

Sparr

An Introduction
and Interaction Manual

CONTENT WARNING
Controversial views
Adult topics



Who is this document for?

Anyone **interested in being involved with me**. Friend, housemate, romantic partner, colleague, collaborator, etc. I want our potential interactions to be more mutually fulfilling. I want to warn you off and save us from annoyance or heartache or worse.

Myself, **Sparr** (AKA Clarence William Risher IV). Writing things down helps me collect, organize, and clarify my thoughts. Sharing that writing saves time, avoids forgotten details, and reduces the frequency of some sorts of miscommunication. Revisiting and revising writings including this one helps me understand how I have changed over time.

Anyone who **wants to write something like this**. I hope my candor here inspires you, and that the topics I cover might help you think of what you might want to say to the people who read a similar document about yourself.

Why does this document exist?

The primary inspirations and motivations for this document are related to current or potential **romantic and intimate relationships**. Friends and partners and strangers on the internet have shown me many examples over the years of documents with titles like "care and feeding instructions", "dating manual", "personal user manual", "how to interact with me", "relationship resume", "sex resume", "sex menu", etc. I have enjoyed learning about others from those documents, and want others to learn about me from this one.

I am an unusual person with somewhat to extremely **unusual habits and behaviors**, especially in how I interact with other people. Many of the ways in which I approach life and other people are potentially off-putting, more so with someone I am close to. I have found that most of those situations can be avoided or defused if they are thoroughly discussed, especially in advance. This document is intended to preemptively shorten those discussions or avoid those situations entirely by planting the necessary seeds of information in advance.

I have many **niche hobbies**. Enumerating them here in a more informative context might help us find common ground more effectively than a much shorter list in a message would.

I have some **niche bedroom preferences and proclivities**, and I have a pretty good idea of what I like and don't like. Describing those things here might avoid disappointment for one or both of us. It also might spark connection on things that one or both of us might avoid bringing up in conversation out of fear of awkwardness or worse.

Overall, I expect that this document will increase the relative frequency with which my close interactions with other people are fulfilling for both of us. I expect it to decrease the frequency of short interactions leading to some deal breaker being exposed and one or both of us walking away unhappy.

About Me

Ethics / Morals

I am **radically honest**, because I observe that the negative consequences of even trivial lies or deception are often grossly out of proportion with how small someone thinks the lie is. There is a reason that "a tiny lie ruined a dozen lives" is such a common trope in fiction, and why an appropriate subtitle for a lot of dramatic fiction would be "A case study in the perils of habitually lying to your loved ones when you think it's for the best". Over many years I am slowly lowering this bar, such as becoming more willing to commit irrelevant lies of omission to avoid pointless delays when dealing with customer service and the DMV. I'm still far from lying to people just to make them feel better, and don't ever expect to reach the point of committing fraud. I don't hold other people to the same standard, but I do view very unkindly any deception with malicious or fraudulent intent or predictable and observable harmful effects.

I practice **ethical nonmonogamy**, particularly of a [polyamorous](#) variety that might often exhibit some features of hierarchy. I am fortunate to not experience jealousy of my partners and metamours with any significant frequency or intensity. I have been doing this for over 15 years, with multiple relationships of 4-8 years along the way. I have lived with partners for years at a time, and had long distance relationships just as long. I am in my sixth year of marriage as I edit this, about half of which has been long distance, and through most of which we have each had at least one other partner. At any given time there may be one or more partners with whom I

prioritize spending time over some or all others (“primary”), or they may all be on equally spontaneous footing, or something in between. I welcome and encourage my partners to follow their own needs and desires. **Cheating is breaking the rules everyone involved has agreed to play by**, a definition that applies just as well to relationships as to board games.

It is possible to determine whether or not an act between two people involves one of them violating the other's consent while it is happening or sooner, rather than not being able to know until afterward. Slapping a stranger on the ass is not made retroactively consensual by them turning around afterward to tell you they liked it, even if it eventually leads to a happy marriage. Having sex that someone enthusiastically asked for and/or initiated is not a violation of their consent on your part even if they later reveal that they regret it or had ulterior motives in asking. The most important factors are what people say and do, see and hear, and can and do communicate through all of the channels of communication available to them. Questions should be asked and their answers honored. Context and non-verbal signals should be considered. I hold myself to a somewhat higher standard for reasons of my own mental and physical well-being, as well as past social trauma, but the factors described above are the most important parts of where I draw this line for myself and others.

I attempt to **maximize the agency of others** by giving or leaving them as many options as possible. I avoid denying them options they or I might consider good. To a lesser degree I avoid giving them so many options that they would experience choice paralysis. This means that while your house is burning down, if your dog is still inside then I'll tell you, even if I think you'll make a risky decision based on that information, as long as I think you'll give it any conscious thought at all. More often, it means that I won't stop a conversation just because I think it's in your best interest for us to stop; I will keep engaging you with new information or reasoning as long as you are actively participating in continuing the conversation. My goal is to let you be the judge of what is in your own best interest and when you would like to stop. This goal can be strongly overridden if I think others are being harmed by your decisions in ways beyond your rights.

After considering the previous point, I hold myself and others **responsible for actions taken for which the probable outcome(s) could be reliably predicted, and not for things outside of their control**. This means that I would punish all the players in a game of homicidal russian roulette equally, not just the one unlucky player who kills their neighbor. It means that I won't penalize someone just for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. I also expect this standard to be applied to my own actions, and predict significant friction with anyone who operates under an ethical/moral framework without this component.

I try not to differentiate between action and inaction if the outcome is the same and the costs are negligible. **The correct answer to the [trolley problem](#), whatever it might be, doesn't change just because the switch setup gets flipped.** It does, however, depend on how certain the outcomes are; more uncertainty will quickly bias me toward inaction. It also depends on the cost of action, which are trivialized in the thought experiment but could be very high in real world scenarios.

When you are responsible for having hurt someone else, you are also responsible for at least the least harmful path they can take to correct that hurt, especially when the total harm is less than you had set in motion. When you take a \$100 book and light it on fire, you've signed yourself up for at least \$100 worth of damages. If putting it out and saving the book requires the owner to use up someone else's \$20 fire extinguisher, you owe \$20 to the owner of the fire extinguisher. If the fire extinguisher costs more than the book, you owe at least the value of the book, probably more, but that gets more complex. If you spread lies about someone, you are responsible for the drama and other harms caused by the least disruptive way they can spread the truth equally far.

Every time you allow injustice or wrongdoing to go unremarked and unopposed, you become at least slightly complicit in all future occurrences of the same. For this and other reasons, I fight bad parking tickets even when it takes more time than the ticket is worth. I stand up to community organizers who are behaving unjustly, even when it means I will no longer be welcome at their parties. I vote even when my vote "won't count" in an election or referendum with a predictable outcome.

I place paramount value on the **universalizability** of rules, arguments, and decision making frameworks. If you are trying to convince me of something, you need to use arguments that would lead to the same conclusions even if someone else made them, or you made them at a different time. If you say "Hire Sam instead of Pat because Sam is my sibling", I will recognize that Pat's family will use the same argument to try to convince me to hire Pat instead of Sam, and this will generally result in me not only discarding your argument as faulty but also reducing the weight I put on your future arguments.

Personality

I am **very direct** with people and problems. Most people find me **abrasive** because I do not shy away from topics they consider socially risky or taboo to discuss or confront, and because I don't end conversations just because the other person is becoming emotional. I approach life in pursuit of **rational** decision making, and am always seeking more information and more ways to consider the same information in an attempt to reach conclusions more aligned with reality. I am **shy** around new people if I am not aware of some common interest or other factor that I can use to break the ice, and I have trouble starting conversations in loud environments.

I am very **open** and **transparent**. I regularly talk to many friends, in person and online, about topics of my life that most people don't usually publicize, such as ethical beliefs, political beliefs, taboo social interactions, sexual experiences, etc. I also write at length about these subjects, in journal or article format, including this document. Unless you tell me to keep something secret or there's a strong social norm for it to be secret by default (e.g. pregnancy, sexual partners, felonies), I'm not going to avoid talking about it when it's germane to a conversation or a problem I'm trying to solve. This doesn't mean I'll volunteer your identity, or even that I'll share enough information for someone else to figure out who you are, but I have observed a pattern of people outing themselves then blaming me for it. If you want me to actively lie for you when I am

being questioned about the subject, that requires a much more specific sort of conversation before you tell me the secret; **by default I will not lie for you.**

I prioritize the physical and emotional safety of many people over the emotions of one or a few people, which means that if you're doing something that will hurt a lot of people, I'm going to try to stop you even if my doing so makes you upset. I often prioritize actual physical safety over feelings or perception of safety, like a roller coaster designer. I also usually prioritize productivity and goal achievement over others' feelings, especially when they have intentionally committed to participate in the project or goal in question. This means that if I have to choose between failing to finish a project or making you upset in kicking you off the project, I will upset you in order to finish the project. This applies to romantic partners *slightly* less than to strangers. **I take commitment and responsibility seriously**, akin to what American society tries to teach to children in popular culture and media, rather than the much less reliable way most adults in our culture view those things.

Anger

When driven to **anger**, I often resort to insisting others fulfil the responsibilities they are ignoring, and occasionally to **shouting**. This is more likely if I perceive it to be my **duty to remain engaged** and all other avenues to resolve the problem have been exhausted, or the people capable of pursuing those other avenues decline to do so. This often continues until the underlying problem is resolved or is no longer relevant. I would ask you to attempt to interpret this response as a sign of extreme emotional distress on my part; when I do this you could probably defuse the situation by responding in the same way you would respond to someone crying instead. This response is one **I am working on**, through introspection, discussion, and intermittent therapy, both in terms of becoming angry less often as well as how I act when it happens. In the meantime, here are **known triggers, which should be avoided**:

- Accusing me of doing things I did not do or saying things I did not say, including through hyperbole, especially if those things would harm others if true. Ditto accusing others.
- Insisting on remaining involved while impairing a project for which I am responsible, especially when tipping the scales from likely success to likely failure.
- Arguing in favor of systemic oppression, especially when that effect of your argument has been pointed out to you.

Mental

I am of significantly **above average intelligence** and suspect that I register on a few axes of the **autism spectrum** despite being undiagnosed. I don't experience particularly strong emotions in general, and have little to no sense of conflict fatigue. I am relatively good with using math and logic to solve problems and reach conclusions, and put some effort into **rational** decision making. My memory ranges from weak to strong depending on the scenario and topic. My gender identity is effectively exclusively **masculine**, but not to most common extremes.

Physical

I am 42 years old and cis-gender **male**. I am white, of mixed European ancestry, with hazel eyes and black/grey hair. I am **5'9" tall** (174cm) and weigh **170-190 pounds** (77-86kg). I am of average endowment, both muscularly and sexually. I am moderately nearsighted and wear **glasses**. I keep my hair relatively short more often than not and alternate between clean shaven and letting my **beard** and mustache grow out for cold weather, convenience, and/or a partner's enjoyment. I have relatively hairy arms and legs. My calves are my most toned muscle group because I often walk on the balls of my feet. I have trouble cooling down and am usually very warm. I have had surgical repair on both shoulders and broken one ankle. My usual level of physical activity ranges from sedentary to slightly above the American average depending on the people and projects I am surrounding myself with at the time.

COVID-19

I have had COVID-19 at least twice. I have received three vaccine doses. I expect people frequently sharing my indoor air to exhibit 50th percentile safe behavior (for cold/flu-like symptoms in general), and I hold myself to a standard of approximately 90th percentile. I was wary of people who cough or sneeze without covering their mouth a decade ago when I only had to worry about cold or flu, and that has intensified more recently.

“What do you do?”

Professional

My most marketable skills are a combination of **computer programming and computer system administration**. This usually means I'm employed writing software that manages real or virtual computers, doing the sorts of things system administrators do manually. While I also do these things for fun occasionally, I generally avoid doing them for others for free.

My past employment and skilled volunteer efforts span a wider range, most of which skills I still have or could quickly recover. I have climbed to do communications network electronics repair, from telephone poles to 2000ft radio antenna towers. I have supported all sorts of computer hardware and software and other electronic devices in offices and factories and elsewhere. I've done hotel accounting and auditing. I have organized workshops full of tools and libraries of books and board games. I have played poker for a living, more against tourists than other professionals. I have played, and later programmed bots to play, online video games. I have parked cars and carried luggage at a casino. I have worked in fast food and hospitality. I still rely on the life lessons from many of these positions, to varying degrees.

More important than any specific role is that I need my recurring job duties to change with some frequency. If my job ever feels like Groundhog Day, or even groundhog month, something needs

to change. This most often presents as me doing some coding, then later some software architecture, then later some bug triage, etc. In much earlier jobs it meant doing some labor, some planning, some logistics, etc. It helps a lot if the role involves starting and finishing fundamentally different projects every few weeks to months. It also helps if I'm learning some new tools or technologies along the way that I can put to use in future projects. As long as there's **some variety and change over time**, I can be happy.

All of the above are relevant not just to my "day job", but also to any serious non-professional projects that I get involved with. If I'm going to spend a thousand hours working to build or design or create something, a lot of the same dynamics and preferences will be relevant, and I don't want to be doing the same thing on the last day as on the first.

Hobbies

Pretty much everything that I enjoy doing, I enjoy **doing with a partner**, or **teaching** to one or more people, or **organizing a group** of people to do together.

I like to **make and build things**, from electronics to tree houses to furniture to toys, especially things that many other people will enjoy or find some value in interacting with.

I play **board games and video games**, preferably strategic or puzzle-y but also occasionally a wide variety of other genres (social deception, dexterity, action, storytelling, etc).

I attend **festivals** of the sort where most people are in some way **self-sufficient** and many people have brought some sort of **interactive or performance artwork** for everyone to experience. Some of these are 50000+ person events that you've probably heard of, some are 50 or 500 person events that you probably have not.

I attempt to solve **escape rooms and scavenger/puzzle hunts** and other such things. I prefer high variety, complexity, non-linearity, and duration.

I host and help **organize events** of many sorts, some pertaining to my other hobbies, some just because I have the appropriate space or equipment or skills or knowledge to make them happen when they otherwise wouldn't.

I **organize co-living communities**, trying to bring together people with similar lifestyles, goals, and/or needs so that they can live together in a more efficient and social manner. This has included a warehouse full of people and their projects, friends sharing a house, a parking lot full of friends and strangers living in vans and buses, and an ex-hotel as a residential arts and events venue. Most recently I acquired a historic estate to attract a gaggle of creative individuals to collaborate on projects and organize events, but that project folded mostly due to a house fire.

I occasionally **teach origami and rope bondage** and engage in both as artistic endeavors, the latter more than the former on both counts in recent decades.

I **write software**, including from scratch as well as contributing to open source projects. I love knowing that thousands or millions or billions of people will enjoy or otherwise benefit in some small way from something I did.

I sometimes enjoy **short hikes or bike rides** with a destination in mind or sightseeing along the way. I don't often do either just for the journey.

I sometimes **write** at length, in case this document wasn't enough of a clue in that direction. I almost never write fiction. Sometimes I write about things I have seen or done, events I have attended, things I've built, etc. I also write about abstract topics like philosophy, interpersonal interactions, ethics, and morals.

I **argue** with passion. Maybe because it's what the other person wants us to be doing, maybe because it seems necessary to accomplish some small or greater good, maybe because it's teaching me something about the world or my values or how my mind works. I enjoy drilling down into the details of a disagreement to figure out its roots and seeds. If we [disagree on the definition of "is"](#), we aren't going to make much headway on more complicated topics, and I'd prefer to focus on the deepest disagreement we have rather than spin our wheels on the surface level subjects.

I often see large, unusual, and/or interesting things for sale at **auctions** or in secondhand sales, then buy them and do something surprising with them, usually for other people to interact with. e.g A defunct hot-air balloon that I bring to the park and inflate like a wind-sock so people can run around inside like it's a flowy fabric dome, or an articulated city transit bus to house an urban off-grid community or a temporary festival camp.

Relationships

I like labels as long as they are accurate and descriptive rather than prescriptive. A given relationship might fit completely into one or more of the categories below, or it might vary a bit, or it might be unique. I **don't adhere to the** [relationship escalator](#). While some of my relationships happen to follow it to some degree, everyone is welcome to choose their own adventure and pick or skip whichever steps they fancy. I am comfortable with almost any combination of the things I want to do with people, without many dependencies on other things that must come before or after.

I **mostly don't compete for attention**. There are a lot of reasons for this, including that I am **shy** and I **don't want to pressure people** into things that should be their choice. Once I've told you that I'm interested in some level of interaction with you, whether that's board games or sex or something in between, the ball is in your court. I'm not going to push my way into the six people surrounding you at a party just to make sure you know I'm still interested. I'm not going

to send you messages every day asking to do things if you aren't enthusiastically responding to at least some of them. This pattern is lessening over time as I slowly shift my goals toward my own happiness, but it is still evident in my life. Each time I pursue you and it comes to naught, I will wait significantly longer before trying again.

It is important to me that my partner in any relationship, from work to friend to lover, be able and/or willing to communicate about what they want and do not want, how they or I feel, and ways we might interact based on all of that. I am generally **not comfortable making blind guesses about what people want**, especially in scenarios where the negative consequences of guessing wrong could be extreme for them and/or for myself.

My romantic, sexual, and kinky preferences seem to be almost exclusively for women. So far that has only ever included people assigned female at birth, but that's not necessarily set in stone. This affects how I prioritize which not-intimate[-yet] friends I choose to spend time with, in ways that are entirely typical and normal to do, but terribly taboo to talk about, which is a distinction I see in a lot of my life choices.

Friends

I enjoy **planned activities and adventures with groups of friends** and am often in the mood for **spontaneous** goings on as well. All of my friends are almost always **welcome in my home**, although that may not always include my attention. I enjoy **traveling to visit** people, and vice versa.

All of my hobbies are suitable for a partner or a group. Working or playing with friends makes almost everything more fun, and most things more productive. Doubly so on the fun, but less on the productive, if I'm exposing someone to something new for the first time.

I like to stare at the ceiling and talk to people about whatever comes to mind, especially if our minds and/or lives are similar enough that we make some of the same connections and associations, and this can continue for hours.

I don't like suspecting that someone is only interacting with me because I have something they want. Maybe that's money or skill or access to people or things. I would rather know and make an educated decision than just suspect it and not know. This applies more so as we progress into more involved or committed(-seeming) interactions with each other.

Dating

My favorite dating dynamic is **spontaneous**. "What are you doing tonight?", "Let's play a game", etc. My schedule tends to be very **flexible** but occasionally **unpredictable** or dense when I am working on a time-consuming project for fun or at work.

My second favorite are **recurring scheduled activities**. “Wednesdays are dinner and a movie night”, “Second Mondays we go to the farmer’s market”, etc. These are **comfortable** because they add **structure** and develop habits.

Finally are one-off scheduled things, which are overall my least favorite but with exceptions made for things that can only be done once or at specific times. I don’t want to schedule a board game or bike ride a week or month in advance, but I’m happy to plan to attend a convention or an eclipse viewing next year.

I prefer that important communication happen in asynchronous long form textual media, such as email, blogs, forum threads, etc. Messages that we can take an hour or a week to read, digest, think through, and respond to with care are best, when there is enough time for them. Further, messages that can be read and replied to from multiple platforms / clients / etc are ideal; being stuck on a phone without a real keyboard or large screen makes everyone worse at communicating and I am no exception. A medium with convenient access to conversational history and past messages will often lead to much less miscommunication and misunderstanding. Realtime text chat (e.g. instant messaging, texting) is ok for quick things and conversations of little import, but for long involved discussions I find both sides usually say things they haven’t really thought through. Face to face is better for the additional nuance and signaling that can come through, and there are more triggers for future memory association, but isn’t always practical. Phone calls are the worst, I find them stressful and hard to remember in detail. If you want to know my favorite flavor of ice cream, message me. If you want to renegotiate our relationship, I would prefer at least part of the process to involve an email or shared commentable and editable document.

Once I have asked you to do something together a few times and you have ignored or declined each time, I am unlikely to ask again until you bring it up or significant time has passed. This applies even if it is something we have done in the past or regularly do. Regardless of how many times we’ve had dinner together, after you decline a few dinner invitations in a row I’m going to conclude that something has changed and that it would be dangerous to assume otherwise, unless and until you tell me otherwise, and it might be weeks to years before I test the waters again.

I have trouble interacting with partners who cannot communicate about their feelings, needs, or boundaries. I am willing to put in a lot of effort to figure out what style of communication works, but if there is no way for us to share information on this front then I usually choose to at least partially disengage in order to avoid undetectable landmines in our interactions. That does not mean that we cannot continue to interact on less dangerous grounds, just that we are unlikely to move past that roadblock.

CONTENT WARNING
Adult topics / TMI below

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Kink

I engage in kinky play with people for many different reasons and in different environments. A friendship or dating relationship is not a prerequisite. I often teach rope bondage, or demonstrate other kinky play activities at which I am skilled, in [semi-]public environments. I play with strangers and friends and partners at play-oriented events, ranging from private house parties to public play venues to kink conventions and festivals. I take kinky toys to non-kinky events and demonstrate them like carnival rides or side shows.

In most kinky and intimate activities I take a **dominant** position, deciding or guiding the direction and pace of the activity. I also enjoy the role of a **service top**, still taking most of the action but at the guidance or specific wishes of my partner (e.g. "I want XYZ experience", "do this specific thing", "keep doing that", etc) or their other partner(s) (e.g. "tie her up for me").

In general my kinky preferences slant toward being given **control** over my partner's body, actions, and/or sensations, triggering their involuntary reactions, or **exposing them to new sensations and experiences** that I hope they will find enjoyable.

I like **bondage**, for the physical interaction and control aspects, especially involving **rope** for reasons of aesthetics and skill.

I enjoy **tickling**. I love hearing my partners laugh, which I perceive as one of the most intense usually-non-sexual enjoyable involuntary responses. It is also occasionally psychologically and/or physiologically linked to arousal, and I have enjoyed creating that association a few times in the past. It has a high ratio of my effort to my partner's reaction and potential enjoyment, which means we can do it much longer than other forms of play that rely on my physical endurance.

I once participated in winning a **spanking** contest by helping a new friend celebrate their birthday, counted in weeks. Although I don't often enjoy most other impact play for any significant duration, this is the exception. As in most things, I tend to prefer to use my hands, although mild to moderate impact toys can make an appearance occasionally.

I play with **electricity**. This falls into three major categories. My favorite are low voltage current toys like a **TENS** or EMS device or various shock-your-hands games. Second are high voltage static electric toys like the **violet wand** and van de graaff generator, which I enjoy using for play ranging from sensation to pain to marking. Lastly there are single/short discharge toys such as tasers and prods, which are often painful and not really my cup of tea unless my partner prefers them.

I play with **vacuum bondage** devices, usually of my own design and construction. These are large flat or boxy frames covered in latex or plastic where some to most to all of a person is placed inside then all of the air removed, leading to the material conforming to the frame and their body. This is the most strict form of bondage I play with, effectively immobilizing every part

of the body as if they were tied down with strong rubber bands, and pairs well with some other types of play.

I enjoy **building furniture** and equipment and **making toys** of all the sorts that I play with, and trying out new ideas and designs. This is something with which I have light to moderate experience and am always looking for opportunities to practice. In the past I have most frequently made vacuum cubes, impact toys, electric toys, and bondage hardware.

I have a preference for **symmetry** in most things. Most obviously this is visual, and manifests when I am doing rope bondage, where I will default to symmetric arrangements unless I set out with the specific intent not to. However, this also applies to actions and sensations. For example, if I spank or bite or tickle your left side you can be somewhat confident that I'll get to the right side eventually.

I have enjoyed rare opportunities to combine computers and programming with sexy toys and kinky play. Remote controlled toys combined with sensors and automation, interaction over the internet, etc are very appealing to me. I am eager for more opportunities to dive into the possibilities around this.

In most forms of kinky play, I like some significant duration to a scene or interaction. While there are occasions and circumstances where a quickie is ideal, I tend to prefer to measure such things in hours rather than minutes. That time could include negotiation, foreplay and teasing, a progression of intensity levels of whatever sort of play we are engaging in, some peak(s), some cooldown period, aftercare, cuddling, post-play discussion, etc.

There are many other forms of sensation play and toys that I enjoy using with my partners, but that I don't ever focus on enough to be worth an in-depth explanation. Things with fur or texture or spikes, things I hold or they wear, things that move or are moved, etc. This is a topic that I greatly enjoy discussing with current or potential partners, and I am always looking for completely new things to try.

Sex

In addition to any general negotiations and personal safety discussions that might have been part of kinky play, sex also means talking about STDs. For the well known STDs I am usually **tested every 6-12 months**, and often **get tested together** as a date with a new partner. I test negative for everything I'm aware I can be tested for, except for **HSV-1** which is the virus most well known as "cold sores" and which most adults in America have. I have been vaccinated against nine strains of HPV, and have had one partner who tested positive. I haven't had intercourse without a condom in years, but do usually engage in **unprotected oral sex** in either direction with 1-3 people per year.

Due to some years of hypocritical and hyperbolic community influence, I have some hangups about the possibility that my partner could be faking their nonverbal enthusiasm for whatever we

are doing together. It is very helpful to me for a partner to be able to **articulate what they want**, even if only in advance.

As with kink, I mostly take a **dominant** or **service top** role in sexual activity, but with much more **flexibility** on occasion.

Also as with kink, I sometimes engage in sexual play in places less private than the bedroom, including **sex parties** and retreats and at festivals.

As **foreplay** I enjoy **cuddling**, almost anything in the **kink** section above, tantalizing **messages** or **photos**, and giving affectionate touch of various sorts.

I am turned on by seeing people I find attractive naked, or doing or having done to them sexy and/or kinky things. I am turned on by hearing people have sex when I am already in a sexual environment. Both of these include when one of those people is my partner, especially if both/all of them are.

I have had very **fulfilling** hours and days where either myself or my partner **focused exclusively on the other's pleasure**. Sometimes this might be the entirety of my interaction with someone, a one night stand or a convention date or something of that nature, which is great for a short term connection. However, for long term sexual relations I have a preference for **equitability** in at least some way regarding both partners' **pleasure**. This idea spans various related concepts, such as how much time or effort we spend pursuing each others' pleasure, our relative frequency of orgasms, etc. I like to **know in advance how my partner feels** about this, with the goal being to avoid crossing a line where one person feels like their needs are being ignored.

In both directions I find play to be the most directly sexually fulfilling when it involves **mostly hands and some oral**, in either or both directions. If we're pressed for time and both hope to achieve **orgasm**, this is the path of least resistance for me and with most of my past partners. Other options are still enjoyable and welcome.

I enjoy playing with **sex toys** that can give my partner sensations that I cannot (temporarily or ever), or that can do things to them that don't require my attention or hands so that I can also do something else with them at the same time. This includes vibrators and dildos, fucking machines, suction toys, and more esoteric things that also fit into the kink section above.

When it comes to **intercourse**, I generally find it slightly more fulfilling to be "on top". First and foremost for the reasons described in the kink section earlier, but also because I tend to have more physical stamina than my partners and I also enjoy the feeling of accomplishment from seeing the results of my actions. That is not to say that I don't also enjoy things the other way around, as there is a completely different sort of excitement when seeing the levels of enthusiasm that can be evident in some other positions.

I have mild to moderate **erectile dysfunction** or arousal non-concordance. It is uncommon that I can spontaneously be ready for intercourse. I address this problem with prescription drugs, and can perform much more effectively with 3-12 hours advance notice that sex is a possibility. Fortunately this doesn't stop us from doing everything else described above, which can still be a remarkably fulfilling few hours.

In sex as in kink, I **lean toward longer interactions**. From an isolated groping to a quick fingering or oral or intercourse, there are lots of things that are fun to do that don't take long. However, given my druthers there will be foreplay, teasing and buildup, a few rounds of more intense activity, some orgasms at various points, cuddling, possibly a shower together before or after, and sleeping together afterward.

I don't enjoy receiving pain, and am not generally aroused by touching semi-erogenous zones like my ears or neck. I do not enjoy anal play in either direction. I do not play with blood or anything usually dealt with in a toilet. I am turned off by seeing explicit male-male sexual activity up close, although I am working on reducing the intensity of this response.

<p style="text-align: center;">CONTENT WARNING Adult topics / TMI above</p>

Failure modes

In the past my serious, long term, and/or romantic relationships have ended as follows, in roughly chronological order:

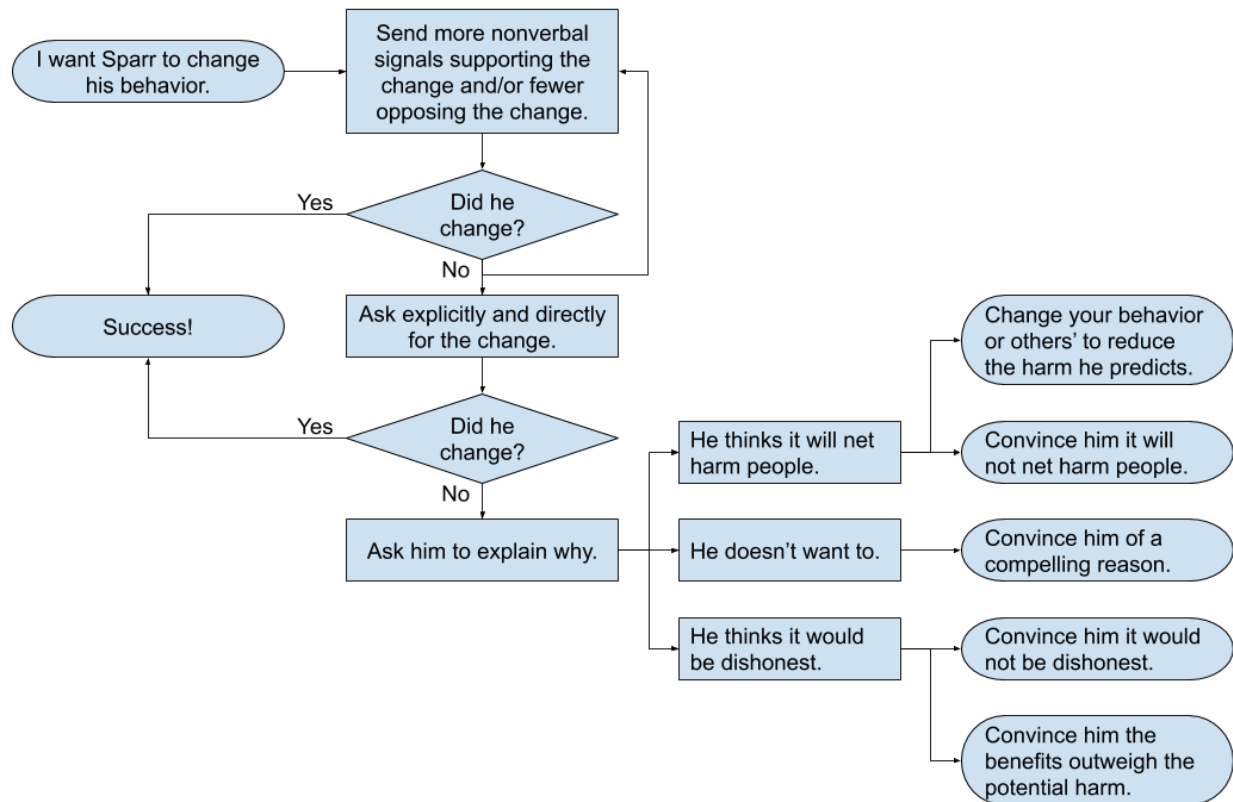
- I took responsibility for disclosing one partner's HSV-1 status to another before a threesome and failed to do so, leading to a falling out between us. This was a mistake I plan to never repeat.
- We grew apart after years of being long distance and they became less tolerant of my views and conversational styles when experienced mostly through the lens of Facebook's algorithms.
- I upset her by refusing to drop the subject of her repeatedly doing things without thinking about her actions or their consequences that caused me serious concern and anguish, and she would not take responsibility for changing that pattern.
- I insisted on trying to convince her to behave more responsibly with her money (or mine) before offering her further loans to support for bad personal credit habits.
- Some others simply tapered off as distance or time caused us to drift apart, and although we are still friends there is no longer an assumption of emotional or physical connection between us when our paths cross again in the future.

TL;DR

If you skipped down to this section because this document is too verbose or public or difficult for you, there's a decent chance that I am, too. Ditto if the previous sentence seemed insulting. However, just in case, here are the highlights:

I'm weird and sometimes difficult in specific ways that are easier to deal with or avoid if you know about them in advance. I have put a lot of thought into the way I interact with the world, and am always willing to discuss that in general or regarding specific scenarios. I don't experience conflict/argument fatigue. I have a bunch of weird hobbies that I enjoy doing alone or with friends or partners. I am smart and probably slightly autistic. I am a man attracted to women. I am polyamorous and so are most of my partners. I am married and have had other overlapping 4+ year relationships, including of the primary and comet varieties. I don't believe in the relationship escalator. I prefer asynchronous textual communication, and phone calls are the worst. I enjoy planning or spontaneity in different contexts. I am kinky in a bunch of specific ways, and have a pretty good idea of what I like to do with people in the bedroom. I intermittently write a lot. If you scroll through this document and read just the bolded words and phrases, you'll get more details surrounded by optional explanations.

Behavior Change Flowchart



Inspiration

- [RTFM: The User Manual by Cunning Minx \(Polyamory Weekly\)](#)
 - Podcast: <https://podbay.fm/p/polyamory-weekly/e/1212340680/>
- [My Instruction Manual 2019 by Skyla- \(Fetlife\)](#)
- "How To Take Care of a [name]" by a partner of mine
- [Sex Menu \(Pervocracy\)](#)
- [Personal User Manuals group \(Facebook\)](#)

Additional Resources

- <https://loveuncommon.com/2017/04/13/user-manuals-an-introduction/>