

STUPEFIED EXCERPT (2017)

At one school I have witnessed teenagers explore sexuality on their own terms.

It was an alternative school.

Openly gay, straight, trans and bisexual students.

This was 2002. They taught me a lot.

I was teaching English. A student chose Anais Nin for her independent study.

Cool, I'm alternative.

The day of her presentation she hands out a package to the class.

She has changed her topic without telling me: S&M 101.

She has just handed out the contract that a dominant and submissive would use before sex play.

A Negotiation Long Form?

You know when a song starts playing in your head?

"I'm so fired, so, so, so fired." (X2)

Topics include:

Submissive limits; safely gear? Bondage; mummification?

What the fuck is that?

Erotic humiliation?

"I'm so fired, so, so fired." (X2)

The student and I lock eyes.

Cause we both know I have three options.

Number one, freak out, therefore ensuring one of the contracts gets smuggled out,
and in the hands of a younger sibling...

Two, calmly try and shut proceedings down saying it is inappropriate,
whereby a debate will occur, debate will heighten interest and ensure "genital clamps" gets
brought up at the dinner table for uptight parents to call school board.

And lastly, sometimes the only way out is through.

"If you do not feel you can handle this, you are free to take a spare."

Of course, no one leaves.

"Your eight-minute presentation, begins, NOW."

I'm so fired, so, so, so fired. (X5, each time quieter & more reflective)

My fears vanish.

The presentation goes triple time.

We are all stupefied.

By the end we were all asking questions, including me!

"So, a safe word should be something unrelated to the activities,
something like, Shelly Duvall?"

It's amazing when you treat teens with respect. Give them credit.

No issues, no fallout.

I applauded them for their maturity.

I collected every contract.