

love, Violet

the non-monog issue!



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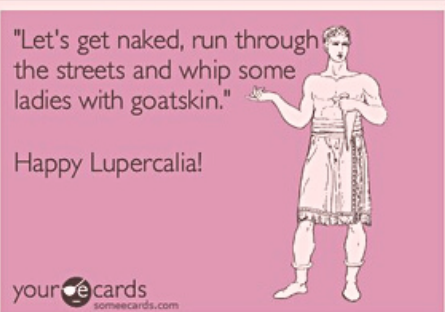
February

01-28 - Black History Month
 07 - Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
 07 - Work Naked Day
 13 - Gal-entine's Day
 14 - Valentine's Day
 17 - Random Acts of Kindness Day
 21-28 - Eating Disorders Awareness Week

Listen to *February's Playlist*

Sounds kind of kinky ...

Though some historians believe that Valentine's Day commemorates the death of St. Valentine on February 14, others believe the



holiday actually has its origins in a Pagan fertility festival called "Lupercalia," which was celebrated on February 15 in ancient Rome. Dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, and Roman founders Romulus and Remus, the day was celebrated by sacrificing animals and smacking women with animal hides, a practice that was believed to encourage fertility.

THIS MONTH ON THE BLOG

The Other L Word: Loyalty in Polyamory
 Is loyalty possible in polyamory?

Product Review Reprise
 Revisiting all my fave sensual products, just in time for Valentine's Day.

IN THIS ISSUE

#JanuaryJumpstart Wrap Up

February #WBSW Preview

Why I Will Never Label My Non-Monogomy "Ethical"

Three Things to Consider Before Opening Up Your Relationship

Readers and Writers



Write Big Sexy Words

9 libidinous words to heat up your writing this February

This month's words are made for filth and they will fit into your erotica and/or blog posts with ease. There's no mincing about with these evocative terms. As always there are 3 of each: adjectives, verbs and nouns and you're encouraged to use them in whatever tense you want or need to. Use one, or as many as you want. The full definitions and sexy example phrases will be posted on the blog on the 5th.

learn more

A January to Remember:

#JanuaryJumpstart Wrap Up

Well, I did it again: I ran January Jumpstart for the third year, and for the third year I did not write for even half of the days. C'est la vie.

Many thanks to the folks who hung in there and nailed the challenge of writing every day or close to it, you're the real rockstars!

Read their awesome posts here:

Molly Moore	Lustitude
Lascivious Lucy	E.L. Byrne
Floss Does Life	How Very Queer
Master's Pleasing Bitch	Vanilla-Free Sex
Lillith Avir	Asrai Devin
Brigit Delaney	Charlton Tod

Click here to visit the whole gallery of links

HEY YOU!

Thanks!

Thanks so much for being here and reading this newsletter, subscribing to the blog, and supporting my work. I appreciate every click and share and comment more than you know.

xo Violet



WHY I WILL NEVER LABEL MY NONMONOGAMY "ETHICAL"

Even as a child I remember finding books and movies frustrating because there was so often a needless love triangle. It always upset me that someone had to make an impossible choice, and someone had to lose. The answer seemed so obvious: just love them both.

I can only presume that how I feel about monogamy is more or less how monogamists feel about non-monogamy. It's one of those things that is for *someone else*. It's not necessarily *wrong* or *bad*, but it's not something you'd consider doing. Since monogamy is the default, people often forget that it's a choice. It's so deeply ingrained and expected that we will find *one true love* and be together forever that most people don't even consider that there could be another viable relationship model. And yet there is. There are many. To the shock and horror of many relationship traditionalists, non-monog people are thriving all around them!

Monogamy has never made sense to me, it's never 'clicked'. For a long time I was convinced there was something very wrong with me, that I was deviant and broken. Was I was doomed to a life of emptiness and promiscuity? Would I end up a dusty spinster? Or worse yet, would I have to succumb to the nuclear family and white picket fence? It was a rude awakening when my young, romantic heart began to understand that how we love is a political and moral topic.

The term Ethical Non Monogamy (ENM) is getting a lot of airplay these days. The word 'ethical' implies a relationship philosophy that prioritises transparency and honesty, ensuring that all parties are fully consenting and aware of the relationships they are analogous to. It's a squeaky clean, less offensive, seemingly all-

inclusive term that makes monogamists slightly less uncomfortable. Lots of non-monogamous people have adopted the label and feel empowered and confident in it, which is great, but that is not my personal experience. I don't use ENM to describe myself or my relationships.

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All my (non monogamous) relationships pass the ENM 'test', they all qualify as 'ethical' but I refuse to call them that. Perhaps I'd consider it if monogamous relationships were also labelled with qualifiers to defend their validity. But with divorce rates eclipsing the 50% mark and an estimated 40% of relationships being affected by adultery, maybe non monogamy is not the threat to the family unit that hardcore monogs want to believe it is. By adding 'ethical' I feel like I am pre-apologizing for how I live and how I love. This is who I am and how I have lived for 25 years. Additionally, it's both defensive and redundant because there is no such thing as Unethical Non Monogamy. That's just cheating.

For some, the term ENM provides clarity. For others, it is common language to navigate the dating world with, but for me, it just doesn't feel right. And if I have learned anything in my quarter century of plural love, it's that relationships are far from simple and you should never apologize for who, or how, you love.

the Back Page

Three Things to Consider Before Opening Up Your Relationship

Exploring non-monogamy as a couple can be really exciting, sometimes even beneficial, but it's not a decision to be made lightly.

1) Why do we want this?

Until both of you can articulate and accept the reason(s) that both of you have for wanting to open the relationship, you're likely not ready. Without purpose and a clear understanding of both people's motivations and expectations, you increase the opportunity for conflict, misunderstanding and distrust. You must also be able to trust each other to continue with complete honesty even if feelings change, for better or worse.

2) Are we prepared for the worst case scenario?

Non monogamy is not easy. It requires a different communication skill set than monogamy and because it's not as accepted or as popular, there are very few cultural cues for how to do it. Not all relationships survive an exploration into non monogamy and that is a risk that you need to weigh before beginning your journey. Talking about non monogamy is very different from living it.

3) What structure works for both of us?

Whatever you do, don't just 'wing it'. There will be plenty of learning as you go, so start with a plan. Discuss how you want the relationship to look, what kind of information you wish to know, how you will support each other, etc. Compromise on both sides will likely be required and coercion and manipulation are never okay. You both need to be comfortable, ready, and entirely willing.

Don't forget!

The success of any relationship lives and dies by the quality of its communication. Talk, but don't forget to listen! How you navigate your entrance into non monogamy is totally personal and only the two of you will know what feels right. Keep an open mind, practice acceptance and compassion for your partner and their point of view, and find ways to remind each other of the strength of your bond.



Do you have kink or non-monogamy topic suggestions for me?

[click here to send me a message](#)

February's Flashcard

Expand your sex positive vocabulary with a new term every month.

Non Monogamy vs Polyamory

(Ethical) non-monogamy is an umbrella term, and polyamory is one version of it. Quite literally, polyamory means "multiple loves", whereas non-monogamy is not limited to romantic relationships.

Next Month...

A new toy review from Terrible Toyshop



Terrible Toyshop

When Metamours Move In: Tips for Non Monog Cohabitation

Sex Blogger Spotlight is back

and more!