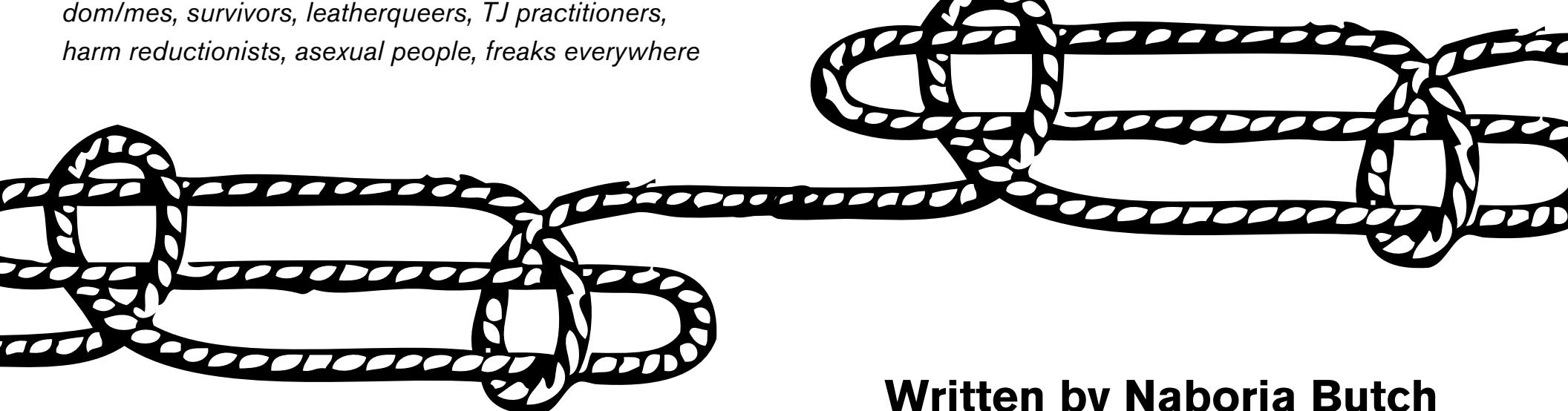


Author's Note:

My dream for this zine is to prevent harm and promote pleasure by being a tool for communication and consent. I've collected many of these questions through years of reading about kink, trauma, leather culture, non-monogamy, and transformative justice. As a stone butch Dominant who has caused harm (and been harmed), these are questions I use in my personal negotiations with partners I engage in kink and BDSM with. I hope you'll take what resonates and leave the rest. This list can be used by anyone but is written for folks who already have some experience in kink.

Dedicated to: stone butches/femmes, sex workers, pro dom/mes, survivors, leatherqueers, TJ practitioners, harm reductionists, asexual people, freaks everywhere



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Let's Negotiate!

74 questions for talking about consent, sex, kink, and intimacy

Written by Naboria Butch

Draft 2 | Turtle Island | 2025

Self-Reflection:

- Am I ready to start a conversation about sex/kink/intimacy?
- What am I seeking from sex/kink/intimacy?
 - *Ex: connection, pleasure, community, exploration, fulfillment, masochism, fun....*
- How do I want to be treated by others during and outside of sex/kink/intimacy?
- What information feels important to share with others as I move forward with sex/kink/intimacy?
- Am I secure enough in my boundaries and past trauma to consent and engage in sex/kink/intimacy with other people?

About You:

- Are there roles or identities you align yourself with in sex/kink/intimacy?
 - *Ex: switch, leatherdyke, masochist, pillow princess...*
- What acts, toys, and tools do you have experience with?
- What kind of comments or compliments (if any) feel affirming or pleasurable to you?
- What words do you use to describe your body/body parts?

Consent:

- How do our experience levels in sex/kink/intimacy compare?
- Are there power dynamics or power imbalances between us that need to be unpacked?

Resources + Media Recs

- BOOK: "Learning Good Consent: on healthy relationships and survivor support" by Cindy Crabb
- ZINE: "A Field Guide to the Queer Desire Party" zine by some friends in the Midwest (2022)
- BOOK: "Beyond Survival: strategies and stories from the transformative justice movement" edited by Ejeris Dixon and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha
- MOVIE: "BloodSisters: Leather, Dykes, and Sadomasochism" (1995) directed by Michelle Handelman
- RESOURCE: Consent Wizardry by Mia Schacter | consentwizardry.com | @consent.wizardry |
- ZINE: "Yes! No. Maybe? A negotiation tool" zine by Ripley Von Claws (2024)
- BOOK: "Power Circuits: polyamory in a power dynamic" by Raven Kaldera
- RESOURCE: The Network / La Red, survivor-led organization to end partner abuse in LGBTQ, kink, and polyamorous communities | www.tnlr.org |
 - 24 HOUR HOTLINE: 1-800-832-1901
 - Providing free confidential emotional support, information, referrals, safety planning, and crisis intervention for survivors of abuse + allies
- ZINE: Go Fuck Yourself: D.I.Y. sex toys and gender-bending devices by Annie Danger (2006)

Fantasies and Desires:

- How do you want to feel during sex/intimacy/kink?
 - *Ex: adored, used, worshipped, degraded...*
- Do you have fantasies you're interested in acting out with me?
- Do you have goals or aspirations you're moving towards in sex/kink/intimacy that I can be apart of?
- What kinds of sex/kink/intimacy have you enjoyed in the past? Things you didn't enjoy?

Logistics:

- What implements, tools, toys do we have? Do they need to be cleaned?
- Do we have the protection we need?
- Do you have a preferred length of time for a sex/kink/intimacy?
- What spaces do we have access to for sex/intimacy/kink? Are they private or public? "Safe?" Soundproof?
- What needs do we have for the space?
 - *Ex: scent-free detergent, a towel, padded surface, body supports, lights on*
- What kind of check-ins or debriefs do we want to have after sex/kink/intimacy?
- How can we make time and space for aftercare (and wound care if needed)?
- In the case of a medical or other emergency, what do we do? Who do we call?

Consent:

- How have you practiced consent in the past?
 - *Ex: safewords, signals, check-ins, negotiation, debriefs...*
- Do you "check-in" during sex/kink/intimacy? How?
- How do you communicate your consent to others? How do you revoke consent?
- Where (if at all) do you want to be touched? What kinds of touch?
- What are your needs before, during, and after sex/kink/intimacy?
 - *Ex: affirmations, check-ins, cuddling, lights on, water breaks, a smoke, electrolytes, music...*
- What are your limits or boundaries?
 - Do you divide limits into hard/soft or red/yellow?
- Do you combine drug use and sex/kink/intimacy?
- How do you feel about lasting physical marks after sex/kink/intimacy?
 - What kind? Where? For how long?
- If/when a consent violation occurs in our relationship are we prepared to be accountable? What would our expectations and needs be afterwards?
 - *Ex: apology, changed behavior, distance, self-reflection, transformative justice process...*
- How do you structure your relationships? Are there expectations of monogamy, non-monogamy, etc. in our relationship?
- What level of privacy / discretion are you expecting from me regarding our sex/kink/intimacy? What may I tell my friends, partners, etc?

Risk Assessment:

- What kind(s) of protection do you use?
 - *Ex: STIs, blood-borne pathogens, pregnancy*
- What precautions do you take against COVID-19?
- Are you engaging in sex/kink/intimacy with other people?
- When was the last time you were tested for STIs? What was the panel? What were the results? Your other partners?
- Do you have physical or emotional triggers in sex/kink/intimacy?
- Is there relevant intimacy and/or trauma history you want to share with me?
- What are the signs that a fight or flight, fawn response, is happening?
- Are you disabled and/or chronically ill?
- Are there any parts of your body that are regularly sensitive, painful, or prone to flare ups?
- How do you respond to pain? Verbally? Physically?
- How do you respond to pleasure? Verbally? Physically?
- Are there red flags that I should watch out for during intimacy/kink?

Power Dynamics:

- Are we interested in negotiating a one-time power exchange or ongoing power dynamic?
- Do we want to use honorifics during intimacy?
 - *Ex: dom/me, mommy, sir, baby, thing*

Power Dynamics:

- What spaces would this dynamic or honorifics enter into? Sex/intimacy/kink? Vanilla life? Public life?
- What triggers dom/sub space for you? How do you want to feel in that space?
- Do you experience dom/sub drop? What kinds of aftercare are helpful?
- Are we interested in service-based power exchange?
- Are we interested in establishing punishments or consequences for bad behavior within our dynamic?
- How would you describe your dominance/ submission/role?
 - *Ex: bratty, obedient, strict, smiley, threatening*
- Are we interested in power struggle or switches during a power exchange?

Fantasies and Desires:

- Are we interested in pursuing sex/kink/intimacy acts that are “maybes” or “yellows”?
- How important are orgasm, penetration, etc. to you in sex/intimacy/kink?
- Are you interested in clothed, partially clothed, fully nude sex/intimacy/kink?
- Do you like to talk during sex/kink/intimacy?
 - *Ex: dirty talk, praise, threats, check-ins*