

The Dictionary
of Scene-Friendly Terms

Compiled by
Jack Rinella

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Published by
Rinella Editorial Services
4205 North Avers Avenue
Chicago, IL 60618 USA

www.RinellaEditorial.com

Cover design by Michael Tallgrass

Library of Congress Control Number: 2008932398
ISBN 978-0-940267-13-8
ISBN 0-940267-13-6

Printed in the United States of America

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Acknowledgments

We wish to thank the authors who have graciously given of their time and have allowed us to publish excerpts from their books in the compilation of this dictionary:

Deborah Anapol, whose entries are taken from **Polyamory, The New Love Without Limits**, published by Intinet Resource Center.

Race Bannon, whose entries are taken from **Learning the Ropes**, published by Daedalus Publishing Company.

Molly Devon and Philip Miller whose entries are taken from **Screw the Roses, Send Me the Thorns: The Romance and Sexual Sorcery of Sodomasochism**, published by Mystic Rose Books.

Peter Fiske who was kind to write the appendix of the names of whipping devices.

Jay Wiseman, whose entries are taken from **SM 101** published by Greenery Press.

About This Book

For too long I have felt it necessary that we have some way to introduce newcomers to the vocabulary of our subculture. I finally decided that if there was to be a dictionary of scene-friendly terms it was up to me to create it.

That noted, it's very obvious that only by the inclusion of a number of definitions from a variety of sources could I arrive at definitions that, while perhaps not comprehensive in any way, reflected the diversity of our lifestyle.

In doing so I had to make a few judgement calls. First I would not include words that could be found in any usual English dictionary unless we had created our own alternative meaning for them. I also omitted words not specifically related to SM culture. For example, I did not include any of the many names for piercings.

Most entries tagged [Rinella] are taken from my book **Partners in Power**, published by Greenery Press, though some were by necessity written on the spot for this book.

In no way do I consider this first effort comprehensive or complete. I only offer it to our community as a first step to improving our ability to communicate with one another and to ease the transition from the "vanilla" world to ours.

If I succeed in any way, it is through the help of the authors

who have granted me permission to use their definitions. Any failures are mine alone.

This first edition is only an initial effort. I invite you to send me additions and corrections. Your help in improving the second edition is gratefully solicited. Simply email me at mrjackr@leathermail.com.

Jack Rinella
Chicago, IL
June, 2008.

Abbreviations

SM personal ads often contain abbreviations for descriptions or activities the person likes. Some of these are listed below:

24/7 24 hours a day seven days a week, every day of the year. [Rinella]

B/D or **BD** Bondage and Discipline. [Bannon]

BDSM Bondage, Discipline, domination, submission, sadism, and masochism. In short, all that we do. [Rinella]

CBT or **C&BT** Cock and ball torture. [Bannon]

CHDW Clueless, Horny (or Het), Dominant Wannabe. (pronounced chudwa). [Devon & Miller]

D/s Dominant/submissive. [Rinella]

FF Fist fucking. [Bannon]

L/L or **LL** Leather/Levi. [Bannon]

OTK Over the knee. [Devon & Miller]

S/M or **SM** Sadomasochism. [Bannon]

SAM Smart-assed masochist. [Devon & Miller]

TS Transsexual. [Rinella]

TT Tit torture (nipple play). [Bannon]

TV Tranvestite or tranvestism. [Bannon]

VA Verbal abuse. [Bannon]

WIITWD What it is that we do. [Rinella]

WS Water sports. [Bannon]

Definitions

Abrasion The use of skin surface sensations produced by a rubbing motion for erotic effect. [Bannon]

Age play Role-playing the persona of someone substantially younger (or sometimes older) than your actual age. [Wiseman]

Alpha dilemma The problem faced by someone who is normally dominant (particularly in a vanilla kind of way) regarding where and how they can safely express their submissive side. Can be particularly difficult for women. [Wiseman]

Animal games A form of role-playing in which one person pretends to be some kind of animal- often a dog or horse. [Wiseman]

Applicant One applying for a position not yet achieved, either as master or slave. [Rinella]

Apprentice One learning from another in order to be in a relationship with someone else. [Rinella]

Ass play Erotic playing with the anal area. [Bannon]

Assertive fantasies A “code phrase” sometimes found in personal ads to indicate dominant interests. [Wiseman]

Best/worst/most memorable A structured method of reviewing a session to determine its most prominent features. Often combined with “on a scale of one to ten,

how good, bad, or memorable was it?" [Wiseman]

Blue A safeword often used to indicate "Please, no more of that particular activity." [Wiseman]

Body modification The general term for practices that reshape or ornament the body for ritual, erotic, decorative, or fetish purposes. The practices commonly include tattooing, piercing, branding, cutting, and corseting. [Miller & Devon]

Body worship The worship, praise, and adoration of a master or of the master's body by his or her slave. This is often a euphemism for oral (as compared to vocal) sexual pleasuring of the dominant [Rinella]

Body-fluid monogamy (also "body-fluid bonding)
A safer-sex practice in which an HIV-negative, non-monogamous couple agrees to practice safer sex when playing with other partners. [Wiseman]

Boi The feminine and/or African American version of boy. [Rinella]

Bondage A popular fetish that uses various forms of restraint, especially rope, leather and chains. [Rinella]; The restraining of the body in some way for erotic stimulation. [Bannon]; Physical materials applied to a submissive to restrain their ability to move and/or to otherwise restrict them. Also, the act of placing the submissive in such materials. [Wiseman]

Bondage belt A belt, usually leather with metal lings attached, to assist in performing bondage. [Miller & Devon]

Bondage cage Yes, a cage is a cage. These are big enough to hold the whole submissive. [Devon & Miller]

Bondage frame Any stationary device used to assist in performing bondage. [Miller & Devon]

Bondage harness A configuration of straps, usually leather or nylon designed to: 1) ornament the body, and 2) aid in bondage and suspension bondage. [Miller & Devon]

Bottom The one on the passive or receiving end of an activity; one who prefers to receive. [Rinella]; Someone who enjoys the submissive role in an S/M scene. However, those who play with more subtle power exchanges may consider Bottom to mean the passive partner in a scene. [Bannon]; A slang term for a submissive and/or masochist. Many people use the word “bottom” to mean specifically someone who enjoys being given various sensations, as opposed to a “submissive,” who enjoys being controlled. [Wiseman] An SM practitioner who submits to bondage, training, role play, corporal punishment, etc., but who is not necessarily emotionally committed to his/her dominant partner (top). [Miller & Devon]

Bottom's disease A habit of taking a submissive attitude toward others without justification or negotiation. Generally considered undesirable and a bit clueless. See

Top's Disease. [Wiseman]

Bottoming from the top Originally a derogatory term for a top who allows his bottom to run the scene, "bottoming from the top" has become a valid style of play. Most tops experience some scenes where they prefer to take at least some direction from their bottoms. Some even prefer this style of play and may call themselves submissive sadists. [Miller & Devon]

Bottomspace or subspace The psychological "head space" or attitude of being submissive. [Wiseman] A type of erotically altered consciousness (EAC) identified with feelings of falling into a state of submission. Generally, bottom or subspace may be characterized by, diminished ego awareness, less active cognitive behavior, surrendering of will, and/ or inability to verbalize. Frequently these functions are assumed by the dominant partner who becomes the submissive's center of focus. [Miller & Devon]

Boy A person who defines him or herself as such. It is a very self-defined role and may be dominant or submissive. [Rinella]; A submissive (often, but not always, male) who relates to their dominant in a child-to-parent mode. More common among gay men and lesbians. [Wiseman]

Boundaries Usually refers to limits (which see) negotiated prior to SM play. [Miller & Devon]

Branding Burning the skin, usually with heated metal, to produce scarification. Branding can be a part of a scene,

ritual, or body modification. The design often consists of several unconnected lines and curves, each requiring a separate strike with heated metal, bent to form its part of the design. The reason for the unconnected lines is to assure that elements of the design do not scar into a shapeless mass; human skin heals differently than the hides of livestock. [Miller & Devon]

Brat A submissive who enjoys rebelling in a childlike way against their dominant. Brats are fairly common in the spanking scene. [Wiseman] A bottom who enjoys struggling against control or challenging the top; Brattiness has a wide spectrum from the playful “uppity bottom” to the smart ass masochist. Some brats are “testing” their dominant, others have a desire to be “conquered and tamed,” while some simply do not wish to be controlled. [Miller & Devon]

Brain fade A state of confusion and/or inability to reason experienced by the submissive. This effect usually results from psychological domination, the mind fuck, or a deepening submissive state. [Miller & Devon]

Breast bondage Tying the female breasts with cord, string, rope, rubber bands, scarves, etc. as a part of SM or erotic play. May include nipple bondage or clamping. [Miller & Devon]

Breath Control This is erotic enjoyment derived from the controlling of access to air during breathing. The dangers here are evident you or your partner could suffocate. This is a very dangerous type of play and should not be

engaged in by anyone who has not been in the scene for many years. Most S/M players stay away from this type of play altogether. [Bannon] Control of breathing by the dominant through use of a gas mask or similar apparatus, by choking, or by covering the mouth and nose. [Miller & Devon]

Brown Shower The act of one person defecating on another in an erotic context. [Wiseman]

Burning Hand Syndrome An unintended burning sensation of the hands that sometimes results after play using menthol-containing creams without wearing protective gloves. [Wiseman]

Cane Traditional canes are flexible rattan or bamboo optionally having a leather wrapped handle. Modern canes may be plastic or fiber glass. [Devon & Miller]

Caning Using a relatively long, thin, flexible rod to whip someone. The rod is usually made of supple, varnished rattan, although some canes are made of man-made material, like fiberglass. Caning is often more damaging than a novice might expect. Novices should be careful. [Wiseman]

Captivity The enjoyment of simulated captivity. For example, someone might assume the role of prisoner during an S/M scene. [Bannon]

Catharsis Purgation of emotions and or stress through an SM scene may or may not be intentional. [Devon & Miller]

Catheterization Technique of inserting medical catheters into the urethra for erotic effect. [Bannon]

Checking in Asking the submissive how they are doing, feeling, etc. during a scene. Specific questions get more useful answers. An affirmative response to "Are you OK?" may merely indicate that death is not impending, but there still may be problems, particularly with a macho sub. "Would you enjoy heavier (or lighter) sensations?" is a better question. In SM play "is this good for you?" is asked during a scene rather than the typical "was it good for you?" afterwards. Checking in should not replace a dominant's own observation and focus, it is another part of the safety net. [Devon & Miller]

Clueless, Horny (or Het), Dominant Wannabe. Term of derision used on alt.sex.bondage Internet newsgroup. [Devon & Miller]

Cinch loop A bondage technique in which coils of rope, or other bondage material, are wound between wrists after they have already been encircled by other bondage material, Cinch loops can closely regulate tightness. [Wiseman]

Cinching Wearing of a cincher, a garment similar to, but less encompassing than a corset. A bondage technique, for example, to tighten coils of rope holding the wrists together by wrapping the coils between the wrists by one or more "cinch loops" of rope. [Devon & Miller]

Clean Has no sexually transmitted diseases. [Wiseman]; May also apply to being drug-free. [Rinella]