fill out their website application if they have an application on their website. Fill it out but be very clear like, this is just an inquiry I'm not actually sure if I want to hire you. Like I just have some questions. I would do that. Just try to be explicitly clear as possible. So, everybody is different. So if I have somebody who wants to hire me, but they have questions, I could ask them to write them and write it in an email. But if it's more elaborate or they want to vet or screen me, they can either, we can do like a 10 minute free phone call or we can do scheduled if we want to do like an hour long kind of social time over video chat. That might be something to be paid, but it would be like less than a hundred dollars, depending lie you know, I mean it would just kind of depend on the person's ask and all of that and the expectations for the hour. Are we just talking, are we dirty talking, is like you know, but everybody is different. I know most providers, I know provide some like provide free if you're serious about booking, and you have some questions, then I know providers who would happily do a phone call.

But there's also Sex Panther and Only Fans where on these sites you can't explicitly be like, I want to meet up with you, I am in your city, can we schedule an in person hangout? Because that will risk getting the Dom and your accounts deleted, which is something that we face all the time that is deeply stressful. Please, whatever you can, you have to speak in discrete terms. And so there's a lot of acronyms in BDSM, so like RT is like real time, like real time sessions. And yeah there's lots of acronyms that you can use, but you can also just kind of like code your language so that it's coded a bit.

STOPPED AT 00.30.35

MS: But I would say in email, is just best. Sometimes on **OnlyFans**, people will reach out and say, “Hey, I’m interested in playing together” and then I’ll be like, “Let’s move this to email. Here is my email”. But **OnlyFans** is a good way of knowing that you’re talking directly to that actual provider in case you’re worried about catfishes.

So when it comes to hiring a provider, I would say that people should be very clear about their intentions and say, “I’m looking to book in person” or “I’m looking to book a virtual online session” or “can we sext?”. Then that person can direct you in the appropriate way to book that. I would say, only reach out to a provider to book when you actually feel ready. And you can also pre-book in advance. Personally, I’ll happily book 3 months in advance. Not everyone is like that but most providers will book about a month in advance and sometimes providers do fill up a month in advance. That has happened to me on a few occasions.

So, as an example, let’s say I want to treat myself on my birthday to a session with a domme. My birthday is in December and it’s August right now. At this point, I would be thinking about who I want to hire. I would be saving up my money because oftentimes you will have to put down a deposit— like a 20% deposit, which I would say is pretty standard for a session. So you can send an email asking: *do you offer sliding scale, I have this differing ability, can you tell me about the location we would be session-ing in. Is it wheelchair accessible? How many stairs are involved?* And once you get that and you want to proceed, then you can say, *Oh I want to book for December, is that possible?* Personally I hate going back and forth in email, so if you have questions for a provider, just ask your questions all at once just to reduce email time! (laughs) But in terms of language that people should use or avoid, I think it depends and is different for different people. For me, email is fine. But **OnlyFans**, **Instagram**, those are places where I would deeply censor your language.

Ck: And so, as part of the follow-up, we’ll talk a little more about the specific language. I’m feeling like it would be great to make a little list or dictionary of these acronyms like RT and things like that. That’s something again, we could... and maybe folx are already taking notes but we’ll definitely share because that’s really important.

We’ve already touched a little bit on it, but what do people need to know and consider about what is legal, what is criminalized? What’s going to get you in trouble or kicked off? Things not to say. Can you talk a little about why and the legality and criminalization of sex work and workers?

MS: Yeah, so I will say, this differs in America from state-to-state. In different countries, everywhere has different laws around this. And so, typically and generally speaking, what we call *full-service sex work* is more criminalized, more frequently criminalized. There’s more money going towards it and is more stigmatized compared to BDSM work and so there’s more prostitution laws than BDSM-specific laws. Typically if you’re hiring a full service provider, people would say or refer to it as FS, which is the acronym for full service. So if you’re looking for FS, and you’re hiring a full service worker, then the legality of that is going to be different

from professional BDSM. In terms of the criminality, I've worked in lots of different states, I've worked all across the U.S. Generally speaking, the risk is low. The risk exists and it's something to definitely consider, but again, generally speaking, the risk is low. When it comes to criminality and knowing what's legal... If anything were to happen, the worker is going to take the brunt of whatever is occurring. So this is why we use coded language in email, like *tribute* or *gift*. A lot of dom/mes or full service sex workers websites will say, "this payment is for my time." So you are paying me for my time and anything else that happens is just us being two consenting adults, sometimes 3 or 4 (laughs). It's kind of like in D.C, when you're wanting to buy weed and you have to buy a \$20 sticker. And then you just happen to be gifted weed. (Smiles) Sometimes sex work laws are like that. You're handing me money for my time but you just so happen to get a medical fetish experience as a gift! (laughs) So that's how we sometimes think about it. And oftentimes, because of the legality of things, certain things are censored. I offer blood play, scalpel play, fisting, but I literally can't have those words on my ad— on my **Tryst** or **Arrow** ad. So if you're like, I'm a blood bottom and I'm trying to find a dom/me who's very educated, trained, and specializes in blood play, it might just say MedFet. Because we can't say scalpels, needles or things like fisting or pegging or necrophilia— some of the words that are more censored online than others. I offer all of those things but I can't put it in my ad but I can put it in my website. I've had people email me directly and ask, "do you offer fantasy cannibalism?" and I say, "Yes, I do. So glad you asked, you've come to the right place."

CK: Somebody in the chat just asked if your necklace is a vial of blood?

MS: It is! It's my girlfriend's blood. (Laughs) She has one of mine as well.

So if there's something that you're looking for specifically and you can't find it or a provider who offers it, you might have to read between the lines. Look at their photoshoots. Is there blood in their photoshoots? (Laughs) Then maybe they offer it. But it's always worth asking that person directly. Also another thing too is that Dom/mes might not be posting publicly that they're disabled but a lot, ALOT of sex workers are disabled. And they might not be advertising it because this is our job and at the end of the day, we're trying to make money to survive. And so there's a lot of commercialization— like a lot of sex workers are gay. I mean when I used to work at a strip club, we were all lesbians there, or like bisexual but (laughs) a lot of sex workers are queer. So if you see a provider that you think might not be queer...or let's say you live in a small town and there's only like 5 providers in your area, they might not even be advertising as a Dom/mes, you can ask, "do you offer BDSM" or "are you open to seeing queer clients". I will say it's always worth asking respectfully. Because sometimes some people don't want to be out as queer because that might hurt their business or it's not a part of their branding. There's just a lot more nuance. What you see isn't always what you get. For example, it's a privilege for me to be very out as non-binary, queer for my work page but that's not the same for everybody.

CK: Thank you. So questions that people submitted... first question: Is it awkward or uncomfortable to work with people you know or connected to, even peripherally or in community? I think this really interests me particularly as a queer, trans, disabled survivor navigating these things but I'm curious if you have any boundaries about who you work with?

MS: I love this question and I get this question a lot. And I will say, like all things, the people that I accept as clients is a case-by-case scenario. If you want to hire me, this is my job. I'm very professional. Like I have queer friends who are artists and who tattoo people in community and to me it feels similar to that. This is my business and so, if you apply to see me and I know you, that is something that I will take very seriously. My friends have hired and paid me in the past. It wouldn't be the first time but I do navigate it with a lot more care and intentionality cause obviously if we are in community together, community is very sacred and I want us to be able to have a DS dynamic whether it's in scene or an ongoing client/provider relationship so to really preserve our ability to feel safe in community together. If I feel us playing together would hinder our ability to share community freely then I would politely decline your application. But that being said, I've had friends who would be like "would it be weird to subscribe to your **OnlyFans**?" and it doesn't feel weird to me. This is my work and you're my friend, I would want you to support my work and utilize my services. Let's do it! Let's negotiate, let's talk. Let's make sure that we talk through any fears you might have and protocol for if we see each other at a function or a play party— how will we navigate that? I'm very friendly and very outgoing. And I really care about community and so, to me that feels like number one. But I don't think it's weird and it wouldn't make me uncomfortable. And if it did, we would talk through that and we would decide together. If I had some hesitations and you had some hesitations, we can talk it through.

CK: Yeah, it makes sense and of course it's different for every provider. Right? That may not be everyone's answer but I do think that there is always some space, at least to ask even if it is uncomfortable for someone. They can tell you that.

MS: Absolutely.

CK: Great. OK. Next question: Do you have any asexual clients? I'm trying to explore what sex means for me despite not always feeling sexual attraction.

MS: I love this question! Yes, I do have asexual clients and many actually. Which surprised me when I first got into the industry but that's the thing about BDSM or especially if you're queer. Like leather sex... to me I have such a broad definition of sex and human sexuality exists on such an intense spectrum and BDSM doesn't always have to be sexual. I'm a pervert and so BDSM *feel/s* very sexual to me. I can have leather sex with somebody where spanking and whipping can feel like we're having leather sex. And it can *feel* very sexual for me and that's of course negotiated. I've done scenes that are non-sexual and not explicitly sexual scenes. BDSM can be so many different things. For me, it feels very information gathering. A person can learn a lot about themselves going through BDSM experience but that doesn't have to be sexual at all. For example, it can be intellectually challenging bondage, or taking pain... It can be very intellectual. People can engage with how their body and their mind processes pain in a way that can be very cathartic for them. It can be a stress reliever, like getting a massage. Massages don't have to be sexual, they can definitely be sexual. But they don't have to be and I feel the same way about BDSM where it can just be bodywork, it can be intellectual. It can also just be really fun! Like I love role-play, I do a lot of role play. If somebody just wants to be my dog, it doesn't have to be sexual. They just want a break, a brain vacation. They don't want to have to

think, they just want to be good and they just want to be told what to do. Or they just want to have a break from being themselves and fulfill a role of somebody else. So it can be cathartic or it can be a release, it can be intellectually stimulating in ways that don't have to be sexual at all. That's kind of the beauty of BDSM, I can do an objectification scene where you are an object and for some people that is very sexual and for others, that can just be a break or catharsis. Some people enjoy doing service and love praise and feeling useful. It doesn't have to be explicitly sexual. Did that answer the question?

CK: (laughs) I think so. Yes, definitely. Sex is so expansive, yes. I love that. Cool, so we have a question that says... I love this. I'm going to read the whole thing: I'm relatively gaymious, and also haven't had partner sex or play for over 2 years. So I would really like to work with a professional. How do queer sex workers deal with a prospective client who has a level of fame or public facing-ness?

MS: As a sex worker, I've always been the holder of secrets in a lot of different ways. I take discretion very seriously. So if someone wants to hire me and they're famous or they're married or their job is intense and they don't want people to know— whatever your reason is, if you want to be discreet, I will honor that and it will be discreet. Even if you're famous, I'm not going to be telling people if you ask me not to. So on my application form I have: *do you consent to filming?* Yes. Yes, *but no face.* No. I have discretion for all of my clients, all of them, always. But if somebody clicks no to that, obviously there will be no pictures, no videos. Sometimes if I'm doing a scene with somebody, I'll ask them explicitly, do you care or are you OK if I tell people about this scene but I'll keep your identity private? For example I could be like, "Oh I did this scene the other day, it was a role-play scene. We were doing a Barbie role-play scene. It was really fun, I used props and stuff." I can describe the scene without talking about the actual person that was involved. So yeah, if you are gay and famous and you want to hire a provider, I would say that hiring a provider and asking specifically for discretion would maybe be the best way to go. Because we are professionals and you're paying for our discretion in a way where if you were on **Grindr** or on a public facing dating site or just hooking up with anyone in community that your discretion might not be as prioritized or as respected. But with providers, definitely.

CK: Yeah that makes a lot of sense for a number of reasons. It feels more safe and more private. Thanks, OK.

So this next question: Can you talk about what types of services or session ideas you might have for someone who wants to work with a sexy worker virtually but has never done that before? I'm sure it can get as creative as in person but I would love some examples of what it can look like in practice.

MS: Absolutely. So I love doing virtual sessions. Not everybody offers virtual sessions, I do. And it's always worth looking at somebody's website, emailing and inquiring. But when it comes to virtual sessions, it's really fun...especially because of COVID we've gotten really good at this, but especially being able to...umm... over the camera, dirty talking, eye contact, being able to

tell you what exactly to do. It can really be fun to do role play. I do a lot of role-play on virtual sessions and there's also really fun creative ways for me behind the camera to tell you what to do. So whether that's like, jerk-off instructions or me telling you exactly how I want you to touch yourself... there's bit of an exhibitionist component where I'm telling you that *I want you to do a strip tease for me* or *I want you fuck yourself like this for me and eat your own cum*. Or like, if I see on camera that you're not doing everything exactly how I want then we can do punishments, like *go to your kitchen, grab a wooden spoon*. There's a lot of ways we can get creative around the home. Oh my god, I used to do... during the pandemic, I had this client who was in the U.K. and he had wedgie fetishes so I would tell him... I would instruct him to give himself wedgies... all of these extreme wedgies. So I would have him hang off of his college room door from his underwear. And you know, if you really like humiliation, it's just me laughing and so... there's a lot of fun things we can do virtually. I would say that bondage or things that are more technical are harder or less safe. There are things like breath play that I wouldn't necessarily be doing virtually because I can't mitigate the risk since I'm not there in person. But there are other things like spanking or CBT or things I can do virtually that are fun. Some creative scene ideas... there's a lot of hypo-virtual sessions or hypno-play. There's also a lot of role plays, jerk off instructions, body worship, that you can do virtually... feet worship. I mean it's not as good as the real thing... Like scent play, is not as good virtually but you can still worship my armpit from afar. (Laughs) But I would say, especially if you're into auditory sexting or if you're a really visual person, then hypno-play would be good for you.

CK: Ok cool, thank you. I think I'm going to have Z put the next two questions in the chat and we'll kind of address them both a little bit because I think there's both some connection. I think this is an important topic about trauma and safe words, things like that. I'll read the two questions and you can kind of address any and all of it. Someone said: *Being very traumatized as a child, it's very scary for the first visit screening. How to trust that a worker won't blackmail, given they have official ID copies and application pictures. It's very scary and this is the reason why I have not been able to heal via paid intimacy. Not even sex, just intimacy.*

And the other is on safety: *Can you share a time when someone used a safe word and how do you foster a safe space for that possibility, especially when trauma is at play?*

MS: Absolutely. For the first one, that's a very common concern that a lot of people have. When screening, oftentimes providers have you send a picture of your ID or LinkedIn profile, and so it can be very vulnerable to provide this information for your provider. But I will say that... and I feel very passionately about this... because this is very emotionally loaded for me. We ask for screening for OUR safety. For the sex workers safety. So I am not doing this just because I want to blackmail you. I am doing this because I need to make sure that you're not police. People are doing it so that they can make sure you're not ICE. People are doing this so that you're not their stalker. People have different reasons to make sure that the person they're talking to is the person they say they are AND that the person that they say they are is not

going to unalive me. Because of SESTA FOSTA, because of things being illegal or the internet being so censored, sex workers have less and less resources to protect themselves. We don't have blacklists like we used to. With the internet and catfishing, there's a lot of ways that abusers can find us to hurt us. And so we don't care that you're a CEO of a company, we literally don't give a fuck. When I have clients that are like, *i'm so important!* And this is not to say the person asking this question is that, but what generally happens with that is very entitled, privileged, White, cis men, are like, *I'm so important. I shouldn't have to screen or tell you who I really am because I've been in this scene for 20 years and I've been hiring dommes for 20 years.* Or they're like, *my job is so important, I don't want you to know my real identity.* And to that, I want to say... We don't care... We just want to make sure we're safe and to me it comes down to respect. I am asking you for this because I am putting myself in such intense and vulnerable risk to see a complete stranger from online. This is the bare minimum of what I'm asking of you. Everyone has their own reasons, but if you so deeply feel like you can't accommodate your screening for a provider, every provider has different screening policies. I have very strict screening policies because I have been assaulted. Other people don't have as intense screening policies so maybe you want to hire them. But also I would urge you to interrogate yourself about why you feel like you can't. And some people can't, and that's genuinely fine but I would say again, that it's always worth emailing somebody. What I would do in this situation... Let's say there's a provider that I really want to see and I really don't want to follow through with their screening. I would email them, very respectfully and offer upfront: *can I pay you to do an alternative screening where instead of me sending you a picture of me and my ID, can we have a face-to-face video call? Can I pay you to meet up for coffee, in a public location.* So you want to offer payment upfront because you want to be as respectful as possible. And then if they say No. Respect that and ask somebody else. Certain things like safety should not be negotiated in my opinion. A lot of dom/mes, you don't even have to send your ID, if you have 2 references. So if you see 2 other dom/mes who you've already passed their screenings and they see you, you can ask those dom/mes if it's OK to list them as references. And then you can list those 2 providers as a reference for someone like me, who has more intense screenings.

The second question was about safe words! I love safe words. My clients use safe words all the time and I urge them to because safe words are not just read as we need to stop. Safe words to me are an ongoing, constant conversation. I am constantly checking in and I want my clients to be constantly communicating with me and so everybody does it differently. But for me, I only ever and always play with safe words. I use the traffic light system, green, yellow, red. Green is, they're all good. Yellow is most things like, *I need water, my knees are hurting, can we go slower? Maybe this dildo is too big.* Yellow is all of those things. Red is full stop and then we transition into after-care. Sometimes I also have blue as a safe word— when somebody has something specifically medical... like if they have their inhaler with them and they say blue, I'll know that I need to hand them their inhaler. So I'm constantly having my

clients express their safe words, verbally and non verbally and I'm encouraging them to. There's lots of sexy ways for dommes to know how to ask, like I'll go up to somebody and be like, *if you want it harder, you're going to have to beg*. And then if they start begging, I'll know that they want it harder. If they don't start begging then I'll know to not go harder and check in to ask if this is too hard. So there's lots of ways that I'm constantly checking in with people in both verbal safe words and non verbal.

CK: I'm glad you brought that up too. A previous conversation and certainly, future conversation that I will be having more is that verbal safe words are not always accessible for everyone, so there's gotta be different ways to sort of have that. We don't have time to get into all of those options and how to be creative about that but there are ways, right?

MS: Yeah, always ways. In terms of sharing a story of a time where somebody has safe-worded... I had a client safe-word and they were like, *yellow*. And when any time somebody says yellow, I ask, *what do you need? What's going on?* And this happened recently, they expressed that they were really scared. And I said, *ok great, let's talk about it*. And we just took a little 5 min break for them to cry and feel that fear and for me to hold them through it. And then next thing you know, we were back on. I always thank my submissive when they safe-word because for me as a dominant, to trust my clients, I have to know that they can safe-word. And I will egg my clients on to safe-word. I will do little games where I get them to safe-word, because bottoming is hard. Submitting is hard. Being able to communicate your desires and limits, and to speak up against that power grain is extremely difficult and something that I have so much respect for, for my clients because bottoming and submitting is so hard and so vulnerable, and it's so easy to dissociate or it's so easy to want to impress their dom/me and to want to just take what they give but, no, no, no. I'm not your girlfriend, I don't care. I am a provider and you're paying me for this time. This is your time. I'm doing this because this is a collaborative scene. I don't do that, especially when we're new together. Maybe after we've been seeing each other for like 2 years? But that's when I can really read somebody's non-verbals and know what they're doing.

CK: Yeah, that was great. Thank you so much. So the next thing is about COVID safety actually. Let's get to that one. Have you worked with a lot of people who have not had touch or partner-sex since COVID started? On top of and in general because of ableism or isolation etc. In general, how do you and other workers navigate COVID risk?

MS: During the pandemic and because of the house that I was in, I was on very strict COVID protocols. I wasn't doing any in person work except... There was a certain point in the pandemic where I was only doing mask-on, outdoors, CBT. (Laughs) Very distanced play during the pandemic. But it's impressing... People are lonely. We are lonely. And the pandemic really exacerbated that. Like a lot of disabled people feel that even more so. And I think that

sex-work as a profession has always been about providing intimacy, comfort, touch, need, for people who don't have access to that in their life. And COVID has definitely made that even more so. To answer that question, yes. I've seen plenty of clients who haven't had sex or haven't been intimate or touched because of the pandemic and lots of different reasons. Maybe they're in a marriage that has no sex in their marriage or intimacy. But I provide that for a lot of different people. Navigating COVID risks... when COVID was more intense, I was testing before all of my sessions and then having my clients also covid test in the first 15 minutes of the session. I was providing covid tests and having them take them. Now my protocol has lightened up, like I was wearing masks in my earlier sessions in 2021. And now, I get tested regularly and I mask in public, though not all the time anymore. My COVID protocols have changed a lot over the last 3 years and so, I no longer require my clients to test but I do require them to be vaccinated and I ask that in my application form. At this point, I get tested regularly and if I suspect that I'm sick, I will communicate that to my clients as soon as I'm aware. I've had plenty of clients who are like, *i'm sick, it might be covid. Let's reschedule* and I'm happy to do that and transfer that deposit to another date because of course I want to prioritize everybody's safety over everything else.

CK: I know for a lot of us, we haven't relaxed our precautions and things are quite bad right now and getting worse. And again, everyone's going to have their own precautions, so if someone has different covid needs, maybe that's something to include and inform about access needs. If someone were to ask about masking and ask about your testing practices, that's something that you'd be open to, right?

MS: Definitely, yeah. And if someone were too-- like I have lots of covid tests and I test myself often but if somebody wanted to, I could bring 2 covid tests and we could both take one at the beginning with masks on. I'd be more than happy to adjust, even two weeks leading to meeting up. If somebody were to be like, *can we have a shared covid agreement for the two weeks leading up, in terms of testing, timing and masking*. I would be very happy to oblige.

CK: Yeah, makes sense. Thank you. Oh we're sort of at time, we've been chatting for 90 minutes. I was wondering if there's anything else that you want to share. We have one other question which is sort of related but not too related. So we can ask that or we could wrap up at this point. It's up to you.

MS: Well I guess CK, do you have any more questions for me? Like has anything come up for you personally?

CK: Thank you, I think that I added up a few little follow ups to everything you've shared. I think, no not initially. (Laughs) And it's been such a lovely, helpful, useful, and honest conversation. And I'm so grateful for that and grateful to be able to share this with folx. I think

you offered so much and you know, if anything, I look forward to following up with you to create... maybe like I was saying before, something about words and protocols and acronyms... Something that would help folx feel more comfortable and able to pursue this avenue and have the logistics be a little bit clearer. You've been really clear and this has been so very helpful. So that's my long answer to, No, I don't actually have any more questions right now.

MS: I think I have some closing remarks or final things that I want to say about the topic.

CK: Perfect, then yeah!

MS: Awesome. Sex workers have been around forever, and we do such beautiful work. And I love sex workers so much. And hiring a sex worker is a luxury, like having the excess funds to hire a sex worker. It can be very expensive. And I want to say that there are sex workers that offer things of all different prices and offer all sorts of discounts for different things. Supporting your local sex worker can look a lot of different ways... An OnlyFans can be like \$15 a month. The more that we can do to talk openly about hiring and supporting sex workers, the more we can do to help de-stigmatize this industry for people and to demystify the process for people. Invest in your pleasure, it's such a beautiful, beautiful thing. I've hired sex workers, nothing brings me more joy than going to the strip club and throwing money on beautiful dancers. I've hired different professionals and it's very scary and also very exciting... if everybody could, I would love for everybody, at least once, to have that experience of being able to feel safe with a provider and really invest and indulge in your pleasure. We live in such a sexually repressed society, and I think the beautiful thing about hiring a sex worker is that as long as your desires match the providers' offerings, really so much is possible. And we can learn so much more about ourselves in these instances and it's worth every penny. Sex workers are always worth every single penny. I have clients who save up all year, who save up a little bit of money every month and come and see me. I think that it's just such a beautiful thing, and I think queers, especially queer, disabled people, marginalized people of different races... oftentimes we are not what comes up first when we think of a client. We think of a John and we tend to think like, oh this service is a privilege or for somebody who doesn't look like me. And I wanna say that, that has definitely changed in the last 10 years. You deserve to have pleasurable and sexual experiences and sex workers are magic. We really do so many things. There's pro dom/mes and pro subs, and escorts. There's sensual massage providers. There's online providers. There's literally a niche in something for everyone and so, yeah have fun! (Laughs)

CK: Yeah, thank you. Perfect closing... Thank you so much for that and for this whole conversation. So grateful and look forward to much more magic. Thanks for your time and your heart. And thanks everybody for being here today and for all of you in the future who are joining us. <3

