



Alice Lovers Magazine

Issue #4

**Grace and
Graham Ovenden**

The destruction of art

7 aims of girl love

Values we stand for

Losing Lovers

A story of young friends

Protecting Positivity

What assuming harm does

Self-Acceptance

One Girl Lover's struggle



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Understanding Minor Attracted Persons

Terms to know

Pedophile or Pædophile:

A person who has a predominant attraction to prepubescent children. The term is often incorrectly used interchangeably with the term “Child Molester,” though they are two different things. Because of the stigma associated with this word, it is generally seen as a pejorative term, and its use is only appropriate when discussing the specific clinical definition or quoting someone who has used the word.

Hebephile: A person who has a predominant attraction to pubescent or adolescent children. This term is mostly unused in society, as Hebephiles are often wrongly grouped in with Pedophiles.

Ephebophile: A person who has a predominant attraction to older teens, who still fall below the age of consent in a jurisdiction. This term is mostly unused in society, as attraction to older teens is more accepted than Hebephilia or Pedophilia.

Nepiophile: A person who has a predominant attraction

to babies, from newborn through toddler age. This term is mostly unused in society, as Nepiophiles are often grouped in with Pedophiles. Some MAPs use the term Infantophilia as a synonym, while other MAPs might describe Infantophilia as a predominant attraction towards newborns and infants.

Teliophile: A person who has a predominant attraction to adults. This has long been considered the norm by society, so the term has only come into use recently as homosexuality has become more understood.

Minor Attracted Person (MAP): A person who is attracted to individuals under the age of consent in the local jurisdiction. A Minor Attracted Person can be a Pedophile, Hebephile, Ephebophile, and/or a Nepiophile. All MAPs are physically attracted to minors, but not all MAPs have an accompanying romantic attraction. This term is considered more appropriate than the use of Pedophile.

Girl-Lover: A Minor Attracted

Person who is attracted to females both physically and romantically. This term is considered more appropriate than the use of Pedophile.

Boy-Lover: A Minor Attracted Person who is attracted to males both physically and romantically. This term is considered more appropriate than the use of Pedophile.

Child-Lover: A Minor Attracted Person who is attracted to children both physically and romantically. It's used when describing a person who is attracted to both genders, when describing groups of girl and boy lovers together, or when the subject's preference is unknown. This term is considered more appropriate than the use of pedophile.

Child Molester: A person who has used a child for their own sexual gratification with little regard for the child. Child molestation occurs by force, coercion, or manipulation. Most jurisdictions prosecute even if the child has



consented, but the child is below the legal age in which they can lawfully consent. Most convicted child molesters are not MAPs. Some child molesters are MAPs, but not all MAPs are child molesters. By definition, child molesters cannot be Girl, Boy, or Child-Lovers, because child molesters show little respect towards children, and see them as mere objects of sexual desire.

AoA: This stands for “Age of Attraction.” It is a standard used to determine what age or ages an individual is attracted to. e.g. “My AoA is 7-14.”

Non: While definitions can vary across MAP communities, often this word is used to describe a person who is neither fiercely determined to cause harm to MAPs, or sympathetic to them. If the topic of minor attraction is brought up, they will espouse negative opinions about it, but they often do not give the topic much thought in their daily lives.

Anti: While definitions can vary across MAP communities, often this word is used to describe a person who invests much of their time into causing social, or in rare cases, physical harm to MAPs due to a substantial hatred for them. They are currently the main influence (often only) of opinions on minor attraction. Antis are very quick to

promote the shunning and ostracization of any person expressing a positive, or even neutral view on MAPs. Their own views and convictions very often cannot be changed, while in time, the perspective of nons may.

Anti-Contact Pedophiles: This is a term recently perpetuated by the mainstream media with the advent of Virtuous Pedophiles. This means Minor Attracted Persons who believe they should avoid children at all costs.

Freedom-of-Choice Pedophiles: MAPs describing themselves as believing in ‘Freedom-of-choice’ argue minors can and should choose whether they wish to have sexual interactions with any adult and have or can attain the skills necessary to make these decisions properly. Although it is regularly confused with the term ‘pro-contact’, some MAPs reject the rather broad definition of it in favor of Freedom-of-choice.

Who are Minor Attracted Persons (MAP)?

Minor Attracted Persons can be anyone. You probably know some of them. In fact, a 1998 study by Byers, S.E., Purdon, C., & Clark, D.A. states that 19% of men and 7% of women self report having thoughts of sexual acts with minors.

It’s believed these numbers are higher since most people are fearful to admit to these feelings. Most of these adults are also teliophiles and do not feel compelled to act on these attractions. Others are predominantly or exclusively attracted to minors, but still refrain from acting on these attractions.

Why are people attracted to minors?

A variety of theories exist as to the cause of adult attraction to children, including childhood head injuries and childhood sexual abuse, but such theories are based on studies of convicted abusers. Research has shown that many child abusers are not pedophiles (such people are described as “situational offenders”), making existing theories largely inapplicable to true minor-attracted persons. Some MAPs feel that since they’ve always been attracted to children, the cause of the attraction is genetic; others feel that it is environmental, and still others feel that it is a little of both. At this time however, theories as to the cause of true minor attraction are only speculative, and no single theory is completely agreed upon.



What do MAPs find attractive about minors?

In a recent survey, members of VoA provided a variety of both psychological and physical features of children that they find attractive. Psychological features include children's sense of wonder and curiosity, their innocence and naivety, and the way they love unconditionally and refrain from judging others. Physical features include their petite stature, smooth skin, subtle curves, and natural beauty.

Are Minor Attracted Persons dangerous?

News headlines and popular culture have clouded the true nature of Minor Attracted People. Because of this, it is natural that you may be concerned that your loved one is dangerous, but there is actually no scientific study that says any sexual orientation comes with a greater risk for violent tendencies or a lack of self-control. There are dangerous people as part of every human demographic, but simply being a MAP does not make a person more dangerous than a teliophile. In fact, a number of studies have shown that most convicted child molesters do not have a primary attraction to minors, and are classified as opportunistic offenders.

Is there a cure for an attraction to minors?

No. An attraction to minors is an orientation, much like heterosexuality, and homosexuality. There have been experiments in the past to "cure" homosexuality. These experiments failed and only caused resentment from homosexuals. The same theory can be applied to every sort of orientation imaginable.

How do I treat a loved one who just came out?

Treat them just as you treated them before, with respect and allow them to explain themselves. Avoid jumping to conclusions. Your loved one hasn't changed. He or she is still the same person. If your loved one has come out to you, that means he or she trusts you, and that trust should be reciprocated. When addressing their orientation, try to use value-neutral terms such as the ones in this brochure.

Should I call the police or authorities?

No. It wouldn't do any good. In most jurisdictions, a status (e.g. MAP, alcoholic, drug addict) is not illegal. Only acting upon that status can be made illegal (e.g. acting upon an attraction to a minor, driving while intoxicated, possessing illegal

drugs). Calling the police or authorities will cause unneeded embarrassment for you and your loved ones.

What can I do to support my loved one?

Be open-minded. Challenge your preconceived opinions and judgments. Listen to what he or she has to say. If you don't understand, ask questions. Don't invalidate their attraction as just a phase. Be sure to keep their attraction confidential. It's a big deal to out yourself to someone you trust, and a serious breach of that trust to be outed by someone else.

Should I be more watchful of my loved one around children?

This is up to you. Keep in mind that if your loved one wanted to molest a child, they probably wouldn't tell you about their attraction. By admitting to their attraction, they are less likely to offend, simply because they are willfully putting themselves under the accountability of others. Also, constantly watching them around children could make the MAP feel distrusted and cause



issues with your relationship. Sometimes simple activities with children, like cuddling and tickling will seem more dangerous than they are. This is related to the negative messages and fear society has indoctrinated many of us with. If your loved one had never told you, and you didn't suspect, it would seem like innocent fun.

Will my significant other who is a Minor Attracted Person, leave me due to their attraction?

Since a relationship with a minor is generally frowned-upon, it would be hard for them to pursue that relationship. If your significant other is with you, obviously he or she feels some sort of connection with you, and will most likely remain in a relationship with you. Remember that not all MAPs are exclusively attracted to minors, and your significant other may still be very attracted to you.

Do Minor Attracted Persons wish to hurt minors?

No. MAPs generally feel love toward the minors they are attracted to. They only wish to have a loving relationship or friendship with them. Most MAPs know the risks of having a sexual relationship

with a minor, and thus refrain from doing so. Many MAPs become protective of the minors they love and have built a relationship with.

In closing.

This educational pamphlet is designed to help you understand a loved one who has come out to you as a Minor Attracted Person. It is to dispel myths and provide insight into what your loved ones are going through, and how you can both cope together.

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THE AIMS OF GIRL-CHILD LOVE:

A Focused Manifesto for Love, Guidance & Appreciation

by truerrealitylover

Overview

In 2005, a minor-attracted person named 'Crake' wrote an essay entitled *The Child-Love Manifesto* and posted it on the now-defunct website Newgon.³ In the preamble, he lists eleven aims for child lovers to put into practice.

Preamble

 *To seek the advancement of the children's declaration of autonomy, that they may learn and experience through their own initiative.*

 *To seek the necessity for appreciation of child lovers and the end to the prejudice and discrimination of their kind by the progressively homogenous crowd.*

 *To carry out forthcoming, responsive, and deep relationships with children who appreciate or need affectionate attention.*

 *To uphold and maintain consenting and mutual relationships with children for the causes of liberation of the youth mind, and fostering the youth mind for revolution against all that seek to harm them be them society, legislatures, molesters, corporations, rapists, as well as parents.*

 *To educate, not assimilate, and cultivate appreciation for the youth perspective.*

 *To uphold and maintain the youth voice and mind on the highest.*

 *To protect and nurture the growth of the child.*

 *To insist our governing body to lower the age of consent laws and allow the youth the complete freedom of expression of self.*

 *To encourage society to see the child as a whole.*

 *To assist in the proper and healthy development of youth, and the free expression thereof in harmony with the realm and personal experience of the youth.*

 *To love the whole child.*³

Crake then continued into a more elaborate essay to explain and defend his opinions and ideals in support of the Preamble³

In another manifesto that pertains to child love, Lindsay Ashford published in 2007 an essay entitled *Amaros Manifesto*. His essay was presented in a more academic and professional manner than Crake's as he addressed a plethora of societal ills, predilections, and dictates.

The term *amaros* is an acronym which stands for Attraction between Minors and Adults that is Romantic or Sexual. The plural form *amarsi* was added to refer to a group of minor-attracted persons (MAPs) or multiple adults.

The *Amaros Manifesto* immediately jumps into the ongoing conflict of addressing social and cultural misconceptions that need to be corrected in order to establish

harmony and achieve acceptance of social and even sexual relations between children and adults.

*Amarsi suffer more discrimination than most other minority groups in our society. The reasons for this discrimination are legion. Our society is schizophrenic about sexuality. On the one hand, it glorifies and objectifies youth and sexuality in the media. On the other hand, it harbors intense anti-sexual morals.*²

His work is a serious effort to guide and inspire societies to adopt changes, even through legal means, to accept the true definition of pedophilia: the love of children.

Ashford also published a guide in 2004 entitled *Living with Pedophilia: A Practical Guide or A Childlover's Guide to Sanity*. He presents a simple yet excellent guide for MAPs, which describes such goals as finding a group of like-minded individuals, having a shoulder to lean on in times of depression and helplessness, and seeking to justify oneself as a MAP with the capacity both to build positive social relationships and to assist with political action.

Pedophilia is a gift, though unfortunately, it is one that very few people understand. As childlovers, we have much love to give but often few ways to give it. Once we learn to accept and respect ourselves, we can also find ways to share

this love constructively with the rest of the world. We only need to remember that we are not alone and that we need not and must not allow ourselves to be isolated. If we work together, we can help each other grow stronger in our faith in ourselves, in our confidence in each other and in our conviction that we are right and that we will prevail. [sic]₁

In my manifesto, “*The Aims of Girl-Child Love: A Focused Manifesto for Love, Guidance & Appreciation*”, I would like to focus on the girl-child for Alice Lover’s Magazine by offering a list of seven Aims for minor attracted persons to put into almost everyday practice. By focusing on the girl-child, I hope to call the reader’s attention to see the trees rather than just the forest, so to speak.

I present these Aims so as to inspire MAPs to discover their own standards as they strive to interact with and appreciate the young girls of the world. It is my hope that these Aims will one day be accepted as self-evident truths which will help to define the rights of the girl-child. It is also my hope that MAPs will achieve these aims on a personal level as friends and mentors of young girls.

Lastly, it is my intent to put into practice the Aims of this work through our ongoing efforts with the development and evolution of Alice Lovers Magazine, and to continue to inform our readers of our love and respect for the girl-child.



To guide and foster the evolving assertion of a girl-child’s character and identity.

This Aim presents an avenue for the girl-child to learn throughout her journey of life alongside peers and adults who try to answer her questions, demonstrate how to do things, and encourage success through lessons learned even in failure.

Those of us who are now, or may eventually become, parents can certainly appreciate the importance of children’s safety, both mental and physical. No parent desires their child to learn through mentally or physically harmful experiences.

A compassionate mentor and friend could play a vital role in a young girl’s passage through childhood by helping her to learn safely through real-life experiences, so that she may become a more loving and productive woman in her culture and society.

So with concern for the overall welfare of young girls, we, as girl lovers and mentors, should assist them as they evolve and grow in their world of wonder and enlightenment. What they see with their own eyes is more important for the development of their worldview than what we tell them about it.

In 1946, Dr. Spock famously began his baby care book with these reassuring words: “Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do.” The mantra of today’s experts—“Trust us. There is so much you don’t know”—seems designed to drive us mad. To calm down, remember that the best child-rearing advice boils down to the old basics. Listen to your kids. Love them. Keep them out of oncoming traffic.₈



To demonstrate that adult-child attraction is a normal part of the spectrum of human sexuality.

In order to carry out this Aim, MAPs should assist in various ways to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against girl-child lovers, and demonstrate to the public that MAPs have a benevolent and productive presence in society.

Unfortunately, the present social, legal, and sexual state of affairs will have to change radically for this attraction to be accepted. It is our hope that the term ‘pedophile’ will be used correctly and in a more positive manner, and that it will cease to be equated with those who cause harm to young girls.

In past civilizations, age of consent restrictions were never known to exist nor found within the various books of old of any religious or philosophical nature. From this we can conclude that sexuality within certain historic cultures was not a serious matter if practiced and experienced without force or manipulation, regardless of age.

The fact remains that children are capable of making numerous decisions, and there is no reason why they ought to be disallowed from making decisions as far as sex goes. And beyond that fact lies the truth that Pedophilia is not the equivalent of rape—that children and adults are capable, and definitely desirous in some times, of sexual contact with each other. The plea for the right to sex as a child is the same as any plea for liberty: it is based on the desire to do something that harms nobody.

(Modern Sexual Taboos and Their Morality, Punkerslut, 2002)

AIM #3



To remember always that a girl-child needs and appreciates attention, kindness, and love expressed through physical contact.

This often takes the form of a simple

touch or a warm embrace that reaffirms the sincere nature of a child lover's feelings.

*One can easily search the Internet to learn about the importance of physical contact, such as touching, hugging, and kissing, for people of all ages. Despite the large volume of research focusing on its benefit to infants, physical contact between people of all ages, from newborns to the elderly, is important for the mental and physical health of human beings.*⁹

The skin is the human body's largest organ and is home to sense receptors from the top of the head down to the toes. Physical contact is a viable and vital means to express friendship as well as the bond between parent and child. Patting someone on the back, giving them a hug, sharing a kiss, or holding hands while watching a sunset reveals the care, respect, and love felt by those sharing the contact.

Unfortunately this normal, common sense feature of humanity has been bastardized with laws and regulations that are called inappropriate touching. An adult can now even be arrested and jailed for hugging a non-family relation.⁴

There is strong evidence that a lack of affectionate touch causes depression, violence, memory deficits, and illness. The question is how something as simple as touch can affect one's body so greatly. One possibility, referred to as Attachment Theory, has to do with the relationship between affectionate touch and parent-child bonding.⁴

AIM #4



To recognize the girl-child's sexuality and afford her the right to accept or reject intimate contact.

This Aim is based primarily on the friendship and mentoring provided by an older child or MAP, which may or may not include consensual affection of a physical or sexual nature. Any consensual physical contact should be carried out with care and respect for the girl-child.

In 2013, T. Rivas, presented reflections and recollections of adults on their childhood sexual experiences with adult partners through IPCE's (International Pedophile and Child Emancipation) online encyclopedia in a book entitled Positive Memories. The contributors to this work describe their experiences as both consensual and positive, demonstrating that not all sexual encounters between children and adults are harmful.

I, too, have had several positive memories of sexual experiences with older children and MAPs as a youngster. Those experiences were a delightful introduction to what I could do and receive in a consensual sexual encounter. My mentors, playmates, or partners were kind, instructive, and sometimes even

humorous about what we were doing with each other together in a living room, boathouse, or bedroom.

Children are human beings with their own thoughts, ideas, and even fantasies about sexuality. I remember that when I was 6 or 7 years old, I got an intense sexual thrill from disrobing to my undershorts and running wild through the woods behind my home.

Based on case examples noted in the IPCE publication *Positive Memories*, consensual sexual activity between adults and girl-children is well documented as a valid emotional and physical endeavor. As this has yet to be socially accepted, however, MAPs should refrain from engaging in such behavior for legal reasons.

When all of the arguments are considered, it seems highly probable that a sexual, or even just physical, relationship between an adult and a child, can be fulfilling, rewarding, and enjoyable by both partners.

The Intimacy of Children, Punkerslut, 2004



To be a guide and confidant in assisting and nurturing a girl-child's exploration of and entry into society.

The purpose of this Aim is to ensure that the girl-child is not indoctrinated or exploited for some aberrant agenda; to grant her the freedom to explore and experience everyday life as it comes to her.

This is also where the dilemma of public, private schooling, and church sponsored schooling, may come into view as well.

Many parents are now realizing that there is harm to children in present public and private schools, where indeed there is coercive instruction by a ruling society. Today, children are taught that this is that, and that no other venue is acceptable for the subject at hand. They learn through rote memorization and not through interactive experiences.

*Obligatory schooling inevitably polarizes a society; it also grades the nations of the world according to an international caste system.*⁷

*The escalation of the schools is as destructive as the escalation of weapons but less visibly so.*⁷

Neither learning nor justice is promoted by schooling because educators insist on packaging instruction with certification. Learning and the assignment of social roles are melted into schooling.⁷

This Aim is to also ensure that the girl-child befriended by a minor-attracted person has the opportunity to share her awakening and journey into life with her special friend.

But of course children needn't be taught how to learn; they just do. It is

as natural and obvious as breathing, as necessary to their spiritual, emotional, and intellectual beings as food is to their physical manifestations.⁵

Of two ways of looking at children now growing in fashion—seeing them as monsters of evil who must be beaten into submission, or as little two-legged walking computers whom we can program into geniuses, it is hard to know which is worse, and will do more harm.⁶



To appreciate a girl-child's ability to express herself creatively.

This Aim is for the MAP to recognize that with any subject, verbal or nonverbal, artistic media such as songs or poems, drawings, sculptures, paintings, and other abstract renderings, are tools for a girl-child to express her opinions, feelings, disposition, and character.

Children will often draw or make up stories to express their moods and views about what they are experiencing, be it a happy moment with family and friends or the emotional turmoil of mom and dad arguing all the time.

Many times I have seen a troubled child sit for hours alone with a few pieces of paper and a box of crayons.

The child's pictures may show the nature of their emotional conflict and pain, or they may depict a family, home, and happy times that they are dreaming of and praying for.

Seeing a girl-child's hopes, dreams, and pain expressed through crayon drawings on a piece of paper has many times inspired tears of happiness from me, or compelled me to pray for an end to their pain.

*Very young children seem to have what could be called an Instinct of Workmanship. We tend not to see it, because they are unskillful and their materials crude. But watch the loving care with which a little child smooths off a sand cake, or pats and shapes a mud pie. They want to make it as well as they can, not to please someone else but to satisfy themselves.*⁶

AIM
#7




To ensure the role of the girl-child lover is that of being a friend and mentor.

This Aim is for the MAP to focus on being a friend and mentor but never to attempt to replace or act as a parent to the girl-child. Such attempts could be opinions and criticisms unintentionally expressed by the minor-attracted friend to the girl-child. It is sometimes best to hold one's tongue and instead offer a shoulder to cry on or an ear

to listen. But always remember, to a girl-child, family may be first and the MAP second.

When a girl-child is asked whether everything is okay with their minor-attracted friend, for a time she may say to her schoolmates, and sometimes even to their parents, that she 'loves' her or him. By this she does not necessarily mean what a teenager or adult may experience as love for another person, but rather what she feels as a result of the time she shared with her minor-attracted friend.

We have an astounding world in which to live, laugh, cry, and scream out in pleasure; to run naked in the rain or along a beach listening for the ocean water to hiss and boil as the sun sets upon it.

These are the memorable moments for the girl-child to experience with minor-attracted friends and mentors.

*Gears, twigs, leaves, little children love the world. That is why they are so good at learning about it. For it is love, not tricks and techniques of thought, that lies at the heart of all true learning. Can we bring ourselves to let children learn and grow through that love?*⁵

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**I see your vast imaginative ways
characterized in each word you say
each game you play
every day**

**I love you
I learn from you
I yearn to walk beside you
I see a person not crumbled
by the world's dismay**

**Child
Young child
You so often greet lives with a smile**

**All the while
I see more
When you explore, adore,
and do even more**

**Upon your face lies
A window of worlds in your eyes**

Window of worlds in your eyes ~Revolution

Ask a Girl Lover



Minor-Attracted people (or MAPs) are very misunderstood in our world today. To help bring about understanding and awareness, the writer team has created what will be an ongoing series called “Ask a Girl Lover,” first featured Issue 4. The idea is for girl lovers to answer questions often posed to them by nons. We’ve designed this to illustrate the beliefs of random individuals who are girl lovers, from a wide range of demographics. We have received responses from twenty-three Senior Members of Visions of Alice. These members represent many regions of the world including North America, Latin America, Europe, and Asia. Some responses came from members who speak English as a second language. The respondents come from all walks of life and have varying opinions on all of the issues surrounding Minor Attracted Persons and girl lovers.

The questions submitted below are similar to or actual submissions from outside sources. Each respondent was instructed to answer honestly, while being as vague or explicit as they wish. They were also allowed to skip any questions they weren’t comfortable answering. Their answers are organized in the order which responses were received and are only edited for grammar, spelling, clarity and brevity. For clarity edits, we attempted to submit the answers back to the respondents for their approval.



What makes you attracted to little girls?

Their sense of wonder and newness to the world. They want to learn without immediately judging what they learn. At the same time they

have a sense of justice at how the world should be and protest against injustice. Beyond those emotional things it’s hard to really describe why physically.

Respondent 1 — male, late 20s, AoA ≈ 1-40

Just the way I’m wired, I suppose. Although I don’t like them as “little” as I used to anyway

Respondent 2 — male, mid 30s, AoA ≈ 11-16

I don’t know, I think most people don’t know why they have the attraction they have.

Respondent 4 — male, early 40s, AoA ≈ 4-5, Netherlands

Their everything makes me attracted to them.

Respondent 5 — male, 20s, AoA ≈ 0-12

I don’t know the biological reason. Some say it’s hereditary, some believe it’s the environment. I tend to believe it’s a little of both.

What do I find attractive about them? They’re innocent, less judgmental, always curious and wondering. They’re smaller and petite; they have smooth skin, no pubic hair.

Respondent 6 — female, 20s, AoA ≈ 9-14

They are fit, a little girl can fall on the floor and get up like nothing happened, she can run all day and not get tired, jump and not be exhausted. Perfect partner for gymnastics.

Respondent 7

What makes anyone attracted to anyone? I find their natural beauty and innocent look at the world attractive.

Respondent 8 — male, 40s, AoA ≈ 7+

Very difficult to define. What makes anyone love and feel strong affection for another? I'm not attracted to most little girls. I may recognize a little girl is beautiful or funny or fun to be around but that alone does not automatically make me attracted to her. Typically attraction comes from being with a girl over time, developing a bond, a connection which can result in falling in love or at least feeling an attraction. The most memorable times that I have fallen in love have certainly been with girls who have expressed very clearly the same love and bond back. When I met my wife or past adult partners it was much the same. So I guess my attraction comes from a combination of chemistry and a connection with someone special.

Respondent 10 — male, 35-45, AoA ≈ 6-11

Girls are so full of positive energy, they love you unconditionally and we connect on a more emotional level than adults.

Respondent 11 — male, AoA ≈ 3-6

Their small size, slimness, lack of body hair, lack of breast or hip development, their smiles, grace... everything, really!

Respondent 13 — male, over 21, AoA ≈ 8-9

The Love. That's what makes us GLers. A strong feeling from deep within. I experience an acceleration of the heartbeats and butterflies in the stomach every time I see LGs.

Respondent 15 — male, under 25, AoA ≈ 3-12

There are many reasons why, but exactly what? Well, it's not just about the beauty of little girls, but I feel they are unique. I firmly believe that little girls are always loyal.

Respondent 16 — male, late 20s, AoA ≈ 3-12, Latin America

That depends on what aspect of a little girl we're discussing. With regards to my physical attraction to them, they have this innate simplicity in their form. Now, if we're talking about the social/romantic side of my attraction, I could go on forever about it. In short, I just find little girls are more socially natural. They don't modulate their expression like adults do, and I also respect that they don't over-construct right and wrong. To them, if it doesn't feel right, it isn't, and I love that.

Respondent 17 — male, late 20-45, AoA ≈ 4-10

I began to feel attracted to girls younger than myself when I was around 17 years old. Even before I was fully aware of what I was becoming, I was drawn

especially to girls who were timid and vulnerable, not because they seemed like easy targets or some such nonsense, but because I felt the need to show them love and kindness. I still love little girls for a similar reason—I want to care for them and see them smile. So I guess in short what makes me attracted to them is my natural urge to be a loving and protective father figure. As for the physical attraction, it is what it is, in the same way that others are attracted to whatever they are attracted to. That is, it really wouldn't explain anything to indicate what physical features of little girls I like the most. Suffice it to say that I find them extremely pleasant to look at.

Respondent 18 — male, early 30s, AoA ≈ 5-10

My question would be how is anyone not attracted to the beauty of youth. There is nothing on this earth that compares to it.

Respondent 19 — male, 50s, AoA ≈ 7-17

On average, little girls have much more attractive/cuter faces than pubescent and post-pubescent girls. I love how small they are, how adorable they sound, and their bodies are intoxicating in a unique way that is lost in puberty, though not completely. I love their minds and how they express themselves. There's a pretty wide range of personalities they possess depending on age. They can be curious, shy, bluntly earnest, carefree, affectionate, silly, etc. It all comes down to the individual for me, really. I love little girls in

general, but that does not make me attracted to every little girl. This is something less apparent to nons, I would say.

Respondent 20 — male, 20s, AoA ≈ 3-12

I truly have no idea. There are many things I like about them, but I don't know what it is that creates the attraction. I'm pretty sure it has to do with their lack of shame, their ability to be themselves. The adult world makes people jaded and any relationship or friendship brings with it so much unnecessary baggage and judgment. Kids like you for you and that's enough.

Respondent 21 — AoA ≈ 3-12

I don't know the cause of my pedophilia. Maybe I was born predisposed or it somehow developed during my early childhood. I was never sexually abused as a child. And I never had a serious head injury as a young child. I just know even when I was in elementary school, the girls that I thought were the cutest were already younger than me by a couple years and I've never found adults attractive. I had no probably socializing with girls my age in elementary school—during early elementary school, the classmates I hung out with the most were girls. And I've continued to have female friends, including a couple who have liked me as more than friends. I'm just not interested in women like that.

Before realizing I was a nearly exclusive pedophile, I was confused about how others found adults sexually attractive. I think I

understand better since I realized I was a pedophile. I don't think they are much different—I'm attracted to girls based on physical appearance and personality. It has nothing to do with being abused or not being able to get a woman or anything like that. For whatever reason, I prefer traits that young girls tend to have.

Respondent 22 — male, early 20s, AoA ≈ 4-7

Little girls, in my opinion, are but the purest forms of the female person until they become jaded with learned opinions and behavior (i.e. guilt, shame, abhorrence) brandished by adults and cultural axioms.

Respondent 23 — male, 60s, AoA ≈ 8+, Asia

I would just imagine being created that way.

Respondent 24 — male, late 40s, AoA ≈ 3-13



Are you sure you're really attracted to girls and not just really shy with women?

I am really shy with women. That being said my AoA is 1-40 and I have dated women. I even almost got married to someone my age who

I was very much attracted to emotionally and physically, but I increasingly became convinced that it was a bad idea to the point where I canceled the wedding a few weeks before it was supposed to happen.

Respondent 1 — male, late 20s, AoA ≈ 1-40

You ever see the little Asian girl meme that says: why not both? I'm probably even shyer with girls, so...

Respondent 2 — male, mid 30s, AoA ≈ 11-16

I have never had a problem picking up women when I wanted to. I have game.

Respondent 8 — male, 40s, AoA ≈ 7+

No, I'm far from shy with women. I'm married and work with both men and women. I socialize with men and women and I am as confident around women as I am around men. Since I was a child, I was aware of my attraction towards partners younger than me. It's not something I chose and have always suffered for but I have accepted it as something that is part of me, the same as my built-in instinct to care for others.

Respondent 10 — male, 35-45, AoA ≈ 6-11

I am strongly attracted to little girls, and I know this because of the feelings I get looking at, interacting with, dreaming of, thinking of or just hearing them. Also, in my case, I'm not shy with women.

Respondent 15 — male, under 25, AoA ≈ 3-12

There was a time that I was attracted to women and little girls, equally. However, this passed, and now I don't have any interest in women on a romantic level. I still associate excellently with the women in my life, whether they be friends, family, or co-workers, but I don't see them as romantically interesting. I feel quite doubtful that dating a woman or a man would be very different from a social standpoint.

Respondent 17 — male, late 20-45, AoA ≈ 4-10

I am in fact shy around women—or at least, women who are easy on the eyes and have an agreeable personality. But I don't see how it would be possible to confuse shyness around women with attraction to children. They are two unmistakably different things.

Respondent 18 — male, early 30s, AoA ≈ 5-10

Yeah. I've had relationships with girls my age. One of these girls was amazing, but she was unable to light that fire in my heart that little girls so easily do.

Respondent 20 — male, 20s, AoA ≈ 3-12

Well, I am shy with women. I acknowledge that. But I do still put myself out into the dating scene every now and then, when I find someone I sense is worth the trouble. I like to create a little test for myself: if the most beautiful little girl I know was standing next to this woman, who would I choose? Nine times out of ten, I'll choose the girl. But there have been women who have made me want to pick them over a girl. So no, it's not a

defense mechanism because I'm shy with women. Would you say that a gay person is "shy with women"? No. So don't say it about us.

Respondent 21 — AoA ≈ 3-12

As I am happily married to a woman that was maybe 4 years old when I was serving in the military during the Vietnam War, I certainly feel confident with a female of any age: 1 to 100 years of age. I always think of the fantasy of actually going back in time and meeting my wife when she was maybe 8 or 9 years old and to say to myself "One day this little beauty will be my wife! Wow!"

Respondent 23 — male, 60s, AoA ≈ 8+, Asia



When did you first realize you were a girl lover?

I noticed I was attracted to girls in my age group when I was 12, while my friends liked the teachers and the most developed girls. I liked the 11-year-olds in school and even then it was just the one's that hadn't developed.

It was about 14 that I fully understood the term pedophilia and that that was the term that applied to me.

Respondent 1 — male, late 20s, AoA ≈ 1-40

15 or so in terms of recognizing the attraction. Probably 19 or 20 when those terms started to mean something to me and I was able to interact with like minded others who identified as such.

Respondent 2 — male, mid 30s, AoA ≈ 11-16

The first girl I fell in love with looked a bit older than she really was, and she acted the age she looked, so I didn't realize it with her. When I fell in love the second time, it was with a girl I had just met.

Respondent 3 — male, 40s, AoA ≈ 1-16

I was around 20, coming across sex stories on the internet, and finding stories and other stories involving young children had my specific interest.

Respondent 4 — male, early 40s, AoA ≈ 4-5, Netherlands

I guess the first time I ever saw a girl?

Respondent 5 — male, 20s, AoA ≈ 0-12

I was 16, and I was getting older, but still attracted to girls in their early teens.

Respondent 6 — female, 20s, AoA ≈ 9-14

I was 13 and I became attracted to a 7-year-old.

Respondent 8 — male, 40s, AoA ≈ 7+

I noticed when I was 18. It became very intense in my 20's.

Respondent 9 — male, late 40s, AoA ≈ 5-11

From childhood, perhaps around

the age of 11 or 12. It's hard to say exactly when because it was a slow realization, but by that age I was becoming aware of feelings of guilt and a recognition that I might be different to from my friends. It was by that age when I became aware that I was attracted to girls younger than I, which I felt a level of guilt and self dislike about. That realization grew clearer as I went through my teen years and entered adulthood.

**Respondent 10 — male, 35-45,
AoA ≈ 6-11**

In college, but I was nervous around little girls even as a kid.

**Respondent 11 — male, AoA ≈
3-6**

When I was in college.

**Respondent 12 — male, mid 30s,
AoA ≈ 11-14**

As a young teenager.

**Respondent 13 — male, over 21,
AoA ≈ 8-9**

I knew I was different at about age 13, knew the words pedophile and molester at age 18, knew I was a 'girl lover' much later.

Respondent 14

I noticed when I was 15, during a birthday celebration, I was on the trampoline, and then, a little 9 year-old blonde came to the party. She had the most beautiful blonde curls in the whole world, and my heart felt like she was an instant crush. We played together that day, and I remember myself tickling her.

**Respondent 15 — male, under 25,
AoA ≈ 3-12**

I was 12 when I noticed I was

attracted to toddlers. When I was 15, I totally realized I was attracted to girls that where ages between 5-12, which changed to 3-12 later in my life.

**Respondent 16 — male, late 20s,
AoA ≈ 3-12, Latin America**

I was 14. I wanted to know what girls looked like nude. By 17, I still didn't have the means of knowing, but the interest was mounting to more than just curiosity. I found myself day dreaming about little girls and started to have sexual fantasies about them.

**Respondent 17 — male, late 20-
45, AoA ≈ 4-10**

My feelings began to change around the time that I was 17, but it took me a few years to put the pieces together. For instance, I encountered a little girl once at a kids camp who caught my attention in a way that was very new to me. For a brief moment in time, I thought of her as beautiful in a way that I had never thought of children before; but once she was gone, that moment faded from my memory and I didn't think about her again for a long time. I had a similar moment when young Dakota Fanning appeared in a bathing suit in the movie Man on Fire. After experiencing moments like these intermittently for three or four years, it finally dawned on me that I was a pedophile. I think it took so long because I was unfamiliar with the idea of pedophilia, and I was still interested in my peers at the time as well.

**Respondent 18 — male, early 30s,
AoA ≈ 5-10**

When I was 12 I realized I had an

attraction for the eight-year-old down the street. Later in high school I was always attracted to girls 4 to 5 years younger than me.

**Respondent 19 — male, 50s, AoA
≈ 7-17**

Around age 15/16 I realized I was still attracted to little girls and that it wasn't "normal." I'd say at around age 18 I realized I was a full fledged girl lover, when I began to have lovely interactions with a younger family member. I never knew such infatuation before. My feelings weren't reciprocated, but I couldn't help but be smitten by her beauty and charm.

**Respondent 20 — male, 20s, AoA
≈ 3-12**

I began to notice when I was 11-12 that my age preferences were a bit lower than my friends', but when you're that age, having a crush on an 8 year-old is just a little weird. It doesn't make you a pedophile. When I was about to turn 16, I met a girl I was completely in love with and I realized what was going on.

Respondent 21 — AoA ≈ 3-12

I started to realize I was different in my sexual attraction for young girls towards the end of high school after finding a girl less than half my age attractive, but it was not until shortly after college that I decided I was also a girl lover after having opportunities to play with girls.

**Respondent 22 — male, early 20s,
AoA ≈ 4-7**

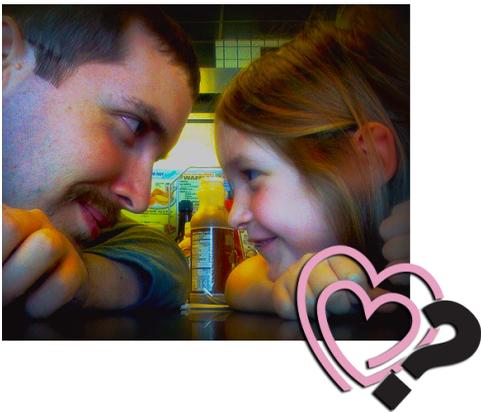
I first realized I was a MAP likely when I was around 16 years old. I volunteered to join a program at my high school to be a "Big Brother" to

young children at a nearby elementary school that expressed attitude and depression problems caused by broken up or problematic families. This included young boys and girls. It was fun to play basketball or volley ball with them and eventually bring a smile to their faces, and sometimes laughter later. It made me so wondrously happy. We interacted by holding hands, sharing an impromptu hug or even a thank you kiss from them to my cheek as I left them for the day. It made their day! It made mine as well!

Respondent 23 — male, 60s, AoA ≈ 8+, Asia

I first realized I was a girl lover around 9-10.

Respondent 24 — male, late 40s, AoA ≈ 3-13



You know it's never going to work with a young girl, right?

Yeah, I guess so. Never say never, right?

Respondent 2 — male, mid 30s, AoA ≈ 11-16

What, love? Love always works. The rest is up to her.

Respondent 3 — male, 40s, AoA ≈ 1-16

That depends on what you mean by

'going to work out'. I'd say I have had a few cases where it did work out. Where I did find the friendship and pleasure I've been looking for.

Respondent 4 — male, early 40s, AoA ≈ 4-5, Netherlands

I know girls grow up, but I also believe that if you find someone you love you will continue to love them even as they grow up.

Respondent 8 — male, 40s, AoA ≈ 7+

No, friendships can work very well.

Respondent 9 — male, late 40s, AoA ≈ 5-11

Why? That's just a statement based on opinion and in contradiction to many reported cases in journals as well as in contradiction to the norms and social mores of past and even some cultures in the world today. It won't work in today's western society which has developed a specific set of norms and social mores but norms and social mores change and evolve. The same statement could have been made when speaking of same gender relationships or mixed race relationships until relatively recently.

Respondent 10 — male, 35-45, AoA ≈ 6-11

Little girls just want to be loved, don't hold them to an expectation.

Respondent 11 — male, AoA ≈ 3-6

It's always just going to be a fantasy.

Respondent 12 — male, mid 30s, AoA ≈ 11-14

It's never going to work with a young girl if she is below the age

of consent, I guess. Anyway, it's something I have assumed, I am happy with what I have, and most importantly, with what I am.

Respondent 15 — male, under 25, AoA ≈ 3-12

I have to disagree as I had a full romantic relationship with a young girl. It never became sexual for obvious reasons, and we both understood why.

Respondent 16 — male, late 20s, AoA ≈ 3-12, Latin America

I have read all too many testimonials of little girls with men and have come to the conclusion that, despite there being a stereotypical belief that men and little girls are greatly contrasting, these assumptions of character are false. It might be cliched for us as Girl Lovers to say "we're different", but there is truth to that.

Respondent 17 — male, late 20-45, AoA ≈ 4-10

I am keenly aware of that fact, yes. It's precisely why I'm such a bitter and lonely person.

Respondent 18 — male, early 30s, AoA ≈ 5-10

I think, for each GLer, what "works" is different. Hebes, Nepis, and Pedos may have completely unique ideas of what "works" with whomever they are attracted to. And within these subcategories, even more diversity exists. I think many GLers have something that "works" for them with little girls right now, even in this less than ideal world.

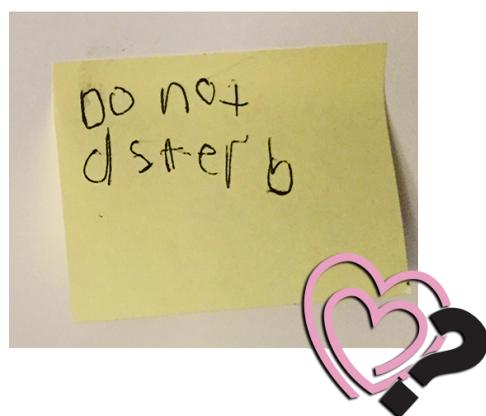
Respondent 20 — male, 20s, AoA ≈ 3-12

There's no way to know without

trying. Regardless, the journey is worth it; any time spent interacting with a little girl is a time well spent.
Respondent 22 — male, early 20s, AoA ≈ 4-7

Today's social norms will not tolerate an adult relationship with young girl. But, this does not mean that perhaps in the future that a new social norm will eventually evolve to allow limited or even full relationships even leading to marriage and a family when the girl matures.

Respondent 23 — male, 60s, AoA ≈ 8+, Asia



Would you feel it would be appropriate to have sex with a child who told you they wanted it?

Philosophically, perhaps. In terms of practicality in today's world, I would say not.

Respondent 2 — male, mid 30s, AoA ≈ 11-16

If that child risked being traumatized by the “victim therapy”, followed by disturbed feelings about sexuality due to the constant victimization by society, and I as her lover was imprisoned and publicly condemned,

because someone found out about our relationship, then a sexual relationship would not be appropriate.

Respondent 5 — male, 20s, AoA ≈ 0-12

There's a lot of variables that go into answering this. I'd have to judge each situation on its own merits. How old is she? Does she understand? Does she truly love me, or is it just an infatuation? Usually, I'd rather just cuddle anyway.

Respondent 6 — female, 20s, AoA ≈ 9-14

It would be morally problematic.

Respondent 9 — male, late 40s, AoA ≈ 5-11

In today's society, no. This isn't because a sexual relationship in itself would be bad but because of the potential for harm to both the child and adult from society if such a relationship was discovered.

The child would be put through a traumatizing legal system, could lose someone from their life who they care for deeply, would suffer a re-education process where they were forced to accept that someone they care for is a bad and dangerous person and could have to live throughout their life with confused mixed feelings and feelings of guilt. The harm therefore comes from the system, not the act, something that has been reported many many times. If the system was changed to better reflect the rights and complexities of children and relationships, allowing children to express more openly their feelings and have relationships in the open

without feelings of fear or guilt then sexual acts would be far less likely to be harmful and more likely to be positive and therefore more acceptable.

Respondent 10 — male, 35-45, AoA ≈ 6-11

I never had a child ask me a direct question like that. I do remember wanting sex as a kid. I had a pornography addiction at five years old. The want for sex was there, I just was too young to understand it.

Respondent 11 — male, AoA ≈ 3-6

Not with a very young girl. She would probably have to be in puberty for her body to handle it, I imagine. And she would have to understand what sex means and the risks involved.

Respondent 12 — male, mid 30s, AoA ≈ 11-14

No—only in fantasy.

Respondent 13 — male, over 21, AoA ≈ 8-9

Depends on context. (Crawling towards me on the bed half a minute before her 18th birthday, at which age I'd probably not.)

Respondent 14

In short, not under the current social climate. I'd rather not have the idea of children engaging in sexual activity with me hanging over her head, with the media telling her she's wrong in doing something that she wanted to do, and that I made sure was something she would be interested in. If the social climate changes, there are still limits to how far I would go. Intercourse is very

risky and would never be explored.

Respondent 17 — male, late 20-45, AoA ≈ 4-10

If the question is whether I would feel that it was morally acceptable, I would have to answer that morality, as a social construct, does not apply. Hypothetically, if the whole of humanity were snuffed out of existence and only she and I remained, I would have no moral misgivings about having sex with her because there would be no other human minds about to pass judgment. All that ought to matter is the girl's mental and physical comfort.

Respondent 18 — male, early 30s, AoA ≈ 5-10

With our current societal values and structure, no. It's not worth the risk, for me and especially the child.

Respondent 20 — male, 20s, AoA ≈ 3-12

Not currently. In a more general sense, yes, I would. But the way our world currently stigmatizes anything related to sex, whether that's with kids or adults, I wouldn't feel right starting that. However, if the world was a bit more open-minded and I didn't think it would create problems, I would feel it was entirely appropriate to have sex with a consenting partner, regardless of age.

Respondent 21 — AoA ≈ 3-12

While I think girls can and do consent to sexual activities, I don't think one should have sex with them in today's legal and social environment for the child's benefit. Society does not respect

girls and often harm them in the process of demonizing those who have consensual sex with girls.

Respondent 22 — male, early 20s, AoA ≈ 4-7

In closing

From conducting this survey of our members, it can be taken away that those who are attracted to minors feel a strong sense of love and compassion. In a lot of answers a maternal tone of protection towards the children is noticeable. We share similarities with the way parents feel toward their children. The twenty-three senior members of Visions of Alice who completed this survey represent Minor Attracted Persons from all walks of life on all continents, showing that Girl Lovers' motivations and intentions are consistent across the globe. No matter where you are or who you admire, love is universal.



Is **sexuality** education making kids **grow up** too fast? by Silent

Education on topics of sexuality can be an emotive and controversial issue. With issues of sexual abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancy, moral and societal pressures, and other troubles causing concern, the stakes are clearly high. How these factors collide with how we conceptualize childhood is key to the sometimes vast differences between approaches to educating children about topics of sexuality. While questions of who counts as a child are also disputed, for the purposes of this article the UN definition of children as inclusive of all people under 18, the typical age of adulthood, will be utilized. Key to the discussion of childhood is the idea of what it is not – adulthood.

Children progress through a series of changes as they develop towards adulthood. These include both near-universal physical developments in addition to culturally and temporally dependent social developments (Smith, 2013 p. 14). Ignoring medical issues that would preclude this, all children will grow in stature and body mass regardless of era or culture. Meanwhile, social developments and rites of passage can vary immensely depending on when and where they grow up. Adulthood was once widely held to begin at puberty, resulting



in adolescents being bestowed the social status of a fully-grown person at the threshold of fertility. This is a far cry from the modern trend of extended “youth” lasting into the mid-twenties. Likewise, the rights and responsibilities of children can differ substantially between jurisdictions. Children in developing countries are often obligated to take on paid employment and family duties, while those in developed countries are instead expected to focus on their education (Dehne & Riedner, 2001).

Crucially then, children are defined

by qualities that are attributed to them by the societal environment they are located within. In western societies, there has been a tendency to enforce attributes including dependence, ignorance, and incompetence, which may not necessarily be inherent to childhood (Jackson & Smith, 1999 pp. 90-91; Smith, 2013 pp. 15-17). When such attributes that inform conceptions of childhood are challenged by children or their advocates, such as through a claim that kids are more capable of understanding things than we tend to assume, a perception can

emerge that children are growing up too quickly for their own good.

An example of this has been how these contested ideas of childhood relate to sexuality education and sexuality itself. Sexuality is now commonplace in youth culture and easily accessible through modern technology, while biological maturation is occurring at a younger age. This has triggered debates about how, when, and why we should address this aspect of human development (Jackson & Scott, 1999 pp. 90-101; WHO, 2010 pp. 21-23). Some view sexuality and education addressing it as threats to childhood and children, who are in need of protection from risks and knowledge that may endanger them (Jackson & Scott, 1999 pp. 94-101; Grossman, 2013, p. 23). Others advocate a rights-based approach that sees age-appropriate sexuality education as a vital part of a healthy development process starting at birth (WHO, 2010 p. 13).

The World Health Organisation's 2010 publication *Standards for Sexuality Education in Europe* is a key resource for training sexuality educators in western countries. This document asserts that "all children and young people have the right to age-appropriate sexuality education" (p. 20). Their rights-based approach sees the right to know as being both an internationally recognized right, and a precedent for the prevention of poor health. The position that children have a right to information is informed by the United Nations

Convention on the Rights Of the Child, which only the USA and Somalia are yet to ratify. This convention includes the "freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds" (WHO, 2010, p.18) as well as rights to the provision of services and resources including education, health and a reasonable standard of living (Smith, 2013, p.15).

The rights-based approach to children in the case of sexuality education is contested by viewpoints including those of MD Mirriam Grossman. In *R18: Sexuality Education in New Zealand—A Critical Review*,

All children and young people have the right to age-appropriate sexuality education

World Health Organisation
2010

a report commissioned by conservative lobby group Family First, Grossman critiques aspects of New Zealand's particular sexuality education system, and western sexuality education in general. This perspective criticizes how young people are viewed and informed as having a right to their own sexual decisions, health, and confidentiality – claiming "students are informed that at any age, sexual freedom is a 'right'" (Grossman 2013, pp. 2-9). Grossman contrasts the right to

know with the desire some parents may have to keep their children uninformed, and further criticizes mentions of pleasure and perceived encouragement of sexual acts – arguing these may encourage sexual debut at a premature age (pp. 5-21).

The WHO extends this right for children to know to incorporate factors of sexuality broadly encompassing "sex, gender identities and roles, sexual orientation, eroticism, pleasure, intimacy and reproduction" (WHO, 2010, p. 17). Education on sexuality is advocated to focus primarily upon positive aspects of sexuality, including pleasure and satisfaction, while the information and skills needed for prevention of poor sexual health are secondary (WHO, 2010, p. 20). Sexual rights are noted to include rights to consensual (but presumably "age-appropriate") sexual relations, the right to decide to be sexually active or not, and to pursue a satisfying, safe and pleasurable sexual life. Vital to these rights is the right to the information needed in order to make informed decisions and to minimize the risk of any interactions one may pursue.

The opposite approach is promoted by Grossman, who argues for a primary emphasis on abstinence and the risks of sexual activities. Grossman's position is informed by physiological concerns, including the vulnerability of a teen's cervix to STDs, and that brain development remains incomplete until the mid-twenties. She

argues that because of such issues, young people are not ready to enter the “high-risk” and “adult” world of sexual activity. This is one example of constructing sexual activities and knowledge as being adult-oriented, and further implying that transgressions against this norm equate to growing up too quickly (Grossman, 2013, pp. 9-23; Jackson & Scott, 1999, p. 87).

The WHO also advocates introducing topics before a child has grown to the relevant stage of development, such as teaching about periods before puberty begins. Instead of being concerned that this may push children to grow up too quickly, they argue that children need to be prepared for what they will experience at the next stage of their lives (WHO, 2010 p. 22). Furthermore, while they argue that “sexuality education needs to be age-appropriate”, they express that “you’re too young for that!” is never an appropriate answer to questions regarding sexuality (WHO, 2010, p. 13). These views

“You’re too young for that!” is never an appropriate answer to questions regarding sexuality

indicate that the WHO sees ignorance as neither an inherent nor desirable attribute of childhood, and as such informing children of matters of sexuality does not cause them to grow up too soon.

A sociocultural perspective to child development may support this proactive approach by arguing that ongoing learning is what produces development. This learning is necessarily at the outer limits of what the child may be capable of, as developmental learning involves doing what they don’t know how to do. Conversely, children cannot gain competence where they have been excluded. This view suggests that rather than making children grow up prematurely, education in advance of a child’s development – such as that advocated by the WHO above – is necessary to promote their healthy growth (Jackson & Scott, 1999; Smith, 2013, pp. 21-23).

These differing viewpoints illustrate tensions between enforcing “childhood” as ignorance—especially of sexual

issues, versus the process of growing into an informed adult who takes part in relatively safe sexual activities. Likewise, where the boundary should be drawn between these states is also disputed. These tensions also invoke debate over viewing children as subjects with rights, competencies and autonomy, versus vulnerable objects to be protected and shaped by adults (Grossman, 2013, p.3; Jackson & Scott, 1999, pp. 91-100; Smith 2013, p. 15; WHO 2010, p. 11).

Dehne & Riedner note that there has unfortunately been little focus on healthy sexual development for youth, which has instead been clouded by a narrative of deviance and value judgments over the illegitimacy of their sexuality. Jackson and Scott however warn “It is dangerous to assume there is



something inherently wrong about children knowing about sex”. As “It is **dangerous** to **assume** there is something inherently **wrong** about children knowing about **sex**”

Jackson & Scott

research indicates sexuality education does not contribute to earlier or increased sexual activity by children, fears it causes children to grow up too quickly are likely misplaced (Dehne & Riedner 2001, p.12; Jackson & Scott 1999, pp. 99-100; WHO 2010, pp. 21-3).

The broader topic of sexuality covers a host of topics on the human experience – possessing a body capable of sensation and a mind capable of interaction and love, existing in a society of others you can collaborate and compete with, and an environment of influences on each of these. Sex itself is a natural, normal, and, if done properly, a healthy part of the human experience – much like eating and sleeping. While there can be dangers that should not be understated in expressing your sexuality, regardless of age or orientation, these do not stem from being introduced to sexual concepts at a “premature” age. Leaving them to possess an unavoidable but incomplete picture of sexuality keeps children ignorant and incompetent – in line

with the attributes of childhood we enforce upon them, but out of touch with their potential, their rights as human and sexual beings, and their requirements for good health and well-being outcomes.

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Queen Silver - “The Godless Girl”

by Black Star



QUEEN SILVER

Twelve Year Old Orator

Philosopher and Scientist

“Pioneers of Free Thought”

Sunday, April 29th, 2 P. M.

... AT ...

ODD FELLOWS HALL
220½ South Main Street

ADMISSION FREE

Starting at only eight years old in the pre-1920s, a little girl astonished both scientists and layman alike by giving a series of remarkable public lectures in Los Angeles on scientific topics ranging from evolution to human nature. At age ten, she offered her interpretation of the not yet published Theory of Relativity by Albert Einstein in 1921.

She was a child prodigy and went on to become an activist for various causes including feminism, freethought, socialism, and freedom of speech. She was also a supporter of children’s rights, an issue of importance to the MAP community because of our respect for children and acknowledging their potential.

Author Wendy McElroy wrote an exceptional biography of this girl with the unique name of Queen Silver entitled,



The Godless Girl. McElroy was an individualist feminist and individualist anarchist who met Queen in the last years before she died and describes her as one of the most important women in 20th century freethought and atheism. It is noteworthy to add that this same little girl went on to inspire Cecil B. De Mille’s 1928 film *The Godless Girl*.

McElroy also includes in her biography the story of Queen’s mother, a speaker and activist, as well as seven complete pieces written by Queen including *The Rights of Children* and *Evolution from Monkey to Bryan* as well as shorter excerpts embedded throughout the book. She also created a web page dedicated to Queen Silver.

Grace Silver was raised by a strict unloving Mormon father. She left home

at 18 and quickly became involved in the Socialist Party in Boston, soon giving speeches at socialist and Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.) gatherings. Grace earned much of her money from public speaking, writing, and playing extras for movies, bringing Queen along when she was only a baby.

The I.W.W., an international labor union with ties to anarchism and socialism, regards both Grace and Queen as notable members.

Because of the taboo nature of promoting radical ideas, Grace and Queen were often subjected to threats and harassment. Grace's bookstore was raided on several occasions; burning books including socialist material, scientific books such as Darwin's writing on evolution, and even fictional books such as those by Mark Twain.

Born in 1910, Queen was imbued by her mother with hostility toward authority and institutions. Starting at four years old, Queen showed a precocious interest in science. Mostly home schooled, she read and taught herself about subjects that interested her from books at the public library. Grace believed public school to be detrimental to learning, a belief that Queen also adopted.

As part of teaching Queen to be independent, Queen was given responsibility over her spending at seven years old and was expected to earn money herself, including paying for some living expenses such as food and clothing. Queen followed in her mother's footsteps by giving radical public lectures in the streets of Los Angeles, speaking without notes.



When Queen was eight years old, she began giving a series of ninety-minute lectures for the London Society of Social Science on topics from evolution to Cortez's conquest of Mexico. Even though this series of lectures earned Queen fame as a child genius and prodigy, Grace insisted Queen was a normal child who was simply allowed to realize her intellectual potential through an education far separated from the public school system.

When Queen was ten, Los Angeles had an upcoming vote on a library bond. Queen went door to door, distributing leaflets to promote the cause, explaining why the library was so important to the education of children. The downtown LA library was built as a result of the bond passing and the Los Angeles Record reported on Queen Silver's role in the success of the bond.

From ages twelve to twenty-one years old, Queen published her own magazine, QSM, which had more than 5,000 subscribers. This work included 5 volumes with 2 to 6 issues per volume. The covers to most of the issues are available on McElroy's website along with complete scans of two issues.

In her research for Queen's biography, McElroy found revealing photographs of her when she was only age ten, stating, "In the first photograph, Queen is draped only with a feather boa. In the second, the boa is absent." Also uncovered by McElroy are revealing letters between a very young Queen and several older men: "The male admiration must have been heady stuff... for an eleven-year-old girl used to being praised primarily for her intellect," McElroy writes. One

QSM reader, an associate of *The Libertarian*, sent Queen long, emotional letters and wrote “Your photos, besides being otherwise very expressive, are real cute.”

Some of Queen’s most famous activism was in response to William Jennings Bryan in a lecture titled “Evolution from Monkey to Bryan” along with the related pieces of writing on the issue. At eleven years old, she challenged Bryan to a public debate related to the teaching



transcript of her lecture on the issue. The pamphlet was well read and translated into other languages.

A reader of QSM once expressed the hope that Queen would have a “carefree childhood.” Queen responded with an article in her magazine, “In my lecture on ‘The Rights of Children,’ I took up this matter. Grown people have robbed children of their rights, robbed the whole human race of the possibility of intellectual advancement, just because they



of evolution in public schools through a commentary published in the “Truth Seeker” on April 15, 1922. Bryan was the prosecutor in the famous Scopes Monkey Trial where a high school teacher was being tried for teaching evolution to his students. After Bryan ignored the challenge to a debate, Queen created pamphlets against Bryan’s ideology which compared the treatment of children’s education to the foot binding once practiced by the Chinese that permanently crippled girls, and even included the



wished ‘to preserve the childhood of their children.’ The mother looks on her baby, or child, as a sort of glorified doll, and can’t bear to see it develop... When you rob a child of its maximum brain development, you have no means of knowing, nor has the child, how greatly you have wronged him. Children have the right to unlimited knowledge, to get it as early in life as possible, and to have the pleasures and brain development which spring from responsibilities.”

Queen Silver's mother was arrested once after a fight broke out at one of her street lectures. At fourteen years old, Queen acted as her mother's defense lawyer and got the charges dismissed.

Five months later, at the age of fifteen, Queen ran off to Tijuana with a fifty year old man who was Queen's optometrist when she suffered from a prolonged eye injury at the age of three and a fellow socialist in the LA area. Queen did not have approval from Grace to marry George H. Shoaf and left the country so that no one could stop them from being together.

Only three months after leaving the country Queen returned to her mother, who got the marriage annulled shortly thereafter. McElroy wrote "Queen's precocious sexuality should have come as no surprise" because "Grace had encouraged her daughter to express this aspect of herself" as well as her mother writing "she was free to do whatever she believed right" in an article 'Parents and Sex Delinquency', referring to Queen before she was a teenager where she outlines giving her daughter freedoms and responsibilities.

The Great Depression began when Queen was eighteen years old. By the end of this economic ordeal, Queen became determined to ensure financial security for herself by working to become a hearing recorder, which was "one of the best paid and most prestigious civil servant positions then available to women" despite being told it was a nearly impossible task with her lack of connections and education. She went to Los Angeles City College and became a hearing recorder in 1952.



Focusing on her career, Queen had little involvement in politics during the 40s through to the 60s. In 1972, Queen retired with much praise from coworkers. A month later, her mother died leaving Queen emotionally incapacitated until she returned to the radicalism movement with a strong focus on free speech.

She joined the ACLU, which she greatly admired due to their work defending people across the political spectra from the Socialist Party to the American Nazi Party. When Queen spoke, her goal was to share information without trying to tell the audience what to think, but with one exception: the Los Angeles public library system.

In 1988, Queen encouraged people to vote in support of an upcoming library bond to restore the downtown library after a fire. In recognition of her long-term support of LA's libraries, Queen was part of the ceremony for opening of the new Los Angeles Central Public Library along with Mayor Reardon and author Ray Bradbury.

Queen Silver certainly demonstrated that children are far more capable than typically given credit for. While her knowledge of science and ability to speak about radical topics impressed many at the time, others found it inappropriate for her to be involved in such work.

Queen was capable of such impressive feats because she was allowed to grow and learn at an early age. In addition to being a major figure in the socialist movement, the feminist movement, and the freethought movement, Queen was a strong proponent of the right to access of knowledge for people of all ages and

freedom of speech to express that knowledge.

Despite much progress that has been made in acceptance of evolution and women's rights, children's rights and respect have seen little progress. While freed from factory work, children have become increasingly seen as glorified dolls who need to be sheltered from knowledge and are expected to fit society's stereotype of "childhood."

When nine-year-old reporter Hilde Kate Lysiak reported on a local possible murder in April 2016, she received considerable criticism from people who

believed she should instead be playing with dolls and having tea parties.

Hilde started her own local newspaper, the Orange Street News, in 2014 with the intention of serious reporting with inspiration from her father who'd been a journalist for the New York Daily News.

Hilde replied to critics, saying, "I want to be taken seriously. I'm sure other kids do too. Grownups usually treat kids like they cannot do anything great. If adults don't think we can do something, then it is hard for us to believe that we can. And then how will we have great things in this world?"



*I have a fire growing in me
that consumes me every time I see you,
every time you say my name with a soft voice.*

*I put my forehead on your forehead
and then kiss your sweet lips.*

*I hold you around my arms and I
can smell your girl scent that makes me go crazy.*

*You hug me back and we kiss and we can't do much,
because we love each other and our love
makes us see the the stars.*

You put your head on my chest saying:

“I love you and I'm not letting you go”.

Loving You - MiNiñita

ALM Team

In association with a real-life Girl-loving parent

Parenting as a Girl Lover

An ALM article by **walkinginthepark**

I consider myself to be a “regular” middle aged guy. I’m happily married with a beautiful wife and two daughters whom I’m very protective of. I’m professionally qualified, well-traveled and work in a senior position within a technology business. Anyone who knows us might describe our family as the typical nuclear family with a nice home, family cars, and a love for socializing and other typical family activities. We go to church on Sunday, take regular international vacations throughout the year, and entertain and we encourage one another to give back to the community, whether through charitable work or just by being friendly neighbors. I would list the happiest moments of my life as my wedding day, the births of our children, and the day I first met my wife.

Where I might be considered different to most men is my sexuality. Throughout my life, I’ve struggled with a love and attraction to young females. Technically, I might be described as a Minor Attracted Person (MAP), a pedophile, or a girl lover. These terms do not mean I’m a child molester;



Here we have a Girl-loving daddy.
Yes, he loves girls and his wife too!

they simply mean I am attracted to young girls. Most men might describe themselves as heterosexual, or put simply, attracted to adult females. This term does not make them rapists; it merely describes their sexuality. As I’ve taken the time throughout my life to learn about and understand my sexuality, I’ve discovered that my sexuality is very common. Indeed, most people will know several MAPs without even realizing it. (1,2,3,4,5)

This idea that MAPs are common in people’s lives, living undetected, might at first seem to be a shocking realization. Surely you would know a MAP perhaps by their mannerisms or their unhealthy habits. The reality is that MAPs

are no different than anyone else. We’re as diverse as any other sexuality. We do the same jobs, we enjoy the same sports, we live the same lives. The only thing that distinguishes us is our repressed attraction towards young partners. Repressed, because we know that society misunderstands us and, through that misunderstanding, hates us. It doesn’t matter if a person is a surgeon saving lives or a soldier risking his life for our liberty; If he’s a MAP, he’s a bad person who deserves only hate. This hatred drives MAP’s to repress and hide their sexuality, which is why we are so numerous and yet so unnoticed.

Like so many MAPs, I went through much of my life afraid and tainted by self-hate, believing the stories I read that made assumptions about people like me. If other MAPs are so terrible, then I must be too, even if I don’t feel like a bad person. It wasn’t until I got to talk to other MAPs that I slowly came to realize that we are very different than how we’re portrayed in the press. We are ordinary people living ordinary lives. We love and want to protect children the same as anyone else.

We get angry when we hear of people wanting to hurt children. We genuinely are a diverse, ordinary section of society badly misrepresented and mistreated by a press that loves to publish stories that scare the masses to sell papers.

Most MAPs simply go through life hiding their sexuality, afraid to share their inner thoughts and feelings with anyone. Some are fortunate enough to find other MAPs who they can talk to and seek support from. Some even find their way into supportive MAP communities where MAPs talk freely and support each other with their day-to-day fears. Within these communities, we can talk about our daily struggles, how to cope in a society where we are unable to know love or relationships, and how to cope with the longing for love and partnership which we can never have. Some, like myself, are very fortunate that we are also attracted to adults, so we are able to find love with an adult partner. In my case, there is only one adult woman I have any attraction to and that is my wife. For many, however, the love for a younger partner is exclusive, which makes it impossible to form a normal partnership with an adult. Their only hope for a normal partnership would be with a younger partner, but the law and society does not permit such things, so most MAPs are resigned to celibate lonely lives.

A few weeks ago, I was pulled into a debate which involved someone explaining how it's widely known that pedophiles have low IQ's and

are sociopaths with out-of-control sex drives. Well, this isn't the first time I've heard such nonsense, but I felt unable to challenge this incorrect world view since we live in a world where the sheer mention of pedophile in a less than derogatory way leaves a person open to attack. So, as usual, I permitted this false claim to spread across the dinner table and watched everyone nodding in agreement. How many truly believed this nonsense and who just nodded for the same reasons I did, I would never know.



The fact is, my sex drive is quite low, I enjoy sex like any man, but I know many people, including my own wife, who have higher sex drives than me. Low IQ? I'm well-educated and highly qualified and respected in my profession. As for sociopath? I know few people who enjoy socializing and experiencing the world more than I do.

At this point, I feel it's perhaps worth presenting some history which might help to explain why I consider myself to be a pedophile or MAP, and what that actually

means in reality, compared to those I would describe as non-pedophiles.

I'm happy to say that I had a very happy childhood with a good and caring family. We weren't rich, but my father worked long hard hours to ensure we never went without essentials and some extra comforts while my mother ran the home, caring for us all. We all knew love and safety, which I'm very thankful for. Looking back to see if there were any events that might have impacted my sexuality, I can see two candidates. The first event occurred when I was six with my first girlfriend, a girl in my class. Childhood romances are common, although, in this case, there was a sexual dimension. One day, while I was at her house, she invited me to her parents' bedroom, where we climbed into bed, undressed, and explored each others bodies. It was a curiosity for us both, so we explored together. I feel that was a moment of sexual awakening; when I first became aware of my body and the body of females.

The second event was shortly after, when I was playing in some woodland near our house. I used to build dens with friends and, on this particular day, an older family friend in his late 20s came down to help me build my latest den. I loved being around him; he kind of made me feel grown up and important, so I loved his company. After building the den, we climbed in and, because the den was quite small, we ended up very close. He touched me, I touched him, and this

fun game became bolder and bolder until we ended up partially undressing and exploring one another. Like the first event, it was exciting and fun, especially since he knew more about sexual pleasure than I did. I learned much that day, including giving and receiving oral pleasure. Far from traumatized by this new game, I was keen to experience more, so, a few days later, I sneaked out of our garden and went to his house. I can still picture the look of shock on his face when he opened the door to find me standing there. He explained that I shouldn't just wander off like that and quickly took me back home. I actually started to become a bit of a little stalker for a brief while, my eyes opened to new possibilities with my new best friend in the world.

The first event would be considered innocent youthful play, while the second as child abuse, but I know that this isn't the case. I enjoyed what we did immensely and learned to be more confident about my own body. If we had been discovered, it would have been drilled into me that I'd been abused and no doubt that's how I'd remember it today. Years later as an adult, I had the pleasure of meeting him again and I was able to pluck up the courage to thank him for giving me good memories and making my childhood better. I remain thankful for my childhood, including these early sexual experiences, which remain warm happy memories I will treasure forever.

Now before people start shouting

about the dangers of abuse, I'm not saying that abuse isn't real, because I believe it is very real, but I don't believe, based on my own experience, that all sexual contact is abuse. Sex is pleasurable for adults and children. That's why children instinctively touch themselves and masturbate from an early age. Arguably, it was a betrayal of my parents' trust, but they trusted him to be a good friend and look after me, and to this day, I believe that's what he did.

Years later, when I was around 11, I started to realize that my sexuality was perhaps a little different than



Girl-Love dad has fond boyhood memories making dens with a man

it was supposed to be. There were girls at school my age and older who I really liked, but there were also much younger girls who I really liked. Overall, I was more attracted to younger girls, even though I was also attracted to older girls. Even then, I felt I shouldn't be attracted to younger girls and started to feel a level of shame and guilt.

As I entered adulthood, and even right through to today, my

sexuality has really been the same. I can be attracted to adult females, but it's been a long time since I've found any adult female sexually attractive other than my wife. I can see an adult woman and appreciate her beauty, like I can see an adult male and appreciate that he's clearly in good shape, but I won't react as if I attracted to them. When I see babies, I find them cute, the same as most people. With toddlers, I generally find them to be cute and entertaining, like most people do. Where things diverge for me as a pedophile is perhaps when a girl gets to around six onward. I don't experience a strong attraction to most young girls. I can see a young girl and immediately find her to be attractive, much like a non-MAP might see an adult female and recognize immediately that she's an attractive female without any strong feelings of lust. Real attraction typically develops when I get to know a girl and chemistry develops between us both. It isn't an overwhelming sexual lust, but a feeling of love, admiration, a desire to protect and spend time together, mixed in with those feelings, can create a sexual attraction. As someone who isn't only attracted to young girls, I can say that the feelings are exactly the same as a non-MAPs feelings towards a woman he meets and falls for.

Attraction develops gradually over time. The idea of a MAP even talking to a young girl, in some minds, conjures up the term grooming. I consider this idea to be nonsense also. This whole idea

that a MAP or pedophile talking to a child and showing any interest is sexual grooming is just preposterous; it's the equivalent of saying a gay man talking to a male is trying to lure him to have sex.

Throughout my adult life, there have been two occasions where a child I've become friends with has expressed a very clear interest in developing a relationship beyond friendship. In both cases, no such relationship developed, as I wouldn't permit it because, like most pedophiles, I know which legal boundaries not to cross. The child might have been the clear instigator seeking the attention of an older lover, but I know allowing such a relationship to form would not be good for the child in a society that treats such relationships so harshly.

In both these cases, they were girls I'd known for years as friends and, as friends, we'd become relaxed around each other. I feel their sexual interest in me came from feeling comfortable around an adult male, and so their innate sexual curiosity towards the male sex spilled over into sexual expression. As a parent myself, I would have wanted to know if my daughter was expressing such sexual feelings, and so I wanted to inform their parents. However, I felt I couldn't because most parents, just like most adults in general, live in a bubble of believing children are not sexual and have no sexual interest in adults. This simply is not true in my opinion; it's widely understood by child psychologists

that children have very distinct and developed personalities by the age of six, often enjoy self-masturbation, and have curiosity and interest in relationships and sexual pleasure. Children often also express love, attraction, and sexual curiosity towards adults, as well as towards other children. By the age of eight, children are highly complex individuals, capable of all the reasoning and gamut of emotions of adults. Whether a child allowed to explore her sexuality with an adult partner is likely to lead to an abusive relationship with an imbalance of power is far from clear, based on what research has been carried out to date. My own view is that most relationships would be positive, since people tend to put the needs and interests of their partners far ahead of their own, meaning most relationships will be based more on respect and care than on negative abusive emotions.

But this is my opinion based on a years of contemplation as an open-minded MAP. I couldn't, in the above, examples talk to the parents of those girls to explain their actions, since they would likely react negatively towards their children for expressing any kind of sexuality. This, in my opinion, is wrong and dangerous, since it leads to children expressing sexuality towards adults who sometimes, as normal sexual beings, reciprocate. In these cases, adults are described as sexual predators and children as victims, even if both parties wanted the relationship and enjoyed doing

what nature drove them towards. Certainly my own childhood experience confirms to me that this is wrong. I set out in this article to focus more on my story than on my opinion, so I won't discuss this further here, other than to encourage people to think logically about the subject matter and avoid the temptation to paint MAPs and pedophiles as out-of-control sex pests and children as sexless cherubs. Most pedophiles, like most non-pedophiles, are very much in control of their sexuality and have the same revulsion for the minority of people who force themselves on others against their will. At the same time, children, just like adults, can and do have sexual feelings towards others, including people outside of their traditionally accepted age ranges. Sometimes, such attraction can be very strong and lead to relationships that are mutually positive. People should start to appreciate that relationships are complex and refute today's very simple view that all people below an age line in a relationship with people above said age line are being abused.

(1) Colorado-based researchers Sandy K. Wurtele and colleagues

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24215791>

(2) In a sample of nearly 200 university males, 21% reported some sexual attraction to small children, 9% described sexual fantasies involving children, 5% admitted to having masturbated to sexual fantasies of children, and 7% indicated they might have sex

with a child if not caught (Briere, J., & Runtz, M. (1989). University males' sexual interest in children: Predicting potential indices of "pedophilia" in a non-forensic sample. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 13, 65-75).

(3) In another sample with 100 male and 180 female undergraduate students, 22% of males and 3% of females reported sexual attraction to a child. (Smiljanich, K., & Briere, J. (1996). Self-reported sexual interest in children: Sex differences and psychosocial correlates in a university sample. *Violence and Victims*, 11, 39-50)

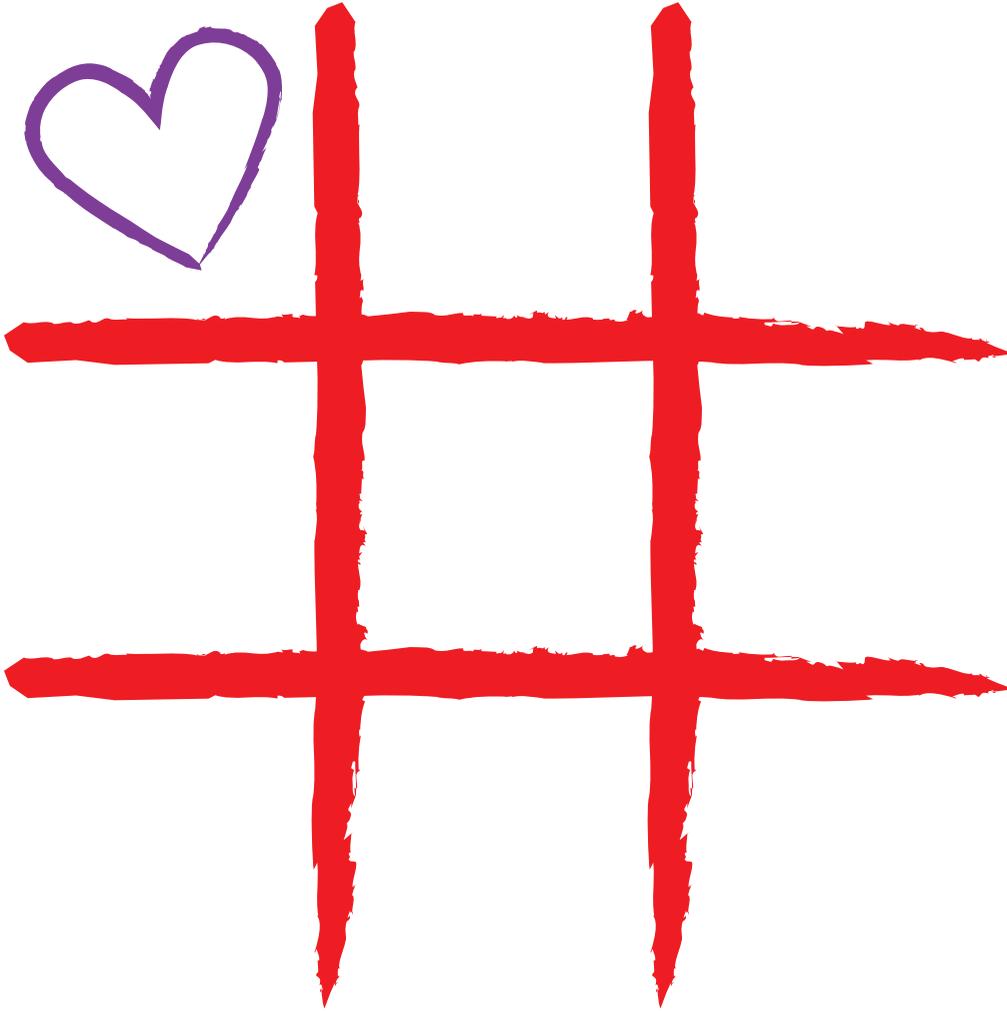
(4) In a sample of 80 volunteers, about 25% self-reported some pedophilic interest or in the plethysmographic phase exhibited penile arousal to a child that equaled or exceeded arousal to an adult (Hall, G. C. N., Hirschman, R., & Oliver, L. L. (1995). Sexual arousal and arousability to pedophilic stimuli in a community sample of normal men. *Behavior Therapy*, 26, 681-694).

(5) In a control group of 66 males recruited from hospital staff and the community, 17% showed a penile response that was pedophilic (Fedora, O., Reddon, J. R., Morrison, J. W., Fedora, S. K., Pascoe, H., & Yeudall, L. T. (1992). Sadism and other paraphilias in normal controls and aggressive and nonaggressive sex offenders. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 21, 1-15).



The Story of a GL Friendship

by ExtraOrdinary



Author’s Note: In order to tell a more coherent and easy-to-understand story, the people in this story have been given names. These are not their real names, even though these are real events. These nicknames have been given for narration purposes.

The second she walked through the door, my heart stopped.

There was something familiar about her. I’d met her before. Or at least seen her before. Her sister had been coming to my classes for nearly nine months, so I had to have seen her at some point, right?

So why did it feel like I was just seeing her for the first time?

“Aiden, this is Charlotte,” her mom said as they approached me. “She’s very excited to be joining your class!”

I flashed a smile. “Hi, Charlotte! I can’t wait to have you in class!”

We entered the classroom and I went up to the front, along with the other teachers. Charlotte stood close to the front, but not close enough to be the center of attention. She had the most uninhibited smile I’d ever seen plastered across her face. She was unashamedly excited and ready to have fun.

I’m pretty sure it was at that moment I fell in love with her.

Time passed at an excruciating crawl in between that first class and the following one. Knowing I’d get to see Charlotte made it seem like I’d never get to go back and teach again. But finally, the hour had arrived: Charlotte, her older sister, and her mom smiled and greeted me as, at last, they walked through the door the afternoon of the second class.

At that point, I had a good relationship with Charlotte’s family. Her older sister, Nadine, had been in my classes for almost a year and her mom was a bit of a chatterbox, so I got to know them fairly well. She was what, in my opinion, every good parent should be: tirelessly devoted to helping her children. Since I was the teacher of a subject that her children were passionate about, she was fully invested in

having a relationship with me not only as a teacher who could help her children improve, but as a person as well. I was an ally in her mission to help her children succeed.

And I wouldn't have had it any other way. They were kind, caring, wonderful people and I felt lucky to be a part of their lives, if only as a teacher in their children's classes.

While I had a good relationship with the family, I had yet to get to know Charlotte. I planned to change that as soon as I could. I remained very friendly toward her once we began the class. She had a contagious smile and, every time I would look over at her, she would instantly break out into a grin and giggle.

We took a break halfway through, since the class was several hours long, and I sat down to catch my breath. Keeping track of twenty kids, even with two other teachers in the room, was never easy and I needed a moment while they were all out of the room.

Charlotte was one of the first to come back inside. She started running around the room, getting her energy out as if her life depended on it. I couldn't help but crack a smile at the way she bounced off the walls like that.

"Charlotte, c'mere," I told her, reaching out my hand.

She wandered over to me and climbed into my lap. I hadn't meant that as a ploy to get her in my lap. I had only meant to call her over, but she was clearly comfortable

sitting in my lap and I certainly wasn't going to stop her. Cuddling was one of my specialties, after all.

Charlotte made herself comfortable on my lap, leaned back into me, and sighed. I wrapped my arms around her and sighed as well.

"See?" I teased. "Isn't relaxing better than running around?"

She mumbled in agreement and smiled. For a kid who was just running around only thirty seconds before, I was surprised she was so calm in my lap.

But maybe that's because she was feeling what I was feeling. A connection. She knew she could trust me. Without knowing her that well, I already thought the world of her. I was more than willing to get to know her much better than the pleasantries exchanged between me and most of my students. I wanted to know her. All about her. What made her tick.

From that first day, we were inseparable. Every week, she came into class with the world's brightest smile and she would always give me a hug. Some weeks, she wanted my attention more than others, but I was fine with that. As long as she still cared about me, it wasn't important that I was the center of her attention all the time. What mattered to me was that I mattered to her.

Due to the way my schedule worked out, I had to leave that class a week early. I wouldn't be there the last day, and I hadn't told any of the kids because I didn't want

to distract them. But on the day of my final class, I mentioned at the end that I wouldn't be there the following week. Charlotte came sprinting across the room toward me, screaming, "Nooooooooo!" The rest of the kids quickly followed, and I found myself being tackled by twenty small children as they gave me goodbye hugs.

After class, I was taking a shift working at the front desk when I heard my name. Turning around, I saw that Charlotte was talking to her mom. Her mom looked worried and then glanced over at me.

"You're leaving?" she asked.

"Yeah," I replied. "My schedule won't let me stay that long. I'm going to be out of town next week."

As I approached the two of them, Charlotte turned around and I saw tears glistening on her cheeks. My protective instincts instantly activated. I sat down on the chair next to them and held out my arms.

"Oh, Charlotte," I consoled. "C'mere you."

Charlotte crawled into my lap and faced me. Without giving it a second thought, I kissed her on the head a few times and hugged her tightly to me as she sobbed quietly.

"It'll be okay," I reassured her. "You can always come back for classes in the fall. I'll be here."

She said nothing, but her crying

had stopped, so I was hoping she had been comforted just a little. I kissed her on the head again, and it was at that moment that it occurred to me that maybe I was crossing a line. Most parents don't take kindly to adult men giving their child kisses, even if it was innocent and only on the head. I quickly glanced at her mom and there seemed to be nothing in her eyes but love and concern for her child. No level of discomfort, no malice, nothing.

I held her some more and talked to her mom. We discussed plans for the summer and how the girls were doing in school. We talked about the class. And finally I got up the courage to mention what had been on my mind.

I looked at Charlotte, who was still a little bit upset, and squeezed her a bit tighter for a moment.

"You know, if you ever need a babysitter, I'm available anytime," I offered.

Her mom laughed.

"No, really," I repeated. "I'm more than happy to do it."

"Really?"

I nodded. When she realized I was serious, we exchanged contact information and promised to keep in touch.

At this point, there was a steady stream of parents and kids arriving for the next class, so I was forced to toss Charlotte off my lap and attend the desk. I signed people in for the next class and did all that boring administrative stuff.

Once everything had settled down again, Charlotte began wandering around the lobby, as Nadine was in the class after hers, and I wanted to spend as much time with her as I could before I left, so I came up with an idea.

"Charlotte, do you want to be my helper?"

She perked up and smiled. "Yeah!"

She planted herself in my lap and I kissed her on the head. I showed her the sign in sheet and she helped me with the last few stragglers

"Charlotte, do you want to be my helper?" —Aiden

"Yeah!" —Charlotte

arriving to class. We started surfing the web with the computer that was sitting on the desk, and we found some Dr. Seuss stories to read. She liked it when I did all the voices for all the characters and when I spoke in Seuss's signature rhythm.

As they left later that day, I knew that Charlotte and I had something special. I could only hope that nothing would screw it up.

Because I've screwed up before. Big time. Well, "screw up" may not be the right word, but I've known I was a Girl Lover since I was about thirteen years old. I'm not sure exactly when I realized it, because it's the kind of thing that hits you more gradually than all at once,

but, before I knew it, I was paying more attention to the little girls in the room than I was to girls my own age.

Molly was one of those girls. At 8 years old, she was already far more stunning than any teenage girl could have been, or at least my high-school-self thought so. Just as with anyone else, some girls took time to grow on me, and some struck me right away. Molly was one of the latter. The second I saw her, I was in love. I knew it. And that was that. One might believe,

given the forbidden nature of a Girl Lover's romantic and sexual desires, these feelings would be difficult to accept and couldn't happen as instantaneously as I just described.

I assure you this is incorrect. There was no wrestling with morality or self-doubt. There was only the sound of angels singing as the world's most perfect human being walked through the door.

For the first few weeks after I met her, I only spoke to her a few times. I didn't have much reason to talk to her besides being head over heels in love, and I figured I couldn't just approach her and tell her that. So I

bided my time until an opportunity to get to know her presented itself.

And it did. We were sitting around with a group of people and the person sitting next to Molly got up. I stole the spot next to her and started chatting her up. I don't even remember what we talked about now; I just remember being so happy and proud of myself for having the courage to talk to the girl I liked. She may only be 8 years old, but a fear of rejection was still present for me.

A few minutes later, the person who was sitting next to Molly came back and informed me I stole her seat. What happened next jump started a relationship that was bound to crash and burn sooner or later.

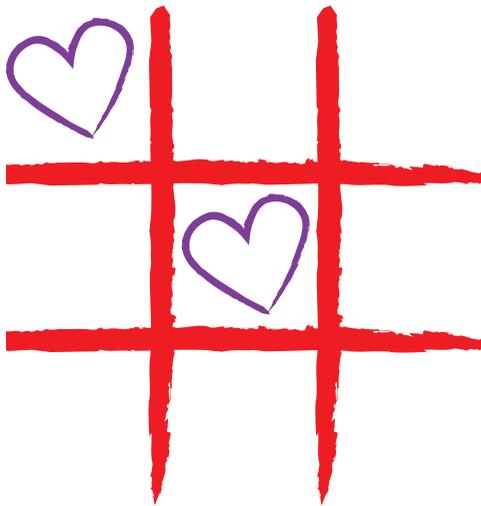
Molly looked up at me and said, "I can sit in your lap."

Without waiting for permission, she climbed onto me and claimed my lap as if it had always belonged to her. And I wouldn't have had it any other way.

I have no idea how or why, but Molly became attached to me every time I saw her from then on. It's almost as though my lack of resistance signaled to her I cared about her. Which, I mean, it did. I adored her and wanted to spend every second of every day with her. My notebooks became full of doodles with her initials, discretely hidden within other drawings so as not to attract attention. She wandered in and out of my dreams at night, and never left my mind during the day.

The end of the school year was approaching and I knew I wouldn't see Molly over the summer. I had anxiety just thinking about it because she had become such an important part of my life. It seemed impossible to live an entire summer without seeing her.

I was sitting with Molly and a few friends. We were discussing getting together over the summer and we exchanged phone numbers. I turned to Molly.



"I think I need Molly's number," I joked, not sure how she'd respond.

Without missing a beat, Molly started spouting off her phone number. I took it down in my phone and told her I'd give her mom a call sometime. In retrospect, this was the wrong way to go about things, but I was a teenager with hormones. If the girl I had a crush on would give me her number, I'd take it.

One of the last times I saw Molly that year, I decided to mention something about the phone number, since I felt awkward having that kind of information without her

mom's knowledge.

"Just so you know," I began, "Molly gave me your number so maybe we could get together and hang out or something."

Her mom, Jaclyn, looked at me and smiled, nodded, and said with a wink, "Okay. Sure."

About a month or two later, sometime in the dog days of summer, I found myself missing Molly something terrible, so I cooked up a scheme to see her. I decided I'd get together a bunch of my friends that she knew and invite her along as well.

Sitting in my car, I took a deep breath and dialed her phone number. I could have sworn it rang a million times, the seconds feeling like hours, days even. Finally, I heard someone on the other side pick up.

"Hello, this is Geraldine," a voice said.

Geraldine was Molly's grandmother, whom I had met a few times and we got along fairly well. While I was a bit unsure as to Jaclyn's feelings toward me, I knew Geraldine thought I was the greatest thing since sliced bread.

I gulped, and proceeded with a smile. "Hi, Geraldine, this is Aiden. We met a few weeks ago?"

"Oh, of course I remember you! How are you doing?"

A nervous laugh escaped my mouth. "I'm good. How are you?"

"I'm good. What can I do for you?"

“Well, I was getting a bunch of friends together, friends that Molly knows, so I wanted to invited her and Jaclyn along with us.”

“That sounds like a great idea! Here, I’ll write down your number and give it to Jaclyn. She’s working tonight, but she should be able to call you tomorrow.”

I couldn’t help but allow myself an internal sigh of relief. “Great!”

Geraldine took my phone number and assured me I’d get a call soon. I hung up the phone, so proud of myself for having the courage to do what I had just done. In my experience, half the reason people suspected I was a Girl Lover was because I’d acted shift, because I had assumed people would find out about my desires and they’d take me away from the girls that I cared so much about. But someone calling to invite a friend to hang out, even if that friend is 8 years old, wasn’t any more weird than you made it out to be, right?

Right?

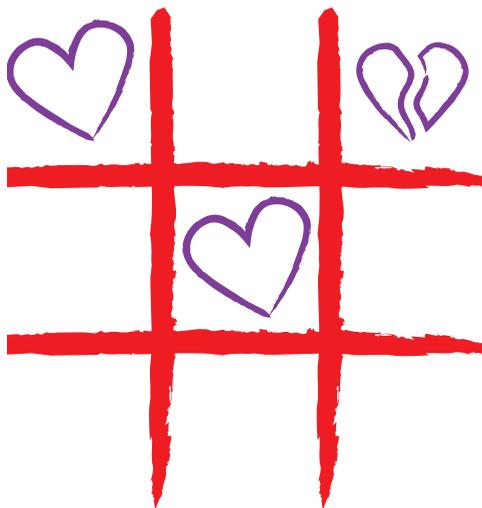
I’d get my answer soon enough. Days went by without a call. Days turned to weeks. Finally, I decided to try again. I dialed those numbers again and waited for someone to pick up.

No one answered. I left a message, basically saying what I’d said to Geraldine, hoping this time I’d get a response. Maybe they were just busy, or they’d forgotten. Jaclyn and I had a pretty good relationship, as far as I knew. I couldn’t imagine that she was simply not calling me back.

As the days went by, I began to come to the realization that I wouldn’t be getting any response. Refusing to see something that was most likely rather apparent to anyone else, I gave them one last call.

Nothing. That was the last I heard of Molly for nine months.

My friend and I walked into the room and I felt those familiar butterflies in my stomach. There, standing not twenty feet from me, was Molly. She’d grown a few inches, and she definitely looked a bit older, but she was undeniably the same girl I’d fallen in love with.



Later that day, I managed to sneak my way into a conversation with some friends and Molly. It was at this point that I realized that she didn’t remember me. I could feel my heart falling to pieces as I desperately tried explaining to her who I was.

My heartache didn’t last long. As I recounted to her our many memories from our previous time together, her face lit up and her smile grew.

“Aiden!” she exclaimed, throwing

herself into my arms in a ferocious hug.

“Good to see you too,” I joked.

From that moment on, Molly was once again attached to me. Wherever I went, she went. She began sitting in my lap more often. I began giving her more hugs and kisses on the head when she’d sit with me, and that only made her want to sit with me more. Our relationship began to thrive again. I’d spent nine months going through difficult times in general, so being away from my little angel only made things worse.

But everything was okay now. Because I had my girl.

Molly was a temperamental kid. I always knew it, but it was shortly after our reunion that I learned just how temperamental she could be.

My friends and I were sitting around with Molly and a friend of hers, and the girls had decided that my friends and I were simply there to provide our laps for the sitting. Molly and her friend rotated who they sat on, with Molly calling the changes.

She climbed into my lap and I wrapped my arms around her. Instantly, it felt that all was right in the world. It’d been a rough day, but I had my angel with me, so nothing could bother me.

I kissed her head. “I love you,” I whispered.

Molly didn’t respond verbally, but she sighed and squeezed my arms tighter around her. I never knew why she did this, but she wasn’t a

fan of showing her emotions, so she never told me she loved me. However, I'd received several confirmations that she enjoyed my kisses, so I knew I was in the clear.

We sat together for a good long while. Usually, she called for a change after a minute or two. Except now she was in my lap, and she clearly didn't want to leave. Because I loved her and she loved me.

And that's all that should have mattered.

But the next day, she walked into the room and wouldn't meet my gaze. She looked up at me, then immediately looked down. I tried going to sit with her, and she still wouldn't look at me. Something was wrong.

That's when I saw it.

From across the room, Jaclyn turned and saw me looking at them. She leaned down to Molly, whispered something in her ear, stared at me for a moment, and left the room. Molly continued milling about, her eyes locked to the floor. She didn't talk to me for the rest of the day, and several days after that.

I knew it would be the last time I saw Molly for awhile. We were all gathered together, having a potluck and reminiscing. Molly, Jaclyn, and Geraldine and her husband were all there. By this point, I thought our relationship had improved, so I decided to chat up Geraldine and her husband.

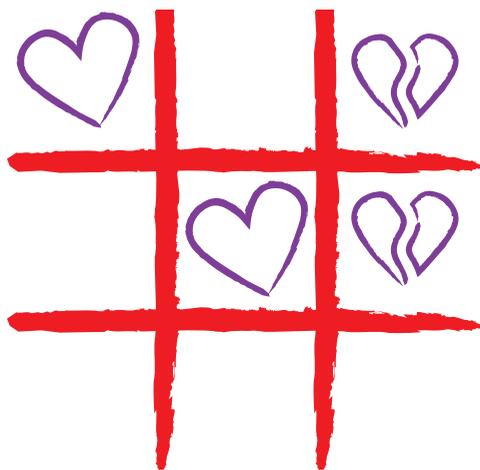
While they were acting kind and genuine, Molly and Jaclyn were

standing there, taciturn. Molly was staring at the ground. It was coming time for me to go, so I touched Molly's shoulder and smiled at her.

"Hey, you. Will I see you before I go or should I say goodbye now?" I asked.

There was no response. She kept her eyes glued to the floor, shifting her weight from one foot to another.

"I'm sure we'll see you around," Jaclyn said to me, with the most fake smile I'd ever seen emanating from her face.



I smiled back in my best attempt at sincerity and turned to Molly again.

"Well, I'll see you later, Molly."

No reply still. Barely any sign that she'd even heard me.

With that fake grin still on Jaclyn's face and Molly refusing to look at me, I had a feeling that I had already lost this battle somehow.

It was another few months after that until I saw Molly again. She never treated me the same after that, though. On occasion, I'd see

glimpses of the girl I knew, but I felt like I knew what the problem was—Jaclyn.

Every now and then, I'd be spending time with Molly and I'd start to see that beautiful personality shining through, and we'd be interrupted by Jaclyn. She'd whisper something to Molly and then leave, and the glimmer in my angel's eyes would be gone. The difference was night and day. I wasn't sure what I'd done to make her hate me so much, but she despised me. In hindsight, I can understand what might have made her suspicious or overprotective. However, if she and I had had a better relationship, I don't believe my actions would have been interpreted in the negative light she put them in.

Either way, my relationship with Molly was completely ruined. The last time I saw her, she wouldn't look me in the eyes. I tried sitting next to her and talking to her and she turned away from me. That moment confirmed for me what I'd already known for a long time but I'd been too afraid to admit: any chance of saving our friendship was over. Jaclyn had won.

But it didn't have to be that way, I thought. Why was someone so hell bent on saving their daughter from something that caused absolutely no harm? The last thing I wanted was to bring harm to Molly, so I was very careful about my behavior around her. If she ever seemed uncomfortable, I stopped what I was doing. She never objected to my hugs and kisses. In fact, she responded quite well to them. There were never

intentions to take those hugs and kisses further, turning them into something illegal. Sure, there was a part of me that wanted to, but I valued Molly's safety and well-being more than my own desires. She always came first, and it seemed like she knew that. There was never a moment in which I felt our relationship was a bad thing.

What made it bad was someone else's interpretation of how things were. Someone else saw something they didn't like and stepped in. I have no idea where my relationship with Molly would have gone had there been no intervention, but I have a feeling we would still be friends to this day. There was a genuine love between the two of us and I will never understand how that could be considered a bad thing.

As with everything in life, I moved on from my relationship with Molly. It took a long time, a lot of angry poetry, and way too many listens of various heartbreak anthems, but I got over it. In the end, I realized that I didn't want to be with Molly if she didn't want to be with me. And, because of Jaclyn's intervention, it was very clear that I was no longer welcome in Molly's life. So I got over it.

I met some other girls I enjoyed spending time with, but none that were quite like Molly. The lovesick part of me constantly said that I would never find another girl like her. That I'd lost the only girl I'd ever love. Deep down, I knew this wasn't true, but it was hard when I struggled to find anyone, my age or Molly's age, that I connected

with in that way.

And then I met Charlotte. It was suddenly as though the memory of Molly had disappeared from my mind completely. All that mattered was this new perfect angel in my life. The old clichéd saying goes that you only get over someone when you find someone new. That is exactly what happened.

The biggest difference between my relationship with Charlotte and my relationship with Molly is the support of the parents. I never really got to know Jaclyn and her husband, whereas I feel as though I know Charlotte's parents fairly well. I consider them to be friends of mine. They have repeatedly thanked me for being such a positive influence in Charlotte's life and for being an informal mentor to her. I respect the hell out of them and vice versa. It is my personal opinion that my relationship with their daughter has flourished thanks to how kind they have been. If they had acted as Jaclyn had, defensive and overprotective, I believe everyone involved would have been miserable. They would have made a big deal about nothing.

But they didn't. They trusted that my love for Charlotte is genuine and that I wouldn't do anything to hurt her. Because who on earth would want to bring harm to someone they love?

Several months after our tearful goodbye, I began teaching classes again. I knew Charlotte and her family would be coming that day and I was counting down the minutes.

As the time of Charlotte's class drew near, I stood excitedly at the front desk, awaiting the sight of my girl walking through the door.

Finally, I heard the door open as I was helping check in another family. After a moment, I turned around and saw my little angel standing in front of me, decked out head to toe in pink. It was one of the cutest things I'd ever seen.

I scooped her up in my arms, hugging her tightly. Her parents smiled at us as we enjoyed our reunion. They were just happy to see their child so happy.

And happy she was. Before class started, she approached me no less than three times to give me a hug and tell me she missed me. Over the next few weeks, she spent more time sitting in my lap than she ever had before. She told me countless times how she had missed me while I was gone and she was glad that I was back and teaching her class again.

One day after class, I had nothing to do and Charlotte was still around, so, naturally, we gravitated toward each other. We sat down together on one of the couches in the lobby and she grabbed two markers and a piece of paper.

"Let's play a game!" she suggested with a smile.

"What game do you want to play?" I asked.

"Tic Tac Toe!"

"Well, I must warn you that I am the master of Tic Tac Toe."

She giggled at my remark and made us a grid. Just as it looked like I would prevail in our battle, she quickly scribbled two “O”s and won the game! I gasped in mock anger as Charlotte collapsed into hysterics.

We played 30 rounds of Tic Tac Toe over the next half hour. I managed to win a few, but, strangely enough, Charlotte went on a bit of a winning streak. Even though she knew she was cheating, Charlotte still bragged about how amazing she was at the game. I’d occasionally break out of my pretend frustration and tell her how much I loved her, kissing her on the head or the cheek. The sound of her laughter as she won game after game was one of the most beautiful things I’d ever heard.

As she left that day, I knew I’d see her the following week in class, and something about our parting didn’t seem quite as bittersweet as any time I left Molly. Because Charlotte was allowed to express her true affinity for me and I was allowed to express my love for her, there was no guesswork involved. We were allowed to have our relationship on our terms. And that was the most rewarding thing in the world.

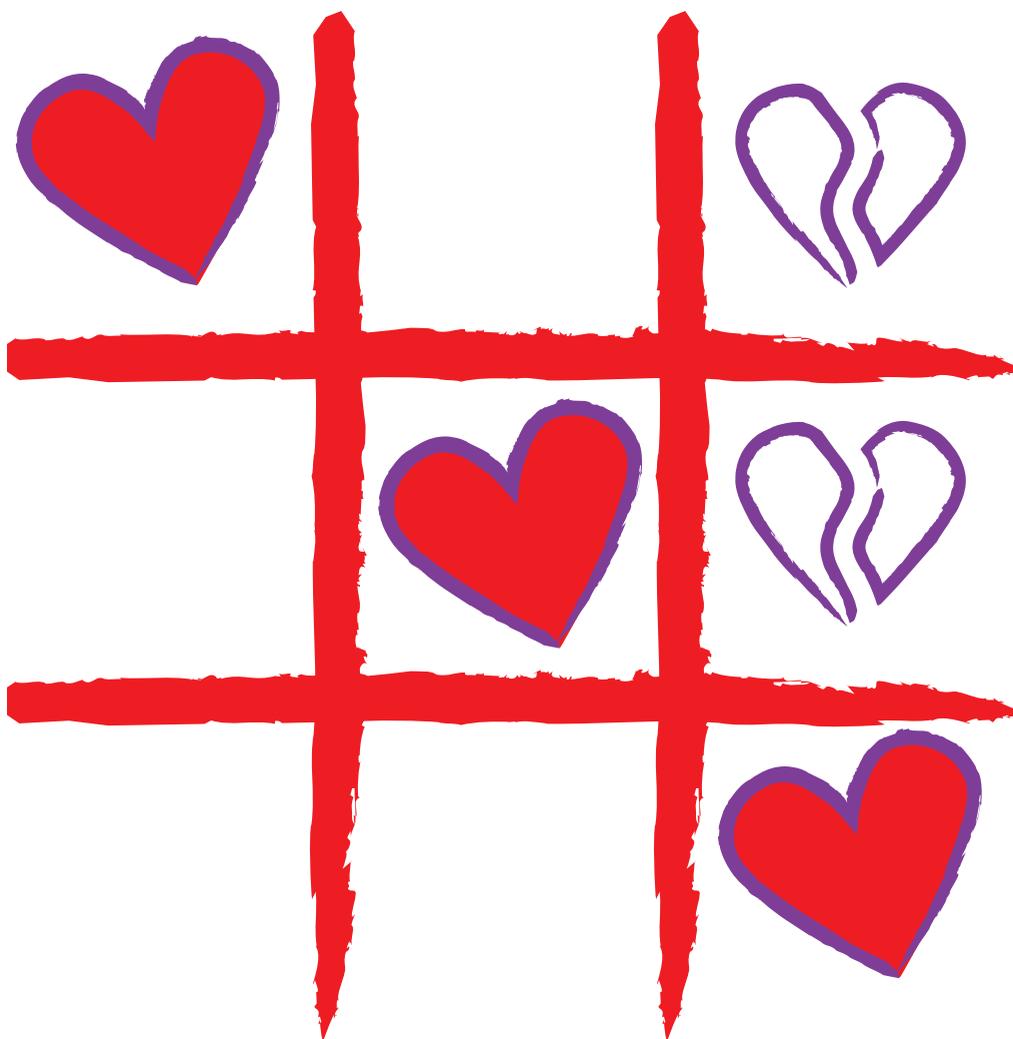
So even though I was sad to see Charlotte go, I knew I’d be greeted next time with a big smile and a hug. Because I loved her and she loved me.

And, for once, that’s all that mattered.

“Let’s play a game!”

“What game do you want to play?”

“Tic Tac Toe!”





Hi, Heart

by

MiNiñita

Hi, heart

I know you can be wise
but I know you can also
be treacherous
but one thing I know
is that in love you're true.

Hi, heart

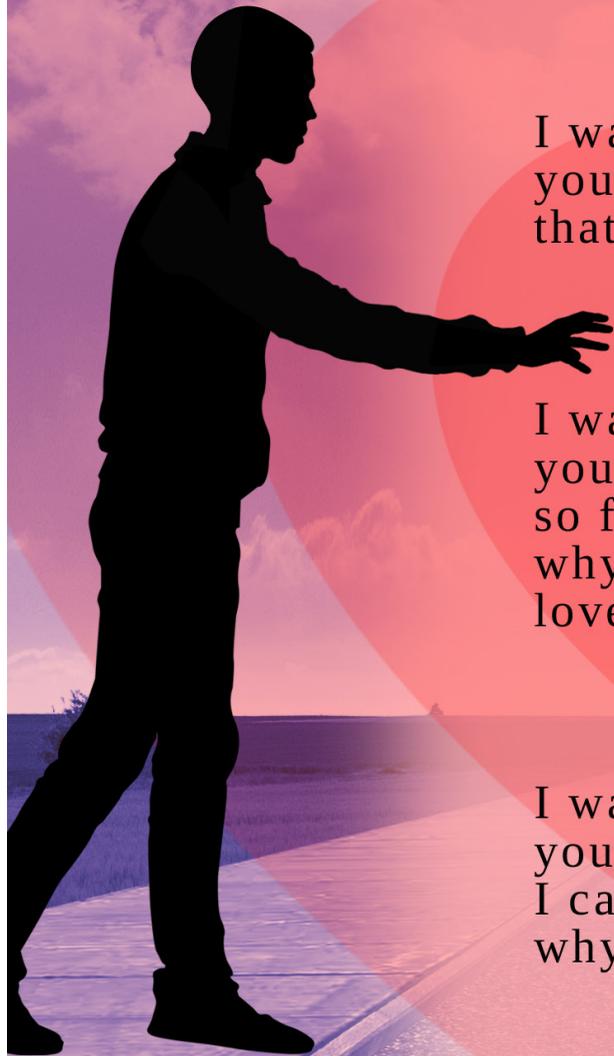
I want to ask you why
you have to love someone
that's so forbidden.

Hi, heart

I want to ask why would
you love someone that is
so far from me,
why love someone I can't
love openly.

Hi, heart

I want time to ask why
you have to love someone
I can't be with
why love a little girl.



MARK TWAIN'S LAST ADVENTURE

WITH THE ANGELFISH GIRLS

by truerealitylover

“One gets large impressions in boyhood, sometimes, which he has to fight against all his life.” —*Mark Twain, The Innocents Abroad*

Whenever we read something about, or hear of the name Mark Twain, it may instantly conjure up in our memories of reading late into the evening hours the two well-known novels branded with two fictional boy characters names, Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.

Though praised for his works under his pen name, Samuel Langhorne Clemens was more than just a well-read mid-western American writer; he was a humorist, a publisher, a correspondent news traveler, a miner, a confederate army soldier, a political essayist, a steamboat crew member, a realist, and a lecturer.

Inspired by his childhood of growing up in the back woods of a small Missouri town called Hannibal, the Sawyer and Finn novels are now deemed as world classics that depicted an era in the American dream as a moment and adventure as seen through a child's point of view; simplicity, innocence and discovery.⁴

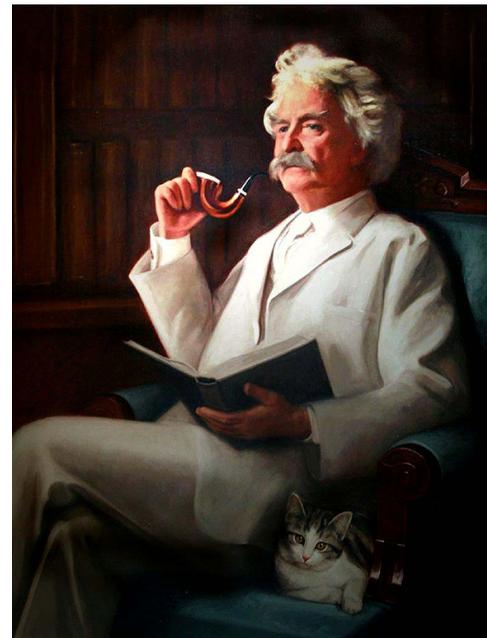
“All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called Huckleberry Finn,” Ernest Hemingway wrote in 1935 ¹

It was during his steamboat days when Clemens started to get serious in his prose and took on a pen name rather than using his own. In the mid-19th century, the crew of steamboats would use a simple rope with a weight at its end to sink into the river to determine the water depth. If all was well, the crew would yell to the captain looking over the rail above ‘by the mark twain’ or where the word twain was used for indicating 2 fathoms. Henceforth, that call was his choice for the famous pen name.¹ But Clemens, himself, simply stated that the pen name was already in use by a riverboat captain named Isaiah Sellers. Clemens adopted the pen name, Mark Twain, for his own use after Sellers died.⁶

“Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.”—*Mark Twain*

Clemens often wrote about his travels, his politics, his humor, and his nonfiction that frequently had a point to make; even sometimes with a sarcastic or satirical twist. But the quote above is without humor; fitting in quite well with what is certainly very relevant today in the 21st century.

Knowing he was perhaps living in the very last years of his life, Clemens went against the grain of his contemporary society norms



one last time and decided to explore a new twist, or fancy, in his controversial and discontented lifestyle. He did pause and reflect especially about his past family tragedies and his old age.

“After my wife's death, June 5, 1904, I experienced a long period of unrest and loneliness. Clara and Jean were busy with their studies and their labors and I was washing about on a forlorn sea of banquets and speech making in high and holy causes... I had reached the grand papa stage of life; and what I lacked and what I needed was grandchildren.” - Mark Twain¹

Brushing aside the Sawyer and Finn classics, and the fact that both

works were entitled ‘The Adventures of’, some of our 20th and 21st century critics appear to have accused Clemens, in his final years, of being a pedophile; even saying this was his final dark moment in his life; the ultimate degenerative debauchery. Was it though?

“I suppose we are all collectors... As for me, I collect pets: young girls — girls from ten to sixteen years old; girls who are pretty and sweet and naive and innocent — dear young creatures to whom life is a perfect joy and to whom it has brought no wounds, no bitterness, and few tears.” Samuel Clemens, 1908₂

But was Samuel Langhorne Clemens a pedophile or was he, as he often did, brandish a setting, or scenario of humor, to poke fun at the world or to make sarcastic fun of himself and of his proclivities?

Or was this one of his last ‘adventures’ with good reasons and intents?

In his early 70s, Clemens became a dedicated connoisseur of befriending a select group of young girls that perhaps gave him a more positive and alternate frame of mind.

As opposed to continuing to write essays, satires, and short diatribes expounding upon the evils of the growing American imperialism and the despair of humanity in general, in his last remaining years he began to write simple, instructive, polite, and positive letters to his young ladies. Many of these letters still exist to this day

for us to read and marvel over.

Clemens, in the last five years of his life, began entertaining girls at his home in Connecticut. The girls themselves, all of ‘schoolgirl ages’, were primarily the daughters of his wealthy friends and neighbors.

He allowed each girl to pick one of the fish from the myriad prints on the walls of his billiard room as her patron fish as a part of their induction into his ‘Aquarium Club’; thereafter he called the girls his ‘Angelfish.’₅

Indeed, in Clemens’s view and wonder, the young girls he acquainted himself with were angels with all the countless characteristics of innocent, pure ‘colors’ depicting their inherent nature and charms yet to be jaded in the world that he loathed in so many ways.

“His first interest when he goes off to a new place is to find little girls.off he goes with a flash if he sees a new pair of slim little legs appear, and if the little girl wears butterfly bows of ribbon on the back of her head, then his delirium is complete.” - Clemens’s personal secretary₂

First impressions would have any reader taken aback with such behavior; if at all true or not. Should we dismiss or condemn Clemens behavior? Does he fit society’s bill as a typical pedophile stereotype; a ‘perverted, evil, dirty old man?’

Regardless of the times back then in the early 20th century, an adult

man would still be considered out of line and acting inappropriate if he paid any special attention to a young woman not yet into her teen years and especially so if she was not a relative.

Though certainly criticized in those days, the admirer would not be incarcerated or legally punished as what often happens in our present 21st century so-called modern society. A good example is depicted in 1978 movie “Pretty Baby”, with the actress Brooke Shields playing the part of a 12 year old girl that befriended a professional photographer that fell in love with her in New Orleans in 1917. The movie certainly showed a lack of any legal framework or guidelines to punish such an affair in those times; or the turn of the century from the 19th to the 20th.

At first, any person in our present Western society, accepting the dominant public views about pedophilia, would certainly have a negative opinion of this and perhaps accuse the author of the Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn adventures of being a pedophile even if it was a period of time that happened over a hundred years ago.

So would our present norms and morals of the 21st century Western society have us believing that Clemens was a vile abuser of children? Should we ban his classics? Burn his works?

The University of California, Berkeley currently hosts what is known as The Mark Twain Project

that consists of well over 200 academic and professional participants dedicated to responsibly gather, arrange, and publish everything that Clemens wrote.⁸

Over the last forty years The Mark Twain Project has, along with the University of California Press, prepared, printed and published, twenty-six scholarly critical editions of his letters, notebooks, novels, travel books, sketches, and essays—including some of the most important works in his canon

have decided not to mention in their Project about Clemens' young girlfriends that 'he collected.'

But was this really a dark era of his life? Was it but another episode of his many whims of societal and civil criticism that he decided to challenge one last time?

Or was it a personal venture in which Clemens was able to see through and beyond his personal despair and cynicism of humanity; that there was still hope

including his wife and eldest daughter.

The subsequent isolation bestowed upon him by his two remaining daughters, and the international fame making him appear more surreal than a real person, added to his sometimes fits of rage that he was notorious for.

Thereafter, Clemens perhaps fought his own good fight to try to maintain those boyhood impressions of adventure,



(Huckleberry Finn, Connecticut Yankee, Tom Sawyer, and Roughing It).⁸

Surely, this academic and literary effort has not overlooked Clemens' personal interests in young girls when he was in his 70s? Perhaps they are concerned about the present social opinion and dogma with regards to pedophilia and

in the world as seen through the innocent, untarnished eyes and minds of the young girls he befriended?

His bouts, the affairs as some critics put it, began with the young girls after surviving a decade of tragedy, personal character frustration, and loneliness brought on by family and friends deaths,

discovery, and wonder about life and the joy and awe of true friendships. His despair about life however overpowered most of his elderly adult life; a battle lost at least for a while.

From the decade of family tragedy in his 60s, at the crossroad of his tragic and frustrating life; could have put a bullet in his head or,

as he did fortunately, to move on in the remaining years of his life to appreciate an interest in befriending young girls. He decided to go against the grain one last time with society's commonly held rules and standards by his return to the world out of decade of mourning, frustration, anger, and disgust.

*“A boy’s life is not all comedy; much of the tragic enters into it.”—Mark Twain, **Autobiography**₂*

Through it all, Clemens was coherent enough in his early 70s that he saw a way to climb out of this darkness and enter into the light of hope fully aware that his years of life were soon to be over. It was his passionate and attentive interests in the young girls he befriended that gave him back the smiles, the laughter, the joy of living.

I return to this statement from Clemens: “Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.”

All through his life, Clemens fought, criticized, and expounded upon the ills of human civilization and, oftentimes, it was America's imperialistic performances abroad that gave him the firewood that fed his many impassioned essays and satires.

Perhaps in his final years he decided to pause and reflect on what his present society dictates as the norm with regards to how

to appreciate and recognize the child person.

Like a family grandfather figure, his fascination and vibrantly delightful attendance and attraction to young girls was a turning point for the better in Clemens life; if even for a short while before he died in 1910 at the age of 75.

Of all the girls that he befriended, Angelfish or not, to this day, not one of them ever accused him of any physical or mental abuse through any surviving diaries, essays, or even letters to friends. Some of his Angelfish and other young lady acquaintances even went on to become well known actresses of their day while others became wives and mothers.₃

Clemens frequently exchanged letters with the famous actress Ethel Barrymore, a member of the well-known Barrymore family of actors and actresses. Ethel was the great aunt of our contemporary actress Drew Barrymore.₂

In the TV Disney 1991 movie, entitled “Mark Twain and Me”, the child Angelfish Dorothy Quick was played by the actress Amy Stewart; adapted from Quick's book “Enchantment: A Little Girl's Friendship with Mark Twain” published in 1961 or 51 years after Clemens death.

Quick went on in her adult life to become a novelist and author of several books. Her choice of the very word ‘enchantment’ for her book certainly indicates a very positive outcome from her personal life and experiences as

one of Clemens' Angelfish.

One noteworthy literary work, Mark Twain and the Happy Island was written in 1914 from firsthand experiences recorded by Elizabeth Wallace when she was friends with the younger Margaret Blackmer; one of the first ten Angelfish of Clemens Aquarium Club. Wallace met Clemens, along with Margaret, in Bermuda in 1908. At that time, Wallace was a dean at the University of Chicago.

“Miss Wallace's story is a tender one, showing him (Clemens) still full of life and health and of that gracious sympathy with childhood which was always one of his chief characteristics and added comfort to his later years. The world will be the better and Mark Twain's memory the sweeter for these gentle chapters.” Albert Bigelow Paine, Introduction to Wallace's book₁₀

With many of the letters and original photographs of him and his Angelfish young ladies still surviving, is it any wonder why we should not add to our knowledge about this special figure, or the “King”, as coined by a poem written about Clemens by Kipling?₁₀

“As for me, I collect pets: young girls – girls from ten to sixteen years old; girls who are pretty and sweet and naive and innocent— dear young creatures to whom life is a perfect joy and to whom it has brought no wounds, no bitterness, and no tears.” - Samuel Clemens, Mark Twain's Autobiographical

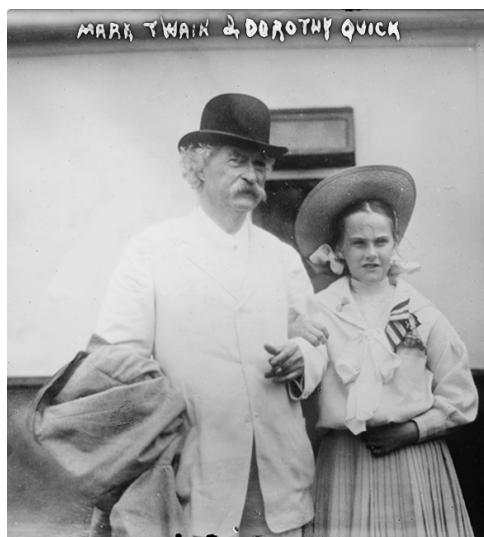
Dictations, February 1908.

That was stated in 1908. Two years later Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain) died.

Despite Clemens daughter Clara's efforts to suppress and even destroy the evidence of her deceased father's Aquarium Club; it still survives in history to this day,

He was a family man, father, and certainly, posed against the grain of our contemporary society's negative view, he could also be positively construed as a pedophile.

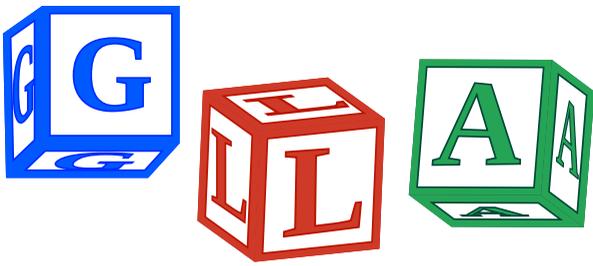
The young girls that became his Angelfish perhaps gave Clemens one last hope, a pleasing sight, of surrogate granddaughters in his discouraging personal world;



that of a young girl's innocence, purity, and wide-eyed demeanor posing as a revitalizing elixir of life in his remaining years.

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GLArchive

girl-love's past internet

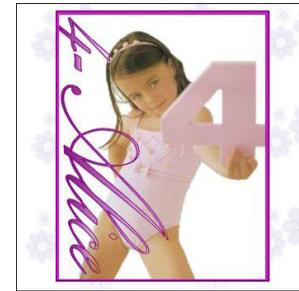
Since the late 1990's, girl-lovers (GLers) from all over the world have attempted to forge communities online. Whether it was for safety, activism, or fellowship, they have been an integral part of the modern GLer experience. However, many websites made for and by minor-attracted persons have risen and quickly fallen over the brief past of the world wide web, often due the immense stigma around pedophilia. This article, and its associated website GLArchive, intend to catalog the many communities girl-lovers have run over the years.

GLArchive was a site created by 1mg, starlet_Luver, Lux, and Innocent12, who were former members of 4-alice.com, and lilgirl.net, and was completed in August 2007. It was online for one year. GLArchive contains parts of six past websites that were important for the community in their time. These are the websites represented in alphabetical order:

- ♥ 4-Alice
- ♥ ASGL-L
- ♥ Child Love.Org
- ♥ Danish Pedophile Association
- ♥ Lil' Girl
- ♥ The Pedophile Liberation Front

GLArchives was available publicly on and off for one year but had to be taken away because it's host servers were lost. However, it is with pleasure we, the VoA Teams, announce that this resource will be back online soon. Here is some information about the included sites:

4-Alice



Name: 4-Alice.Com, 4-Alice, 4A

Date of Birth: 2001/2002

Date of Death: 2003

Archived: 2005

About:

4-Alice.com was originally supposed to be a girl-love magazine, but eventually turned into a full-featured girl-love portal, containing galleries, forums, chat rooms, and archives. It was started by OneMilligram and friends as an offshoot of lilgirl.net.

4-Alice, although similar to lilgirl.net in its beginning stages, turned into something completely different. 4-Alice made new leaps and bounds in expressing freedom of speech and girl-love. The ultimate goal behind 4-Alice was to unite girl-lovers worldwide and to scream, in a voice the world could hear, "We are proud of who we are!"

4-Alice's aim was to give a home

to the homeless and to those who thought they had nowhere to turn, assuring they could find like-minded people.

In the past, the “CL movement” or child-love movement, was pretty bleak. Most people were ashamed of their child-love, and were very reluctant to speak out about it. 4-Alice and its members were not only unashamed of their child love, but proud of it.

4-Alice stretched the idea of free speech in its infancy to its breaking point, containing artistic nude, non-nude art and young models.

The site was shut down by the admins due to an issue with a co-admin.

Owner:

♡ OneMilligram

Web Designers:

♡ Innocence

♡ OneMilligram

♡ Flickornia

♡ SharpBlue

♡ NowhereMan

♡ Zeitgerber.

Moderation:

“The A-Team” originally consisted of

♡ BlackLyteDragoon (aka) BLD

♡ DragonSlayer—(aka) DS

♡ JD420 —(aka) JohnDoe, JD

♡ OneMilligram—(aka)

Crusher, 1Mg, 818, Eight 1 Eight, The Don Mega, The Inner Bunny, Pookey”

♡ Pt4me—(aka)

ScarletLover,

♡ starlet_Luver

♡ Red Barron—(aka) PeterPan

♡ Self Bias Resister—(aka)

Replica

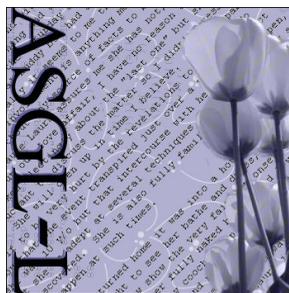
♡ Sharpblue—(aka) Sharp

♡ SweetNakieCuties—(aka) SNC

♡ Innocence12—(aka) inn12, in12

♡ Zeitgerber—(aka) “Zeitie”

ASGL-L



Nowadays, there are several forums and chatrooms for girl-lovers on the web, but there was nothing of the kind in the late 1990s. Almost all websites at the time were static rather than interactive. Instead, what existed between 1996 and 2001 was ASGL-L. It was an e-mail newsletter that was sent out a few times a week by an English girl and poetry lover calling himself Ianthe. People could subscribe to this list and subscribers could send in messages that would then be added to the next post. The name is short for ‘alt.support.girl-lovers list’, and was derived from the name of the Usenet newsgroup alt.support.boy-lovers, ASBL for short. All of the e-mails have been archived, providing a unique view of the life and ideas of girl-lovers in those early years of the internet.

How Fresh Petals described ASGL-L:

“ASGL-L is a mailing-list forum for people to discuss their feelings towards _young_ girls (ie: girls before their fourteenth birthday).

It is intended to provide peer support for those having difficulty with their feelings, for girl-lovers who feel isolated with their girl-loving, for those who possibly have no other avenue of discussion than via the internet, and for anyone else wishing to educate themselves about the nature of girl-love and girl-lovers.

ASGL-L is for girl-lovers who do _not_ consider themselves in need of ‘therapy’ or ‘conversion’ to an orientation other than their natural one, and who wish to share some of the joys of loving young girls as well as the frustrations and fears.”[sic]

14th February 1996 - Valentine's Day



have about thirty-five people on the alt.support.girl-love
to start with, which I feel is about right number. The

Childlove.org



Childlove.org was first conceived by Kyle91 in early 1999 after the fall of the P.L.F.

He inspired Elminster Trueheart, Flickorna, and Sharpblue to join the team.

Ultimately Flickorna took over the web site until its demise in 2000.

How Childlove.org describes their site:

The purpose of this website was to shed some light onto the positive aspects of erotic/sexual contact between adults and minors. We acknowledge that oftentimes adult-child relationships can contain violence, coercion, and/or irresponsible use of power. We don't have any wish to justify or minimize adults' irresponsible behavior. It is tragic that so many children are harmed at the hands of sinful adults. But what we hope to show is that sometimes adults and children can and do have healthy erotic contact with each other, demonstrate that this unusual form of intimacy is unfairly denounced, and convince that when consensual, this form of adult-child relation should go unpunished.

Danish Pedophile Association:



What is Danish Pedophile Association?

The Danish Pedophile Association was an organization for pedophiles, supporters, and others interested in the social, psychological, political and legal aspects of pedophilia and child sexuality. They provided counseling, information, debate and social support.

Purpose

- ♥ To inform the public on and reduce prejudice against pedophilia, children's sexuality, and voluntary emotional and sexual relationships between children and adults.
- ♥ To establish social contact and support for persons who have emotional, sexual, juridical, or social problems related to pedophilia.
- ♥ To create a forum for sharing opinions and experiences relating to roles, identities, and life-styles for pedophiles.
- ♥ To educate pedophiles about behaving in a responsible manner towards children.

♥ Engage in other issues related to sexual politics and child politics.

Anybody who supported the purpose of the organization and intended no harm to the organization could become a member. The price for a half year membership was 200 DKK (approx. 30 US \$) including subscription to a newsletter. The Danish Pedophile Association had members from all over Scandinavia and beyond.

Fresh Petals



Fresh Petals:

Fresh Petal was one of the very first eZine web sites for girl-lovers in the world. It was started, owned and maintained by a British girl-lover named Ianthe.

Ianthe had also started and maintained the ASGL-L. Fresh Petals contained links to books, poems, and stories about and for girl-lovers. It also featured images of little girls from around world; from famous child models at that time to manga and cartoon drawing of little girls. It also was one of the first girl-love sites that featured live interviews in text format with famous artists,

directors, and song writers whose work revolved around their interest in little girls. Fresh Petals was released once every 4 to 6 months in a webzine format for its viewers. Some of the content of Ianthe's e-zine was controversial at the time when Fresh Petals was active. Some of the articles featured images of nude children from famous artists that explored the magic and wonder of the nude female child; like Graham Oventune, Sally Mann, and David Hamilton. Fresh Petals began in the late 1990's with the final issue being released around 2001 or 2002. After successfully operating for four years, Ianthe mysteriously disappeared in 2002. The few people that Ianthe trusted with the web site tried to maintain it in his absence, but they were not able to keep the same level of excitement and interest in the webzine that Ianthe had shown. Consequently, Fresh Petals closed in 2002.

Lil' Girl



"Lil' Girl Reopens to popular demand!"

Name: Lil' Girl, lilgirl, LG, lg.net, lilgirl.net

Date of Birth: 2002

Date of Death: 2003

Archived: 2005

As reported by Dragonslayer :

"Well it has been a long time in the making. Many a fellow girl-lover has attempted what has now been done; the revival of the long lost original user-friendly girl-lover forum. And it was accomplished by one of our own founding fathers, the veritable 1MG. Lil' Girl forum was founded by Mystwr in the spring of 2002. It was a haven for girl-lovers who were frustrated with the unfriendly environment of other girl-love boards. And a haven it became. Many girl-lovers can attribute their initiation and socialization into the girl-love community to the Lil' Girl forum. It was a starting point for many of us. A home away from home. And many of the moderators of the board have now gone on to momentous things in our community, however some have been lost. And in that this re-opening is both a joyous

occasion and a sad reminder of those that have been taken from us. Let us remember Mystwr and Gandalf, and the others who have not been heard from in many years. Let us wish them well and hope that they might return to us in time. Perhaps now that Lil' Girl has re-opened it may be a beacon to those lost souls and a way for them to find their way back home."

Owner:

♡ Mystwr/OneMilligram

Web Designer:

♡ Mystwr

Moderation:

"The Lil' Girl Mod team" originally consisted of

♡ BlackLyteDragoon - (aka) BLD

♡ Dragonslayer - (aka) DS

♡ OneMilligram - (aka) Crusher, 1Mg, 818, Eight 1 Eight, The Don Mega, The Inner Bunny, Pookey"

♡ Red Barron - (aka) PeterPan

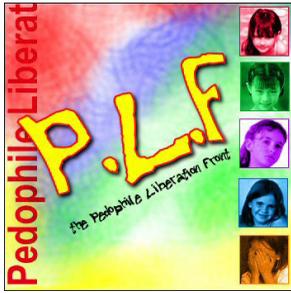
♡ Islander42

♡ Photographer69 - (aka) Photo69

♡ Fortyone - (aka) "Moon, 41"



The Pedophile Liberation Front



How the PLF described themselves:

“The PLF is an initiative which aims at forming in the public a better awareness about pedophilia and pedophiles. Its only activity lies in the redaction of this Web site. There is no «official» membership in the PLF, and beware of anyone who claims to be a member. The only members are the ones listed in the members page, and they are such only insofar as they have written one or more pages for the site.

The other aim of the PLF site is to promote a sense of pride in those pedophiles whose lives are daily made miserable by the media and by their constant bashing of our community.

The site does not purposefully and directly give aid in carrying out illegal activities, although it did host the FAQ from the newsgroup alt.binaries.pictures.erotica.pre-teen, participating in which may be considered illegal in many countries. Also, we are not responsible for anything happening in sites referred to in our links section. We are, however, supporters of freedom of speech in its broadest sense, especially when it is used to convey information.”

As can be seen, girl-lovers have always aimed to find a place for themselves on the world wide web, and not just for illegal activity or depraved desires. Rather, they wish for more human things such as, fellowship, safety, and a way to bring about change for the better. The sites discussed are long-since offline, but should be remembered honorably. Above all other things these communities tried to be, they are our heritage.



ETHOS
Amor et intellectus

Ethos magazine is a publication run by volunteers from the boylove community, and is released every four months. Together we create an entertainment venue for the community and through this same effort, create a sense of unity to demonstrate that while there are many different boards, we are all one community.

<https://ethosonline.net>

Graham Ovenden: Fall from Grace?

By Ron

On September 17th, the Court of Appeal agreed to conduct a hearing to determine the status of Ovenden's request for an appeal on what he and his legal team insist is a false conviction. At the same time, it agreed to respond to a request from the Attorney General—prompted by so-called child advocates—to review Ovenden's sentence which the mainstream press has largely characterized as unduly lenient. The hearing overseen by Lord Chief Justice Thomas along with Justices Henriques and Blake took place on October 9th. The Court rejected the defendant's bid for an appeal and described the original verdict as "safe" allowing the original trial judgment to stand. The Court did however succumb to political pressure and changed the original suspended sentence handed out by Judge Cottle to a term of imprisonment of 27 months.

According to Justice Thomas, one of the justifications for this change is that the defendant had not shown a "shred of remorse" for his actions. This creates a predictable and intractable problem for a defendant who, knowing he has been unjustly prosecuted, would naturally express outrage at his conviction rather than remorse. In the face of public scrutiny, this kind of tactic is an easy way for authorities to punish any defendant who might challenge his guilty verdict. Interestingly, one mitigating factor Judge Cottle took into account when sentencing Ovenden was that the artist's reputation had been severely damaged by the proceedings. The Appeals Court, however, did not find that a valid basis for leniency.

Given how events transpired, it seems that the Crown Prosecution Service was

determined to make an example of Ovenden—never mind that chaperones were present at photo sessions or that the models continued to visit Barley Splatt and have their photographs taken by the artist many years later. After being better informed of many details of the case, it seems the prosecution had a weak case, but made strenuous use of every bit of legal maneuvering possible to get the conviction. Most egregious of all was their reinterpretation of the 1960 Act so that the mere act of photographing a nude child is considered child abuse per se. Obviously, supporters of the artist and his work are concerned about the chilling effect this will have on future legitimate use of child nudes in art. However, a more important lesson in political reality (and human nature) is when the rules do not suit those who have power, they will manipulate them to their satisfaction. After numerous failures to convict Ovenden, prosecutors finally found a way to get a guilty verdict using a novel application of a statute never intended to apply to taking photographs. With a highly complacent and consolidated mainstream media interested in sensationalism, it was easy for the CPS and the Attorney General to generate the kind of public outcry that allowed the rule of law to be conveniently contorted here.



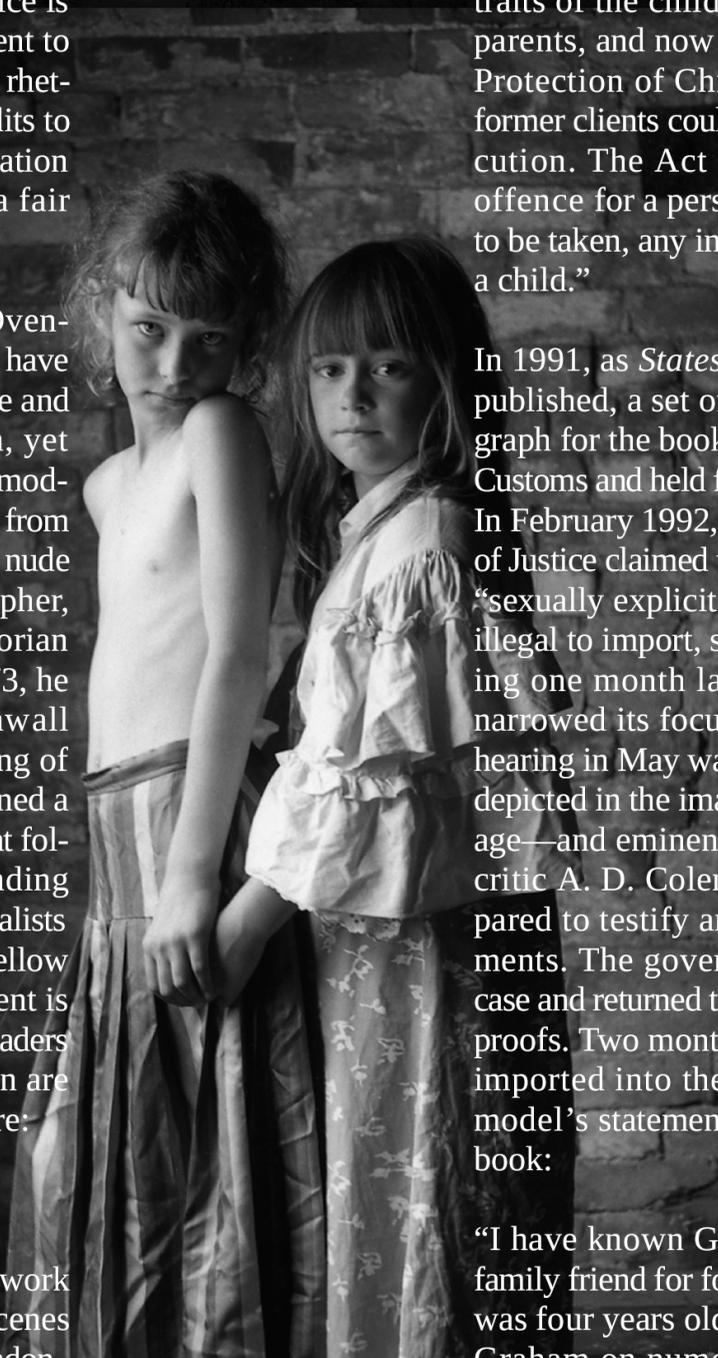
I was planning to write an essay called *Respect and the Starving Artist* while a high-profile trial was taking place in the U.K. But the facts of the case turn out to vividly illustrate many of my points more clearly than I had hoped. When any artist dares to cover subject matter involving the images of naked children, the conventional wisdom has become

that there must be some sinister intent. Such a patent conclusion says a lot about the ignorant observer who finds solace in blindly observing his society's paradigms. But it does not offer any useful insights about an artist who is compelled to follow his heart and explore the sometimes convoluted mysteries of human existence. An injustice is being perpetrated and it is my intent to push past the mainstream media's rhetoric and the showmanship of pundits to offer a clear-eyed view of the situation and afford one particular artist a fair public hearing.

Many who have seen Graham Ovenden's work with young girls would have to agree that he is a knowledgeable and skilled master of our generation, yet people forget that he is actually a modern day Renaissance Man suffering from a disproportionate emphasis on his nude girl art. He is a painter, photographer, photo historian, collector of Victorian photography and architect. In 1973, he moved with his family to Cornwall where he embarked on the building of Barley Splatt, an estate that remained a work in progress in the decades that followed. Ovenden was also a founding member of the Brotherhood of Ruralists in 1975 along with a number of fellow artists of note. As this essay's intent is to focus on recent developments, readers not already familiar with Ovenden are urged to get a good overview here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graham_Ovenden

Ovenden began his photographic work in the late 1950s shooting street scenes in his youth on the East Side of London—some of which were published in *Childhood Streets*. By 1970, he and Peter



Blake put together a series of paintings and photographs on the theme of Lewis Carroll's Alice. Though Blake moved on to other subjects, Ovenden delved deeper into the prepubescent psyche, producing numerous paintings and photographs of children—both naked and clothed. Among them were commissioned portraits of the children of distinguished parents, and now since the ambiguous Protection of Children Act 1978, his former clients could be subject to prosecution. The Act states that, "It is an offence for a person to take, or permit to be taken, any indecent photograph of a child."

In 1991, as *States of Grace* was being published, a set of proofs and a photograph for the book were seized by U.S. Customs and held for over seven months. In February 1992, the U.S. Department of Justice claimed that the work depicted "sexually explicit conduct" which was illegal to import, sell or own. In a hearing one month later, the prosecution narrowed its focus to a single page. A hearing in May was attended by the girl depicted in the image—then 18 years of age—and eminent photo-historian and critic A. D. Coleman. Both were prepared to testify and had written statements. The government withdrew its case and returned the photograph and the proofs. Two months later the book was imported into the United States. The model's statement was included in the book:

"I have known Graham Ovenden as a family friend for fourteen years—since I was four years old. I have modeled for Graham on numerous occasions—in fact, too numerous to count—for both his photographs and paintings. I have

modeled for him both clothed and fully nude, both alone and with other children... The portrait which the United States has charged as indecent is a portrait of me as I was eight years ago. I am not acting in a sexual way in the picture and Graham never asked me to be sexual or treated me as a sexual object. The accusation that the image is 'obscene' is, to me, an accusation that I am 'obscene,' something to which I take offense."

In March 1993, officers from the Obscene Publications Squad of the Metropolitan Police burst into Ovenden's house and took 28 boxes of negatives, 67 videos and a large quantity of photographs. They quickly announced that they had "smashed" an extensive pedophile ring that had been carefully built up for over 20 years. The videos in this impressive-sounding confiscation were all BBC and Hollywood produced films and the materials containing photos included things like a physical education manual issued by the Ministry of Education that served as a standard reference in the British school system for two decades. The indiscriminate search did not yield any charges nor were any apologies offered.

In response, luminaries in the art world signed a petition that was instrumental in persuading the police to return the photographs. Upon their return, the confiscated materials were put on display in an exhibit called *The Obscene Publications Squad Versus Art* in a London art gallery, enabling the public to judge for themselves. Gallery owner Nicky Akehurst said, "I'm going to be showing the stupidity of it all." What they took was part of the extensive collection of Victorian photographs that Ovenden and his wife

had assembled over a period of 20 years. "The police have targeted photographers," Akehurst said. "Artists are so vulnerable. And it's never just one person. There's got to be a ring."

In 2009, after an investigation involving officers from the Metropolitan, Devon and Cornwall Police forces, Ovenden was charged with sixteen counts of creating and two counts of possessing "indecent" photographs or pseudo-photographs of children. The images are all versions or stages of sixteen artworks that Ovenden had deleted from his computer well before the time his home was raided in November 2006; the police restored the images using forensic software to use as evidence. In October 2009, after less than two days of trial, the jury was discharged and a new trial date set. On April 9, 2010, after a five-minute hearing, the case was thrown out by the Truro Crown Court as two key prosecution witnesses—officers Tapper and Lemon from the original raid—failed to appear in court. Judge Christopher Elwen ruled that these serious failures of the prosecution would hinder a fair trial for the defendant and he had no option but to discharge the case. The judge's reprimand was humiliating for prosecutor Ramsay Quaipe who declined to launch an appeal. Speaking after the hearing, Ovenden accused the police of being "transfixed by childhood sexuality." He added, "A lot has been made of my young nudes work, but it is really a small part of my output." The artist had hoped a full trial would reveal the nature of his work, clear his name, and address issues regarding the behavior of police investigators. Some of the work seized in the raid has since been returned.

On April 19, 2010, the Western Morning News reported that the Child Abuse Investigation Team of the Metropolitan Police was investigating Ovenden over allegations of sexual abuse. In March 2013, Ovenden (age 70) went to trial at Truro Crown Court accused of nine charges ranging from sexual abuse to taking indecent photographs of four women when they were children. The three-week trial resulted in convictions on five charges related to Ovenden's photography, two of indecent assault on a minor and acquittals on two charges of gross indecency with a minor. The prosecution withdrew three sexual abuse charges during the trial, replacing them with three charges based solely on photographs after two of the witnesses had testified they were never abused by Ovenden. Despite having successfully fought off past accusations, the timing of this case may have worked against Ovenden. Revelations regarding Jimmy Savile's activities had just come to light and investigators and prosecutors had a public image to repair after egregiously overlooking an avenue of investigation that might have genuinely served the public.

The four alleged victims and two of their mothers testified in court. The women—ranging in age from their late 30s to 50—had posed for Ovenden when young and the police claim they made formal complaints in the late 2000s. Though Ramsay Quaife of the Crown Prosecution Service rather recklessly announced that the defendant is a pedophile, Ovenden vehemently denies any assault charges which allegedly took place between 28 to 40 years ago. One woman testified that when she was 6, he got into a bathtub with her and another girl and



asked her to wash his “John Thomas” with a washcloth. She also alleged that he cupped his hands over her fully-clothed chest when she was 10; the jury convicted him on both counts. Ovenden is dismayed by the strenuous efforts of the prosecution to coerce witnesses and manipulate evidence to create this false impression.

Two of the remaining charges of sexual contact involved testimony from one woman who said she was asked to wear a Victorian nightdress and had her eyes covered with a black sticky tape blindfold as part of an elaborate ritual. She also claimed that she was locked in a room with Ovenden on three occasions. Obvious inconsistencies in the evidence compelled the jury to acquit Ovenden of these two charges. Photographic exhibits showed that the door in question did not have a lock or a bolt and the girl wore a white blindfold and was accompanied by a chaperone. The photo and others like it were produced as studies for reference in a commissioned work entitled: “Justice, pregnant with the spoils of Mammon, lead the Innocents to slavery.” Due to the technicalities of courtroom procedure, only the image of the chaperone below was admitted into evidence during the trial so this is the first time the public has seen these images.

There were two other “specimen” charges for the act of taking indecent photographs, but it is not clear if these images are related to the three deemed indecent by the jury or to other photographs. None were ever published by Ovenden, but it was the police that made reproductions of these images to serve as evidence. Two were of Maud Hewes, which apparently shows her somewhat more open-

legged than in her *States of Grace* image. She clarified the nature of her participation in the photo sessions with a quote published in *The Village Voice*, "When I modeled for Graham, I'd make up the poses and he'd shoot them...He never asked me to be sexy and I never tried to...he's been a family friend since I was four years old." The third photo was also a variation of a photo of another model that appeared in *States of Grace* but with her genitals visible. The two complainants pictured in the photographs continue to affirm that they were never touched or mistreated by Ovenden and fully support their published images.

The difficulty in defending against indecency charges in the UK is that the standard is subjective. Whether a photograph is "indecent" is determined by whether "right-minded" people think it is. There are no standards or specific factors to consider. A prosecutor doesn't have to justify why they are indecent, just convince a jury that they are. Art is not a consideration and the sensible notion of considering the image-maker's intent is irrelevant. [This applied only to the rule of the 1978 Act which was not used here and explains the prosecutions presentation of "scandalous" collages to set the tone for their verdicts even though the collages were not the basis for any charges.] In reality, when assessing the character of an artist, intent is everything and the significance of the unpublished photographs is that no one ever viewed them except Ovenden (and now the police and trial attendees.)

Toward the end of the trial, Ovenden took ill and was hospitalized. As a result, he was not present for the verdict after the jury's three-day deliberation.

He had been waiting years for a chance to get his day in court and clear his name, so perhaps it was a blessing that he was not present.

Judge Graham Cottle ordered Ovenden released on bail; sentencing will be scheduled on a later date. As the media have callously published his address, he can no longer find sanctuary at home. Appeals have been filed but no information is yet available on the specifics or if any basis is due to police conduct.

Ideally, I like to present clear facts about the artists I write about. Usually, the only obstacle is reaching the people who are "in the know" and can offer reliable information. In this case, however, the problem is that recordings of the trial are not readily available to the public. Certainly a good read through the trial transcripts would clarify many things. But the U.K. is not like some other countries; one cannot just order up a copy, because they are not considered public records. Also, a distinction needs to be recognized between a court of law and justice; there are unjust laws just as there are unjust men, and a properly functioning court can still convict a man who has committed no offense in the eyes of reasonable people. The following are a few irregularities I noticed that require explanation.

The women who testified against Ovenden spoke from behind a screen, presumably to protect them from intimidation and perhaps public scrutiny. Courts have denied defendants eye-to-eye access to their accusers before, but the reason has usually been to protect the witness(es) from violent offenders. The use of the screen here sends a signal to

the public and the jury that Ovenden remains some kind of threat to these women even into their adult lives.

Christopher Quinlan, who represented Ovenden, asked one of the women why she had waited so long to come forward. She said she blanked out her childhood memories but recalls telling her mother she did not like being photographed by Ovenden. The perplexing thing is that she returned to his home about ten years later—as an 18-year-old—and had her picture taken again by Ovenden. Presented with that image of her smiling, she was asked why she went back, but the woman could only offer “I don’t know.” She then added, “You’re not going to break me. I’m sticking by my story.” The quote “sticking by my story” caught my attention immediately because it is a clear sign of coaching. Witnesses and defendants naturally review their testimony, as they are bound to be nervous in a formal proceeding; but this kind of patent and awkward language suggests she was drilled repeatedly about how the defense will try to tear down her story and how she should stick to the agreed script. Rehearsed testimony interferes with justice in two ways. There may be mitigating circumstances that the prosecution would prefer did not come out, and a competent cross-examination might reveal inconsistencies with the testimony of others. The suspicious statements did in fact get noticed and the question of collusion came up in court, which the judge permitted the jury to take into consideration.

The prosecution was thrown off-balance when two of the witnesses scheduled to testify declined to state that they had been abused by Ovenden. The result

was a withdrawal of three assault charges that were then replaced by three photographic charges during the trial. The prosecution’s eagerness to embrace a theory not warranted by the photo evidence and the addition of new charges mid-trial are disturbing developments. On the surface it may have appeared that collusion was limited to two of the women; but the modus operandi of criminal investigators would suggest that they were instrumental in helping the women rehearse and even advised them on what charges to file in the first place. The court later got a fuller explanation of why the woman waited to speak out, “It’s only when you get older you realise. It is unnatural, weird, scary, and I didn’t want to do it.” Certainly we have all done things in our past we regret, and then we move on and learn from the experience. Possibly the stigma of posing nude played a role, but realizing later that something is unnatural is a subjective cultural judgment. Is the latter judgment really more valid than the earlier? What makes her testimony lack the ring of sincerity is that she couched her words in a language indicative of victims who suffered horrific abuse. And assuming her description of events were accepted at face value, her experiences would not even approach that level of trauma. There appears to be a timeline problem as well, since Ovenden’s records show that she agreed to pose nude again a year after the alleged incidents, not the action of someone who found the experience “scary.”

A distressing development is that Ovenden’s own son Edmund (Ned) had been helping investigators since about 2006 and is even friends with one of them. Every family has its problems, but this



betrayal is hard to fathom without a critical piece of information. Around the year 2000, the younger Ovenden was given a one-third share in the Barley Splatt property and began to borrow heavily against the estate. In 2008, while his father was hospitalized, he and Ovenden's estranged wife Annie took advantage and removed a substantial amount of artwork and Victorian photography and apparently sold it off. The resulting financial predicament compelled the selling of the estate later that year and the elder Ovenden moved into an outbuilding—called "The Garage"—where he continued to live until the end of the trial.

The Tate Modern has removed works by Ovenden from public view, saying his conviction "shone a new light" on his work. The thirty-four prints the national gallery owns were removed from its website and will no longer be available to view by appointment while the Tate Gallery Board conducts a proper review. The Tate has faced a controversy relating to images of nude children before and the Crown Prosecution Service has issued numerous warnings about American photographs that the U.S. authorities would not consider prosecuting. In 2009, a single work from Richard Prince's *Spiritual America*—an appropriation piece made from Garry Gross' nude photograph of a 10-year-old Brooke Shields—was removed from view after a warning from the Metropolitan Police that the image might break obscenity laws. The Tate then took it upon itself to pull the works of Ovenden from its website at the same time. All the prints in question were part of a large acquisition donated in 1975 and the Tate may not remove, donate, sell or destroy works from its collection per the Museums and

Galleries Act 1992 except under specific circumstances. The exception that might apply here is "...unless the disposal is of a relevant object [work of art] which, in the Board's opinion, is unsuitable for retention in their collections and can be disposed of without detriment to the interests of students or other members of the public..." Thus, it is the Board's admittedly subjective mandate to make such decisions, which will undoubtedly reflect the character of the Board members serving at any given time. In the event that any images are legally deemed indecent by the courts, the Tate may be forced to destroy the work, as it is no more legal to possess than to display "obscene" material, nor could they be legally sold or donated. However, it is important to note at present that none of the girls pictured in the Ovenden prints at the Tate were complainants in the recent trial and none have yet been ruled indecent. We can only hope that this voluntary removal was simply a precaution made out of ignorance and not a sign of guilt that could serve as an invitation for an overzealous Obscene Publications Squad to cleanse the museum's holdings. After the first removal of Ovenden's work, a blog called Not The Tate was established for viewers to see some of the work and judge its merit for themselves. As of now, no decision has been made to deaccession Ovenden's prints from the Tate's collection.

The behavior of the Tate is really only a symptom of a more fundamental problem. The fact that law enforcement involves itself in the affairs of artists means that art in its purest sense cannot serve its proper function. Real artists challenge society's belief systems and make people think deeply about their world and what

shape it should take. Throughout history, there has been a kind of dance between the shaman-artist and those upholding societal norms, and much of the time the establishment dominates until such time our humanity exerts itself from under the heel of oppression and gives us all a degree of liberty once again. Our society—and Great Britain especially—needs men like Graham Ovenden because he is showing us a new truth that many are fighting tooth and nail not to hear. However, with luck it may yet open the door to a more compassionate and noble humanity.

So, what is Ovenden teaching us? For one thing, he is having us look at ourselves in a mirror and realize that we have become obsessed with sex and yet we remain willfully ignorant of the reality it represents. He presents us the image of a whole person in a moment of time in her own right, as he explains in *States of Grace*:

“Whether I create a painting or photograph, the media is immaterial. In terms of aesthetics, there is no difference. Focusing on sexuality is not the point of my work at all. Sexuality is merely another attribute of the person. Because of this moment of childhood which is so fleeting a strong moral obligation actually to hold and make concrete such imagery. ‘Sexuality’ is part and parcel of the organic and spiritual self; inseparable from it.”

Or from an interview recorded by the British Library in 2000:

“I’m aware of the sensuality of these young girls; I’m moved by their angelic side as well as their demon side; they have a total wonder in them. As an artist, I

wish to explore that. Children are beautiful but I don’t flatter them; I draw them with an edge.”

We should count ourselves fortunate that such an artist has shared his beatific vision with us, but Graham Ovenden has his faults like all human beings. He uses his intelligence and education to challenge himself and the rest of us, sometimes in a mischievous way. Confidence in his abilities and disregard for conventional attitudes make him appear arrogant. And he wholeheartedly follows his heart and has done so to a greater degree than most of us, and that evokes envy. History continues to teach us that appeasement offers only temporary and limited benefits and that a greater price must ultimately be paid. British history demonstrated this clearly with respect to Chamberlain and Hitler before World War II, and it is encouraging to know that there are still courageous people like Graham Ovenden fighting for a more beautiful, more spiritually sensitive and more intellectually stimulating world for all of us. Thank you, Graham.

An Update: Desperate People

Although neither Annie (Ovenden’s estranged wife) nor Ned (his son) testified in court, they were instrumental in the complaints that were lodged by at least two of the four former models of Ovenden (now adults) who testified in court as well as one of the mothers. One of the models is a long time friend of Ned and married to Ned’s best friend. Annie is a long time friend of said model’s mother. In addition, the same model owns, administers and is the technical contact for Annie Ovenden’s website since its inception in September 2010. As to the other model,

Ned visited her in 2009 in all likelihood to prevail upon her to file a formal complaint against Ovenden. It is unknown what they discussed or what information Ned gave to the police about her, but when she testified at trial she denied ever being touched by Ovenden and claimed only that looking back to her childhood, she found the two photographs—that were never made into prints—distasteful now at age 38.

The emotional intensity of the family rift was further exacerbated by Annie and Ned's borrowing which precipitated the sale of Barley Splatt when housing prices collapsed then compound the offense by removing valuable antiquarian photographs and artworks to raise more funds. Though it seems indecorous to air a family's dirty laundry, I felt it important that readers know the context and largely what drove Ovenden's prosecution and offer some clarity.

Desperate people are the most dangerous people and it is upsetting that time and time again throughout history, such people have no qualms about ruining a person, a community or even a society.

More Updates:

When I began work on this piece, I was told that those who really knew Graham Ovenden wanted to establish a site where the information about the man, his art and the trial could be discussed in a clear-headed fashion. True to form, the mainstream media has propagated ignorance and sensationalized the matter. The site has just gone online and can be seen here.

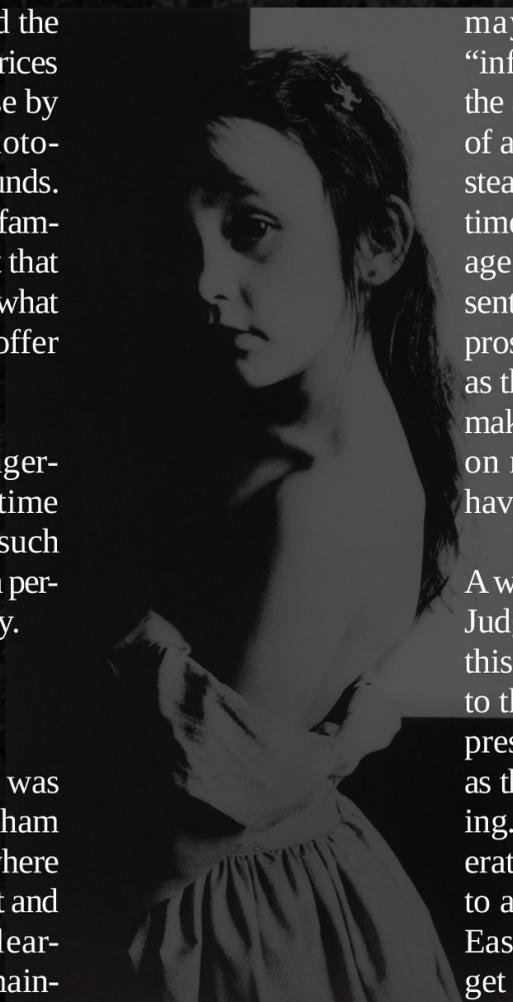
The two images of Hewes—kept as negatives—that were presented in evidence in this trial were also taken in the 1993

raid. At that time, they were not presented in evidence and were eventually returned to the artist. They were taken again in the 2006 raid along with two other images that were kept in a kind of reference portfolio. Those other images were not presented at trial and the police are now denying they have them.

I used a little deduction to ascertain that the “specimen” charges were not photographs. That may not necessarily be the case. It turns out that Ovenden's artwork may have been used as evidence to “inform” jurors about the kind of work the artist produces but were not the basis of actual charges. UK law states that instead of showing the jury one image at a time, the prosecution can select one image from a batch and claim it is representative of the batch. By doing this, the prosecution can select what they regard as the most damning image and the jury makes one ruling that convicts or acquits on multiple counts even though they have not seen the rest of the images.

A witness to the end of the trial stated that Judge Cottle demonstrated prejudice in this case by the tone of his instructions to the jury. The judge seemed to be expressing a kind of self-righteous anger as though shaming the jury into convicting. To the jury's credit, they did deliberate for 2½ days and may have rushed to a compromise due to the impending Easter holiday and the jurors' desire to get back to their normal lives.

A startling revelation is that after the trial a woman—who said she was a frequent visitor at Barley Splatt during the late 1970s—told defense counsel that based on her experiences there, the stories told by the alleged victims cannot be true.



This new evidence will undoubtedly be helpful in an appeal regarding the most serious of the convictions.

A number of Ovenden's friends are claiming they were threatened by Ned into assisting in the prosecution's investigation or warned at least to stay away. Details are still coming in so more on this will be available soon. The complication is that many associated with the Ovenden family are close friends with either Annie, Ned or Graham and being asked to take sides in this situation. A few are trying to keep their distance as they are still friendly with members on both sides of this fight.

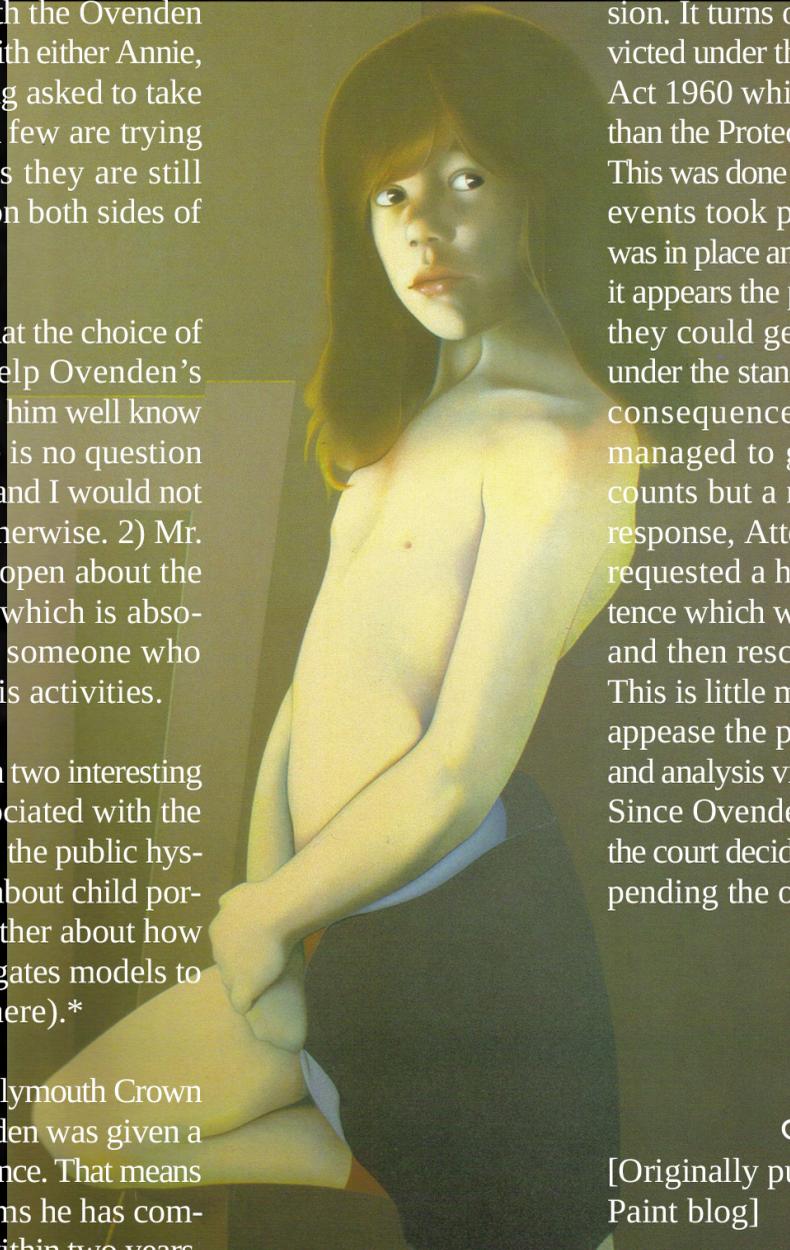
A reader has suggested that the choice of images here does not help Ovenden's case. 1) Those who know him well know unequivocally that there is no question of his being a pedophile and I would not have written this post otherwise. 2) Mr. Ovenden has been very open about the kind of art he produces which is absolutely inconsistent with someone who needs to lie low about his activities.

Novel Activist has written two interesting articles about issues associated with the Ovenden case: one about the public hysteria that has developed about child pornography (here) and another about how law enforcement interrogates models to get them to cooperate (here).*

Sentencing took place at Plymouth Crown Court on June 4th. Ovenden was given a 12 month suspended sentence. That means that unless the court deems he has committed a new infraction within two years, he will not be serving any jail time. If he does, he will have to serve the full 12 months. It is clear to me that a farce is

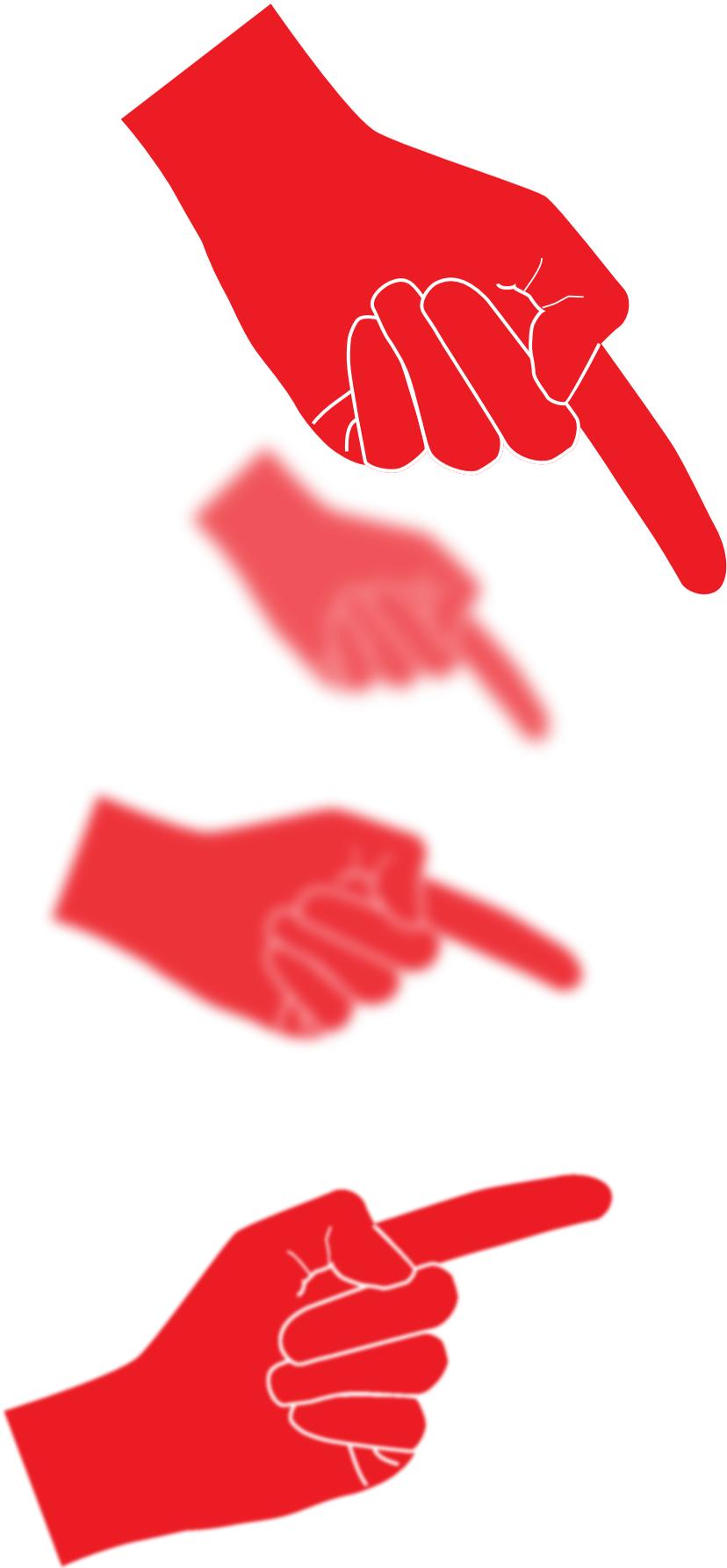
taking place between public officials and the media with Ovenden as a convenient pawn.

Two related developments have come to light worth mentioning. Pigtails endeavors to provide accurate information but due to the secrecy of the courts, some pertinent information was not available that would have cleared up some confusion. It turns out that Ovenden was convicted under the Indecency with Children Act 1960 which has different standards than the Protection of Children Act 1978. This was done partly because some alleged events took place before the 1978 Act was in place and for the remaining charges, it appears the prosecution did not believe they could get a successful conviction under the standards of the 1978 Act. The consequence is that the prosecution managed to get convictions on some counts but a more lenient sentence. In response, Attorney General Grieve has requested a hearing to review the sentence which was scheduled for July 26th and then rescheduled for October 9th. This is little more than grandstanding to appease the public but for more details and analysis visit the Artist on Trial Blog. Since Ovenden has filed for an appeal, the court decided to review the sentencing pending the outcome.



[Originally published on the Pigtails in Paint blog]

* **Editor's Note:** As of the publication of this article, the Novel Activist site is no longer online.



I Love

and you call me monster.

I love

and you say I'm a pervert.

I love

and you say I'm demented.

I love

but you persecute and destroy.

I love

and you don't let me be who I am.

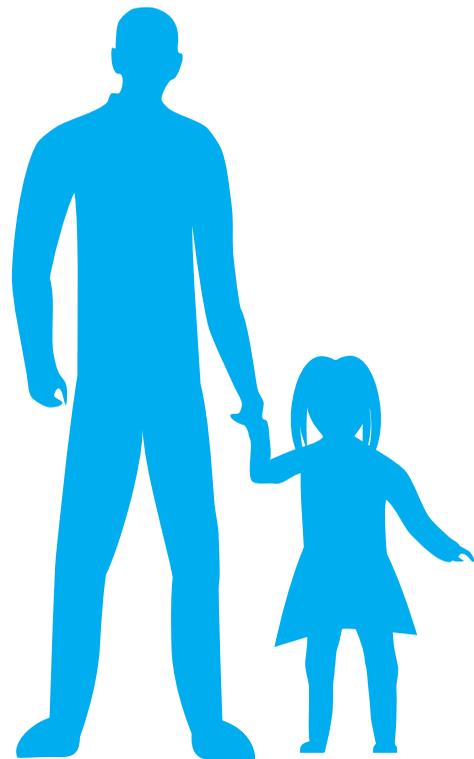
I love

but you say it's wrong and kill.

I love

but you **HATE**

By MiNiñita



42


 H
Human

THE HUMAN ELEMENT

BY EXTRAORDINARY

Fear mongering and hatred seem to be the new common sense. Scare us enough and we will believe just about anything, no matter what logical arguments are presented. There are some people in this world who are forced to fall victim to the world's blind discrimination, or "societal norm", just so the rest of the world can feel safe and secure and hide from the fact that reality is actually uncomfortable and challenges us to be better people. But someone wise once said that it's more comfortable to be miserable, to pretend like we're happy and stay exactly the way we are, than it is to confront things that scare us and grow as human beings. It's perfectly normal to be afraid, but it is incredibly important that we do not give into the fear, because living in truth is so much more liberating than worrying every moment of every day.

On that note, be prepared to confront one of those uncomfortable truths right now. Ready? No? Oh well. Here we go anyway.

Pedophiles are human beings.

I know. Scary, right?

But wait, there's more. Pedophiles are not only human beings, but they have jobs, families, and hobbies. How would I know this? Because I am a pedophile, and I certainly am a human being. I like things and people. I have a job. I'm a living, breathing human being with emotions and feelings and interests.

But that doesn't fit the comfortable picture of a pedophile, does it? I'm supposed to look like a heroin addict and abduct children from their backyards, only to torture them with my sick sexual fantasies. That's what a pedophile is supposed to be, right?

Surprise! That's not reality. That's a narrative that's been created by those in need of someone to blame. Some sick person abducts a child and sexually abuses them. As has been proven by various psychologists, sex crimes are not so much about sex as they are about power. So this person's sexuality is as relevant as their hair color or their opinion of the Woody Allen classic, Annie

Hall. Which is to say, it isn't. But because there's sexual abuse involved, people assume there's sexual attraction. Which means they're a pedophile. Which means they're not human, obviously.

This has all been constructed so that you have someone to blame when things go wrong. Child gets kidnapped and dies? Pedophiles. Catholic priests systematically abuse kids and cover it up? Pedophiles. Community gets cancelled before its six seasons and a movie? Pedo- actually, I don't think that was pedophiles. But it's frustrating and someone needs to take the blame.

What I'm getting at here is that we as a society feel the need to "other" the pedophiles of the world. When you put a face to something, when you have a connection with someone, when you look into their eyes, it's impossible to feel rage. When you realize that your brother, your sister, aunt, uncle, best friend, is a pedophile...it makes it a little harder to maintain your ignorance. So those who promote fearmongering

give people the easy way out: they convince the world pedophiles don't deserve compassion, so you don't need to feel guilty or uncomfortable or attempt to grow your worldview, and everyone remains in their comfortable little bubbles where the world is perfect.

We treat pedophiles as though they can't be normal humans, when they are exactly the same as everyone else. This happens because ignorance permeates into our minds without us even realizing it. What I find to be the most humorous about this practice is when people I know try so hard to convince themselves I'm not a pedophile by assigning human traits to me, as if it would make me less of a pedophile.

For instance, when I was in high school, I volunteered at a day camp. Several of the kids came to the camp multiple times, and they were quite fond of me. They all wanted to take turns holding my hand and sitting on my lap and receiving hugs and kisses. At the time, I'd recently discovered my desires for children and, given my intentions were completely pure, I saw no reason why any of this should be a problem. However, I was in for a rude awakening.

We were in a large room doing a craft activity and, prior to beginning, I sat down next to this girl I knew. She was 9 at the time and I was head over heels in love with her. This was toward the end of the day, and we'd been more or less attached at the hip all day. I sat across from her and held her hand and leaned toward her, raptured

by her every word. I don't even remember what we were talking about, but, moments later, I received a tap on the shoulder. One of the adult chaperones for the day was smiling at me and he beckoned me to follow him. We took several steps to remove ourselves from the group and he looked at me for a moment before speaking in a hushed tone.

"Is that girl your sister?"

I realized what he was getting at. He thought I was being too affectionate with this girl. But it'd be okay if she was my sister.

Because having a sister would make me less of a pedophile.

I shook my head no and said, "She's my friend's little sister."

Which was true. I had a few classes with them. That's how this girl and I had originally bonded, because I knew her sibling.

He continued in his hushed volume.

"Is she your neighbor?"

Because having a neighbor would make me less of a pedophile.

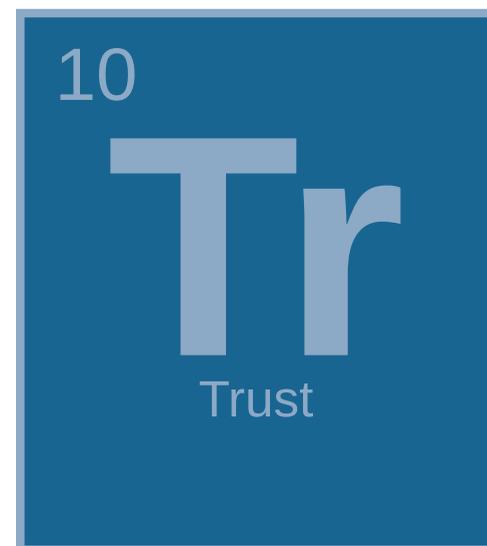
I shook my head no again. He looked back at the girl, then to me.

"Why don't we give her some space?"

You read that correctly. Not "you." He said "we." As though he had some part in my relationship with this child. Like my friendship with her somehow also included him.

Obviously, I didn't want to rock the boat and throw suspicion on myself, so I reluctantly agreed and said I

understood. But for the rest of the day, I proactively avoided any affection with the kids. They came over to me and hugged me without even asking, because that's what they were used to. I had to lightly hug them back and then take a step away, in fear it'd look like I was enjoying it a little bit too much.



One of the kids in my group had to go to the bathroom and she asked me to go with her. The aforementioned adult offered to take her, but he didn't even know her and she wanted me to go with her. I insisted we'd be fine, but he insisted on going with us. At the time, I just thought it was weird, but I later understood why. It was because he didn't trust me. I can't pretend that didn't hurt. The insinuation I would hurt anyone, let alone a child I love, makes me more furious than I thought possible. Fun fact: the first time I dropped a F-bomb was when I was accused of wanting to hurt children due to my sexual preferences. You'd better believe I had some choice words when I found that out. Because the thought of anyone, especially children, being in pain is enough to make me want to cry.

People don't want to talk about pedophilia because then it will be "normalized." Believe it or not, normalizing pedophilia would only help the world. Those who hide this gigantic part of themselves from the world, such as myself, would have the world's biggest weight lifted off their shoulders. Some of the happiest moments of my life have been when I told a close friend about my sexuality and they gave me a hug and told me they still loved me. Though we all have secrets, most people don't understand just how difficult it is to look at someone and wonder, "Would they still love me if they knew who I really was?" Most people have some sort of struggle, but seldom does anyone have to worry about being shunned unapologetically. If you abandon a friend with an eating disorder, then you're the jerk. The person has an eating disorder, for crying out loud! That's someone who needs support. However, if you tell someone you're a pedophile, they can call you disgusting, and everyone agrees with them. Just for a second, picture that.

If pedophilia was brought to mainstream consciousness, we wouldn't have to live in fear of our lives being ruined should our sexuality come to light. Because we're human, we feel the everyday stress everyone else has, and we also have to hide a huge part of who we are as well. Imagine everything you go through on a daily basis: maybe you're behind on a car payment or your mortgage; maybe you're battling with a mental illness, like depression or anxiety; maybe you've got to balance time with your family and your work. Imagine having all that, plus being told that not only are you not allowed to manifest your sexual desires, but you're a terrible person, you're garbage, you're inhuman for even wanting to in the first place.

Now multiply that by a hundred and it might come close to the burden placed on pedophiles every day. There are some days I sit down in my living room and say out loud to myself, "God...I deserve a trophy for this." And I am not a part of the Millennial attitude of getting trophies for just showing up. I believe you have to work hard for things. So when I finish a day and say I deserve a trophy, then I deserve a freakin' trophy.

And yet the establishment, "society," as it were, continues to pretend pedophiles either don't exist or exist on a separate plane of reality, one where it's considered acceptable to watch torture porn featuring crying, traumatized children, or exert our power over a child to

satisfy some sort of messed up sexual craving. I assure you that we very much exist on the same plane of reality as the rest of you.

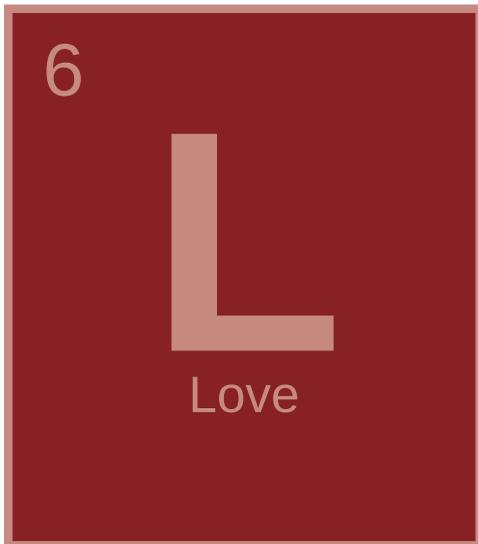
Believe it or not, you know a pedophile. Odds are you know quite a few, actually. There's no way to know for sure how many pedophiles there are, due to the taboo within society, but some have said it's as many as 1 in 10 or 1 in 20 adult males are pedophiles, though others say it's far lower, such as 1 in 100. The rate is smaller in adult women, but female pedophiles do also exist.

So think about it this way. Every year in school, a child has lots of teachers. Depending on the school, they may have one teacher, or they may have a regular teacher, and a music teacher, and a gym teacher, and other specialty teachers. In the older grades, they'll definitely have around 5-10 teachers per day.

Since some statistics show that approximately one in every 10-20 people is a pedophile, odds are every child has a pedophile teacher every year. Maybe every other year. Or maybe they'll have two or three pedophile teachers per year. Even if that number were closer to 1 in 100, that still means your child will most likely have a pedophile teacher before they graduate high school. And odds are every church has at least one pedophile employee. And every post office, every library, every supermarket. In your daily life, you'll most likely interact with a few. We are everywhere. Lack of awareness of our existence does nothing to affect the fact we do indeed exist. In your



lifetime, you've met lots of pedophiles and, I would guess, you're quite fond of many of them. How much would your perspective change if you knew their sexual preference? We try to convince ourselves that we're protecting our children from these vile creatures called "pedophiles," but, in reality, we love your children too and we want nothing more for them to grow and prosper.



I have, in the past, been a manny, or male nanny. It's a rough profession for men, as there are constantly paranoid parents, and those are just the parents of the boys. Don't even get me started on how long it took me to get a family who would hire me to babysit their daughter.

There was one day awhile back that I was contacted by a family about last-minute babysitting. The kids had a day off of school and their mom needed the house quiet so she could work. I accepted, not knowing much about them, and vice versa. The job would entail me hanging out with the boys in the park, playing football, reading books, the works. They'd have some friends

there, and their friends all had nannies as well. Pretty simple gig and one that, honestly, didn't require much trust from the parents. Wide open space with people they knew. I was there as an extra pair of eyes, really.

I arrived at the park and I called them to make sure I was in the right place. Once we found each other, introductions were made and the mom started asking me questions about myself. As soon as she started, I knew what was up. She wanted to feel more comfortable leaving her children with me. She wanted reassurance she'd picked someone trustworthy. "Trustworthy" meant "trustworthy," but, for male nannies, and men in general, it also meant "not a pedophile." I can't say I blame her, since she knew nothing about me besides the fact I was available, interested, and had prior experience. As someone who wants the best for children, I appreciated that she was being thorough, though it amused me that she was only doing it after hiring me. She began asking me questions like:

"Where are you from?"

Because being from a place on Earth would make me less of a pedophile.

"Do you have any siblings?"

Because having siblings would make me less of a pedophile.

"You said you liked [insert musical artist here]. My son also loves them!"

Because liking music makes me less of a pedophile.

Are you beginning to see a pattern here?

Finally, after many reassurances and discussing my previous experience and meeting up with friends, the mom seemed satisfied and she left. That day, the kids and I played ball and climbed trees and I sat and talked with the other nannies about being a nanny and what their lives were like.

When the afternoon was over, I took the boys back to their house and they gave a beaming report to their mother. They talked about how much fun we had and I said they were well-behaved and they were welcome to call me anytime.



Most my interactions with kids usually end this way — with them telling their parents how much fun we had and how they want to see me again and play with me more. In all my days of teaching and being a manny and just living life in general, I've made a difference in the lives of a lot of children, including a lot of young girls. They'll come climb into my lap and I'll give them kisses and hugs and tell them I love them. And they'll sigh contentedly and cuddle into me

as I wrap my arms around them lovingly and protect them from the evils of the world.

But none of this seems to matter to the amorphous monster known as “ignorance”, “indoctrination”, or “common sense.” All that matters to fear is that you stay fearful. It comes out in subtle ways so that no one realizes they’re being run by fear. They genuinely think they’re doing the most logical, reasonable thing.

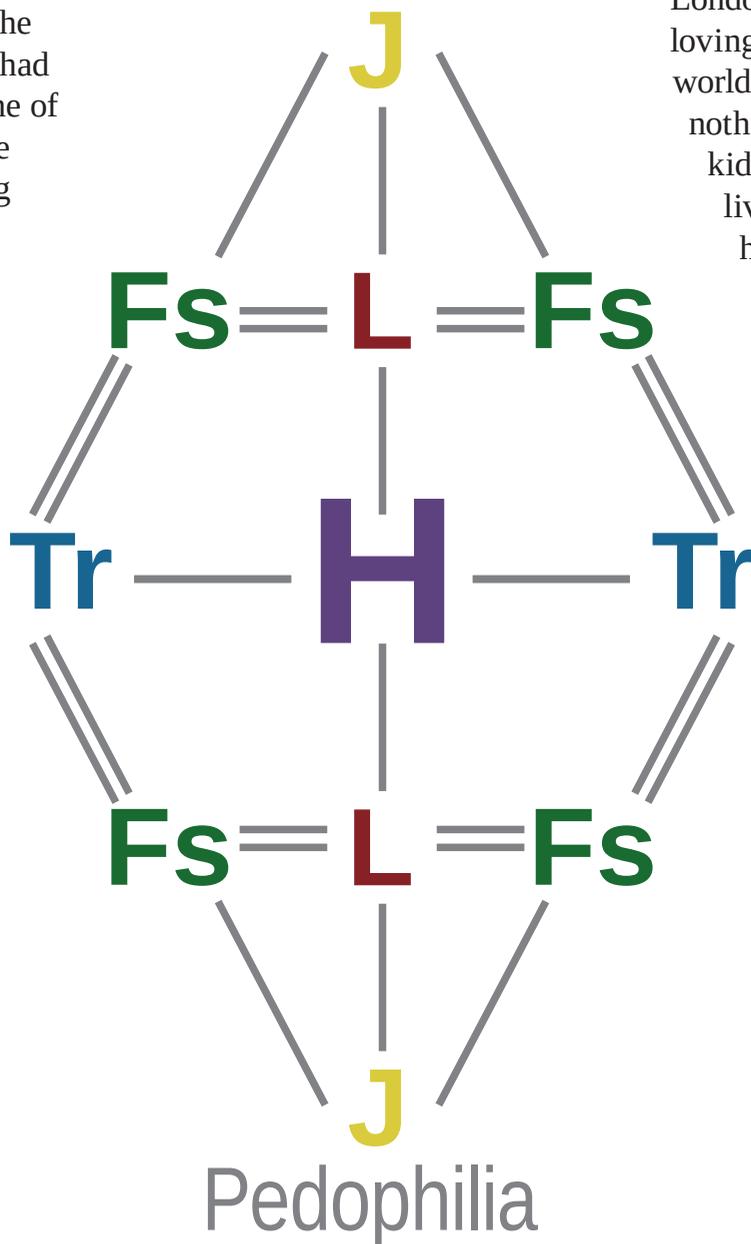
I once knew a girl who was extremely cuddly. She was six or seven years old and one of the quietest kids I’d ever met. I had met her through teaching one of her classes and she became very attached to me. During breaks from class, she would come over to me and climb into my lap, without any prompting from me. We were sitting together one day when another girl from the class came up to us, cocked her head, and said, “Uh...are you two related?” I told her we weren’t and she said, “Cause this is weird.”

Now, I didn’t want my little angel becoming self-conscious about her desire to cuddle with me, so I tried to handle the situation as best I could and said that I didn’t think it was weird at all. This is the kind of thing that happens all the time. And all I could think of was, “What’s weird about love? What’s wrong with two people caring about each other?” In the end, that is my beef with the ignorance and the fearmongering: the “system”, society, turns pedophilia into something it’s not.

It turns pedophilia into something ugly, something that’s about abuse instead of love. Anyone who has seen me interact with a child knows this. The people who have been the most accepting of me are the ones who see the infinite love in my heart and know that love always wins.

Parents will see me with their children. They’ll know how much I love Linkin Park or Shania Twain or 5 Seconds of Summer or Michael Bublé. They’ll know I’m from Houston or Hong Kong or Melbourne or Buenos Aires or London. They see that I’m a kind, loving soul who lives to make the world a happier place. Who wants nothing more than to see the kids he loves prosper in their lives and grow into amazing humans who contribute positively to the world.

They’ll see a kind heart.
They’ll see a good human being.
They’ll see someone who genuinely loves children, because love always wins.
Guess that means I’m not a pedophile.



Pedophilia: Surviving my Orientation by stardust



It came very suddenly. I remember the exact day it happened; the realization which changed the course of my life forever.

I'm a pedophile.

That's like the most hated thing in the world. My very next thought was just as unnerving; suicide. That's what I ought to do, I told myself. What is the point in living if I feel nothing but self-hatred?

On the very same day, I had stumbled across a documentary by NBC Dateline called "To Catch a Predator" on YouTube. While I watched it, a switch flipped in my brain. I have fantasies about young girls.

Somehow, up to that point, I had deeply repressed any conscious awareness that these fantasies meant anything significant about

my person, my character, me. I saw them as merely fantasies that just popped up out of the blue, and would go away just as easily; never to be thought of again. So I thought.

While watching the documentary, I could feel the same intensity of hatred most do pouring out of the screen. Just seeing the forceful and harsh way the cops would arrest the suspects, it was clear that these were wretched, vile creatures; the scum of the Earth. And I began to see myself as one of them.

After the grim reality of my situation soaked in, I closed my computer and left the house in a sort of dazed state. I went to the local sandwich place, got a sub and then walked to the nearest train tracks. It had only been an hour or so since the revelation of

being a pedophile, yet I already knew how I wanted to go; my ending. As I ate the sandwich, I watched a train pass by and visualized myself being crushed beneath it.

I finally decided to return home, and found a site online for people dealing with suicidal thoughts and I joined their chat room.

I told the group that I had just realized that I'm a pedophile, and that I was considering suicide.

Instead of getting helpful advice...

I was immediately banned from that site.

The reason for the ban was simple: "pedophile," it said. The administrator of the site explained in an email that there were young people on the site, and they didn't want the 'risk' of having me there. To add

to the hate building up within me, I could now see that it didn't matter that I was thinking of killing myself. I was a danger to society and being rid of me was all they cared about.

The rest of that year went by in a depressed blur. I began getting rid of personal possessions, isolating myself from friends and family, and planning the details of my suicide. I wasn't even going to tell anyone the reason why.

The following year, I finally ended up telling someone about it. I found a social worker at a nearby community center. Originally, I only planned to tell her about feeling depressed, but during that first visit, I started crying and told her about my realization that I am a pedophile. Once I was finished, I just got up and left the office. I was so emotional that I actually walked in the wrong direction while attempting to get home for half an hour, before noticing that I was going the wrong way down the street.

Two weeks later, I decided to call the social worker and ask to see her again. It turns out that she was so worried about me being suicidal that she called the police; however I had used a false name and address when I signed-in.

I went back to see her again, and over the course of a few weeks, I told her my story. I only gave her my real name after several weeks of seeing her. She found a clinic that deals with pedophilia. I decided I had best

look into it before I carry out my suicide ensuring that I would know I had tried everything that was available to deter my self-destructive action.

The social worker handed me a referral form to the Sexual Behaviours Clinic at CAMH in Toronto. I would need to get a doctor to sign it before I could attend. I was very hesitant to do this. She also gave me a phone number of somebody at the clinic that I could talk to. His name was Rob. I called him and told him about my concerns about asking for a referral to that clinic. He said that I could just go to any walk-in doctor's office and ask them to sign it. He told me that I didn't have to say the real reason I was being referred. Instead, I should just tell the doctor that I was addicted to porn, and the clinic would help me with it.

So one day, I finally got up the courage to get this referral signed. I went into a random walk-in clinic to see a doctor and asked him to sign the referral. I told him the lie about being addicted to porn, and he signed it. I am not sure if he knew what the real purpose of the CAMH clinic was, because he asked me if my addiction to porn had anything to do with children. I just said 'no.'

It took a few months after the referral before I actually went into the CAMH clinic. In that time, I continued to use a fake name with Rob while we spoke on the phone. He told me about the available supports that the

clinic had to offer. I would have the opportunity to see him one on one. I could even attend a group and would be able to see a specialist doctor who could help me by prescribing medication.

Finally the referral went through and I was now talking to Rob using my real name. He said that I wasn't the first person who was afraid to use my real name and that there were several people who were also nervous about sharing their true identity with the clinic. For me, it didn't matter much if I gave them my real name, for I would soon be dead anyway.

Rob arranged an appointment for me to see the specialist, Dr. Scott Woodside. In this first meeting with the doctor, he caught me in a depressed mood. So far attending the clinic was only making me feel worse, as it was solidifying my new reality as a pedophile in treatment.

The first thing I said to Dr. Woodside was that I was going to kill myself. He reacted immediately and asked me "Now, or in the future? Because I can take you downstairs to get admitted if you want." I replied that it was in the future, since I didn't feel like being thrown in the mental ward that day.

Then he asked me some questions about my attraction to young girls. I felt even worse after that. Then he started talking about the DSM, the book of diagnosis used by psychiatrists, how homosexuality

used to be treated as a disorder, and mentioned the possibility that pedophilia is now in the same boat.

I didn't see things that way and I interrupted him saying

“At least homosexuality is a real sexual orientation!”

He shot back at me.

“This is a real sexual orientation!”

That caught me off guard. I saw pedophilia as a disgusting disorder and here is the doctor saying it is as legitimate as any other sexual orientation.

Dr. Woodside prescribed me sertraline; a SSRI (Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor) which is known to reduce sex drive significantly. It didn't go over well for me. The day after taking the first pill, I was a zombie. Sure, my sex drive might have gone down, but so did everything else. I stopped showering, shaving, brushing my teeth, changing my clothes. I just laid in bed all day chatting in a depression chat room. They say that it takes 4-6 weeks for SSRI's to normalize in a person, but after 4 weeks it was just as bad as day one. I was totally done with that medication. It was horrible.

Once I stopped taking it, I began to clean myself up, and then went back to see Dr. Woodside again. This time he offered something

different, a little more powerful. Lupron. It was commonly known as a

‘chemical castration’

and it suppresses testosterone. To get the OK to start this medication, I had to go see an



endocrinologist who ordered some tests including a thorough blood test and a bone density scan.

The way this medication works is by ‘turning up the volume’ on testosterone production until it automatically shuts off. A week after the injection, the volume did go up, and I started experiencing more fantasies and a much higher sex drive. It was very triggering. My self-hatred went through the roof and I finally decided it was time to make a suicide attempt.

Fortunately, instead of attempting suicide, I went to a hospital. There I got to talk with a really kind psychiatrist who helped me to pull myself out of despair. While they had relieved me of my suicidal thinking in the short term, they did not resolve the pedophilia issue for me. I got into a repeating

cycle of self-hatred, suicidal thinking, or a suicide attempt, and then I would end up back in hospital again. This led to at least seven hospitalizations within a year.

Even though my testosterone had been successfully suppressed, I still felt attracted to little girls. The fantasies were still there; although less frequent. Even the best medication on the market wouldn't make this go away. It became clear that the cycle of self-hatred would keep repeating until I found some way to accept myself as a pedophile.

There was one particular time in hospital that made a bit of a difference. It was the same hospital but I was assigned to a psychiatrist who had happened to work with pedophiles in a previous position. She introduced me to a website called “Virtuous Pedophiles.” There, she said, I would be able to talk with other people who were struggling with pedophilia.

At first, it sounded like a good idea to participate in the Virtuous Pedophiles forum, but I later found that it contained many a sad story and offered little hope for me. I would visit the forum and read the stories of other fraught pedophiles and end up feeling worse about myself.

But one day, while I was back in a suicide chat room, a random visitor asked me if I knew about VOA? I asked them what it was and they told me it was “Visions

of Alice”; an online web site for pedophiles.

At first, I was uncertain about the site, because they used the term ‘girl lover’ which, according to a quick Google search, was a child molester. I wanted to get answers out of them, so I joined the Visions of Alice forum to ask my pointed questions. I asked about their attitude toward abusing children, and whether or not I belonged there. Their answers were simple—they were not interested in doing anything illegal or harmful to children. They added that the definitions I found about girl love were wrong and only reflected society’s typical hatred of pedophilia.

I began to share my suicidal feelings on the Visions of Alice forum and I found the members all very supportive of me and discouraged me from killing myself. Furthermore, after spending more time with the VOA members online, I eventually didn’t feel bad after visiting the forum. Why? Because it was not rife with self-flagellation as found in the Virtuous Pedophiles forum.

Time passed and my self-hatred went through another cycle. I found myself back in hospital. This time, during my stay, the psychiatrist wanted me to come up with a detailed plan of how I would find acceptance of my sexual orientation. I included several coping strategies in this plan which I had learned during previous hospital stays. I also included visiting the Visions

of Alice forum regularly to get support from the other members there. I had to explain the site to the psychiatrist, as he had never heard of it before. But after I explained it, he gave his approval and it became an official part of my treatment plan.

And that is where my story ends for now.

I am still struggling to reach a comfortable level of self-acceptance in being a pedophile.

I am fortunate for the support of my psychiatrist and specialist and I’m lucky to have a supportive community at Visions of Alice.

But my battle continues.

Editor Note: Stardust will be missed, dearly.



A Purpose

by Katie Cuddles

I lie here at night, wondering why the world is such a scary place. The hate and violence, they frighten me. The greed and famine, they depress me. The self-centeredness, it disappoints me.

But she lies here next to me, snuggled in sweet slumber, nestled in my arms. She knows not the evils of this world. She trusts that I'll keep her safe. This child knows only love. I envy her. I wish I could see the world through her eyes.

As I close my eyes, and pull her in tight, I'm taken away from this world. She brings me peace. Her innocence is what I fight to protect. She gives me a reason, a purpose. My purpose is her.

My love.

My girl child.



Protecting Positive Encounters

The Harm to Children by Assuming Trauma by Revolution



Adult-child sexuality is a term that disgusts society. Politicians, the media, and so-called child protection specialists cannot be swayed away from an exclusively negative view that children are never participants in sexual activities; only victims. It's called rape or molestation, and anyone who dares question what it's called will be demonized. But what damage does this enforcement of negativity do to children and how far will society

go to oppress curiosity? This article will look at how the system has devised methods of silencing positive accounts of adult-child sexuality, managed schemes of victim labeling, and even brainwashing, to preserve the status quo and popular opinion.

Those who are against a positive view of inter-generational sexuality have done their best to silence any critic. Because of this, few people really grasp that a child

and an adult could enter into a sexual relationship, and mutually enjoy this unique form of intimacy. It's not something that crosses their minds, despite the fact that, in concept, nothing would prevent this from occurring if both participants were motivated to have it turn out nicely for them. This is more than a hypothetical scenario, as there have been studies where some of those who have had sexual encounters with adults during their childhood, look back on their time

positively.

One such study was a meta-analysis performed by Bruce Rind and Philip Tromovitch.¹ The research took data from 59 studies which focused on more than 35,000 college student samples. The analysis contained 15 studies which covered participants' reflections on their sexual experiences as a child, and showed 11% of females and 37% of males involved look back on their relations positively¹. Both are significant enough numbers illustrating reason to believe that a positive outcome is not only possible, but likely under certain circumstances. Rind's meta-analysis also includes considerations of the child's family environment, which was often confounded by the child's experiences with sexuality. Factors such as the traditionalism of a family, and level of attention given to the child by close relatives played a role, according to the study's results. A larger issue is the many studies that have sampling biases, often receiving most data from clinical and prisoner populations. A more complete statistical sample set would be harder to attain, given most pedophiles in online communities wish to remain anonymous, and their participation in such studies could threaten their anonymity. Despite all the problems the meta-analysis faced with proper sampling, it yielded results contrary to the common opinion of inter-generational sexual encounters, suggesting further study would be worthwhile.

It would be very enlightening for parties on both sides of this issue to see another study built upon Rind's, but it isn't likely to happen any time soon. As is the case with many of these studies, his analysis was deeply scrutinized in 1999 by the media and even the US government.² Dr. Laura Schlessinger, a conservative radio show host, was the first of many to take issue with Rind's work, referring to it as "junk science"[3]. In addition, conservative groups such as the Family Research Council heavily criticized the study, with one spokesperson saying it gives pedophiles "a green flag"². Government involvement began with Representative Tom DeLay of Texas, who was the majority whip during this time, claiming the work of Rind "condones pedophilia". This went further than simple commentary, and actually made American political history. The meta-analysis became the first study ever to receive condemnation from the United States Congress under a vote in the House. This does not bode well for the advancement of research into adult-child sexuality at all. Although conservative governments are cracking down on and suppressing studies like these, non-study work that focuses on testimonials continues.

T. Rivas' Positive Memories is a collection of testimonials with a staggering 155 records taken from the perspective of the child, all showing the positive side of pedophilia.⁴ Included is a testimony of a woman, now 27 year old,

reminiscing about her sexual relationship at age six with a 40 year old man named Peter. Prior to the relationship slowly becoming a sexual one, it was a very positive platonic one, the adult woman stated, "I really clicked with him and we often used to frolic around with each other before I went to bed." After the sexual elements of the relationship had completely developed, she started having sex with Peter on a near-daily basis. At the end of the account she says, "Looking back at my childhood with Peter, I have very fond memories of it."⁵ Her relationship with Peter continued until he passed away. Rivas' book contains many other similar testimonials. The story of Rachel within the Girl-Man Experiences section illustrates similar testimony with an additional element; she politely disagrees with her current boyfriend over his belief she should look back on her childhood relationship as negative. Her relationship as a child started non-sexually, with the man involved simply reading to her while she was visiting. With every step towards more sexual activities, even if it was simply a matter of toplessness, her consent to the activity was considered. When the man received a 'no' from the girl, he respected her response and didn't ask again. At the end of her testimony, she states the following:

"I think it is sad that such caring individuals as my neighbor should be lumped together with the most vile scum on the earth, simply because they gave a little girl like

I was the opportunity to discover herself more fully than our screwed up laws say she is allowed to know herself. I would not be the whole person I am today without him, and I miss him very much.”⁶

For those few on the fence about respecting children’s sexual decision-making as safe and legitimate, the two aforementioned accounts might convince some to consider inter-generational sexuality legitimate. For those still unconvinced, there are more testimonials, such as that by a woman named Johanneke, who goes by the assumed name ‘Joke’.

When she was around eight, Joke’s parents started running a café where they allowed boarders in areas of their living quarters. Due to the living arrangements, there was no bathroom. Instead, there was a toilet upstairs and a washstand. According to the testimonial they needed to undress to use the toilet. One day, while she was washing herself, a boarder by the name Herman was present. She was around the age of ten at this time. She had previously met Herman and was aware of his fondness toward her. Herman often allowed Joke to polish his shoes, which she’d receive pocket money for. However, it was at this time, when she was washing up, that her relationship with the man changed into a sexual one.

They began meeting each Saturday and over time, they incorporated sexual activity into the encounters, including intimate touching, and sexual games within Joke’s

own bedroom—all experiences that she enjoyed. While he had started giving her more money and helping with household chores upon becoming sexual with her, she understood it as a means of appreciation for her, despite this being quite different than what happens in most other relationships. They would continue these encounters for about four years, and in her opinion, her sexual development was aided by Herman.⁷

These stories from Joke and other adults who had positive sexual experiences as children, show not all physical intimacy between adults and kids will lead to emotional, psychological, or physical trauma. There is another problem that can arise with strong reactions from family, friends, negative media influences, or from law enforcement. That problem occurs when these social forces negatively influence a child who is already in a sexual, inter-generational relationship, to perceive their sexual activity negatively, despite no changes in their adult partner.

Authority figures within minors’ lives posit power over what any child can do, and most of those in charge of keeping children safe consider it necessary to prevent them from exploring sexuality. Whenever such authorities discover children to be sexually active, they pressure those children to find flaws in their partner or their relationship. The adult lover may continue to be as considerate as possible, but he or she is only a

single influence on the youngster’s perspective, whereas most teachers, news programs, religions, and parents insist that the kind of relationship is always highly unfavorable for the child. These negative societal sources greatly outnumber any that are positive about inter-generational sexuality, and the begins to feel pressured to side with popular opinion, and view what was a beautiful relationship in which she once saw herself as a participant, as a traumatic scenario of systemic victimization.

One account shows the scarring nature of an intolerant society on a little girl who chose to be involved in a sexual relationship with her uncle for many years. A woman discusses what someone she knows went through, saying:

“From the child’s point of view and from the commonsense point of view, there is an enormous difference between intercourse with a willing little girl and the forcible penetration of the small vagina of a terrified child. One woman I know enjoyed sex with an uncle all through her childhood, and never realized that anything was unusual until she went away to school. What disturbed her then was not what her uncle had done but the attitude of her teachers and the school psychiatrist. They assumed that she must have been traumatized and disgusted and therefore in need of very special help. In order to capitulate their expectations, she began to fake symptoms that she did not feel,

until at length she began to feel truly guilty about not having been guilty. She ended up judging herself very harshly for this innate lechery.”⁸

Vaginal intercourse with children is strongly discouraged, because of the chance of serious injury, but the actions of those around the child described above, caused her relationship to take on many harmful undertones, despite her apparent enjoyment of it prior to the negative influence by less-than-encouraging forces in her young life. The question that society needs to ask in these situations is, “Would the child be happier and mentally healthier had such harsh judgments of their sexual choices been discouraged?”. Sadly, this is not the only story of a child being strongly judged or otherwise negatively treated for choosing to explore their sexuality.

There have been cases, documented in Tom O’Carroll’s book *Pedophilia: The Radical Case*, that show much darker situations faced by sexually active children, once their relationships are discovered by law enforcement. In chapter 3 of his aforementioned book, entitled “The ‘Molester’ and His ‘Victim,’” O’Carroll suggests it’s very common for law enforcement in America to go to extreme and cruel lengths to get children to confess to what is assumed by cops to be unhealthy sexual conduct between a minor victim and an adult perpetrator. There is a case where authorities in the U.S. dangled a boy by his

ankles over a cliff to get him to admit he had been sexually involved with an adult. Some may read this and believe this is due to the ongoing concern of police brutality prevalent in America, and such extreme situations are just an American problem, but this has happened elsewhere.⁹

Holland is considered by many to be one of world’s most liberal countries, but Holland’s police force unrealistic confessions out of children, when law enforcement agents suspect a minor has been sexually involved with a grownup. In one case a thirteen-year-old boy was questioned by Dutch authorities for eight hours in a barred police cell. It eventually devolved into one interrogator who intended to scare the adolescent, suggesting that if he let the boy’s adult friend go free, the boy’s father would kill his friend.⁹ However, strict police enforcing societal norms, and scaring youth into confessions, are unusual extremes. Sometimes, discouragement of child sexuality is more subtly enforced by parents.

It’s apparent a vast majority of parents are afraid of their children not only becoming sexually aware, but also sexually active. It’s reasonable to conclude children should be educated about sexually transmitted infections, and protected from anyone who would cause them harm or manipulate them into sexual acts, but limiting every aspect of a child’s sexual curiosity and natural development is unnecessary to protect them.

Even in cases where a child’s sexual activity is disruptive—such as masturbating in the living room with company over—it can be managed by letting the child know such activities should be done in private. While some younger children may have difficulty understanding the need for certain things to remain private, a parent can reassure their child, so they don’t feel isolated. In situations where children have sexually engaged others their age, children should be reminded that, before doing so, they need their friend’s parents’ permission. Both of the aforementioned solutions to dealing with child sexuality are more objective than what is currently the norm.

The status quo is well-detailed in one account of a couple with a daughter who has a strong interest in sexuality. Their daughter, aged 5, prefers to walk through the house naked and has started to masturbate openly. In spite of the child’s age, the mother has taught the daughter many sexually advanced concepts in ways that many would consider unorthodox, such as explaining the appearance of male and female sex organs, as well as allowing the child to watch her mom having sex, despite being nicely told by both adults to afford them privacy. The boyfriend was highly alarmed by the child’s behavior, leading him to post his experience to a site called ‘The Clitoris’ for advice. While some details of this situation have straddled the line of legality (to no fault of the mother or her partner),

many aspects of this can either be dealt with in an objective manner, or simply accepted as normal, or even healthy, and left alone.¹⁰ What's troubling is how the boyfriend's feelings may influence the girl over time, considering that he may not change his mainstream views.

The feelings and actions of adults for or against child sexuality, including inter-generational intimacy, have a tremendous impact on how a child may see sex throughout their childhood, perhaps even negatively affecting their adulthood. Add an adult to the mix, and regardless of how innocently the relationship between the grownup and the minor develops, society is currently very effective at causing the child to feel as if they've been taken advantage of. The nature of this system is being used not just to help children who are genuine victims of egregious sexual assault, but also to suppress children's innate curiosity, by assuming they are only capable of being traumatized by sexual activities during their developmental years.

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How to be an Edenist

by Bert Clanton



procured by *truerealitylover*



Your body is innocent,

just as it is, just the way it naturally functions. Be completely at ease with your body and with all the things that it normally and naturally does. Never feel ashamed of your body or any of its natural functions. Don't feel embarrassed when other people see your naked body, or see you having sex or using the toilet, or carrying out any other function or activity appropriate to your body. Never feel offended or embarrassed when you see other people's naked bodies, or see them carrying out any bodily function.

Your curiosity about other people's

bodies is natural and innocent. Never suppress your natural curiosity about other people's bodies or how they work, or feel ashamed of your curiosity. Feel free to satisfy your curiosity in any way that's comfortable for other people, and feel free to satisfy other people's curiosity in any way that is comfortable for you. But when curiosity is satisfied, move on to other things. Be completely free of the shame-laden preoccupation with bodies and their functions that develop when people's instinctual interest in the body is shamed and concealed.

Affectionate touching is innocent

and nurturing. Affectionate non-sexual touching and embracing can be a beautiful and supportive part of your communication with other people. Within your community of belief, freely touch and embrace other people, thereby promoting a communal feeling of love and connectedness. Affectionate touch is especially important for children, so freely touch and embrace them within your community.

Whatever you do sexually is innocent, so long as you do it with responsible concern for the well-being of others. Be completely at ease with all your sexual feelings and interests, and feel totally free of

guilt about engaging in any kind of sexual activity or relationship, so long as you act responsibly and so long as:

1. no one deceives anyone else to get them involved;
2. everyone involved is competent to give free informed consent, and gives such consent;
3. the activity or relationship is not physically harmful or in itself psychologically traumatic to anyone engaged in it;
4. everyone involved insures that appropriate measures are taken to prevent inappropriate pregnancy and the transmission of disease; and
5. the activity or relationship does not endanger any existing viable intimate relationship.

Any form of sexual relationship is innocent, so long as you engage in it with responsible concern for the well-being of your partners. Feel free to be sexually involved with one partner or more than one, with a partner of your same sex or the other sex, purely for enjoyment or as an expression of committed love, in a long-term commitment or just for the moment, so long as your involvement is responsible, satisfying the requirements proposed above.

Feel free to choose among all these kinds of activities and relationships, taking into account your sexual orientation, your values, your preferences, your interests, and the circumstances of your life.

Honest communication about your

sexual feelings is innocent.

When you feel sexually attracted to someone, feel free to communicate your feelings openly, but in a way which assumes no obligation by the other person to return your feelings or to act on them. When other people let you know that they are sexually attracted to you, accept their interest as a compliment, but don't feel obligated to return their feelings or to act on them.

Pleasuring yourself sexually is innocent. Pleasure yourself whenever you feel like it. Don't be ashamed to be seen pleasuring yourself by anyone who will not be offended, and don't be offended or embarrassed when you see other people pleasuring themselves.

Speaking openly about your body and its functions is innocent. Don't be ashamed to speak freely about your body and any of its functions. If it's normal and natural to do something, feel comfortable talking about doing it.

Being sexual with people other than your spouse or lover is innocent, so long as your spouse or lover freely and truly accepts your "outside" encounters or relationships. If you and your partner are both confident that having responsible sex with "outsiders" won't endanger your relationship, then feel completely free to engage without guilt in "outside" encounters and relationships, and completely support your partner in enjoying the same freedom.

Being sexual in the presence of other people is innocent, so long as they consent. Feel completely

free to be sexual in the presence of other people, if they won't be offended; and don't be embarrassed or offended if other people have sex in your presence.

Children's bodily curiosity is natural and innocent. Be completely at ease with the curiosity that children of all ages have about their own and others' bodies, and particularly about their sexuality. Be completely at ease with the exploratory behavior that this curiosity naturally evokes. Always answer their questions about sexuality in an honest and accurate way, appropriate to their capacity for understanding. Encourage your children to explore their developing sexuality responsibly, in ways that are voluntary, consensual, and harmless for every participant.

Teenagers' sexuality is innocent, so long as they express it responsibly. Be completely at ease with the developing sexuality of teenagers, but teach your sons and daughters to be emotionally and biologically responsible in their sexual interactions while they are being sexually free and uninhibited. At every stage of their growing up, completely accept for them the degree of sexual freedom commensurate with their demonstrated biological and emotional responsibility.

Enjoying erotic productions is natural and innocent. Enjoy sexually explicit pictures, performances, and stories without shame or guilt, and be completely at ease enjoying the arousal that they may evoke.

A community which lives in such natural innocence is a community

worth establishing and protecting in the world. Don't try to impose this freedom, openness, and candor on anyone who finds it abhorrent, but adamantly reject and oppose any attempt by anyone to restrict your practice of body-acceptance and responsible sexual freedom within your own community of belief. Work to establish an ever-widening community of people who share with you this belief in our natural innocence as embodied beings, and who act and speak in their personal lives with responsible freedom. Work to establish a worldwide humane culture which teaches, practices, and celebrates this innocence, responsibility and freedom.



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Virtue and Virulence:

the politics of the pedosphere by Sisyphus Mann



Granted that every war is madness — civil war, fratricide, is the worst of all; it reaches deeper into ugliness, cruelty and absurdity.” —Elie Wiesel

One might think that pedophiles were embattled enough, but the emergence of ‘Virtuous Pedophiles’ in 2012 sparked off what amounts to a civil war that has split the pedophile world, made enemies of former friends, and generated an endless supply of bad feeling.

Virtuous Pedophiles is the creation of Nick Devin and Ethan Edwards, who today, seven years after the movement’s creation, still stand very much at the organization’s helm. Virtuous Pedophiles (or VirPeds) are centered around a website and a forum, where their philosophy and goals are explicitly stated, promoted, and enforced.

Contrasting similar communities,

their philosophy and goals are conservative. They minimize the assault that consensual pedophilia, by its very nature, makes on Society’s received ideas of child sexuality and the family. Their philosophy also promotes the conception of the pedophile most congruent with Society’s prejudices and stereotypes – essentially a version of the Monster, the Predator, but neutered by therapy, drugs, or against-all-odds acts of self-control.

This rapprochement with the dominant culture has brought VirPeds some success in wooing the media and getting a platform for their message. The results have been mixed; but considering the levels of stigma pedophilia attracts, ‘mixed results’ are probably the best anyone could have hoped for.

Facing VirPeds from the other side of the ideological divide is a disparate mix of thinkers, groups, blogs and forums united by the

belief that consensual intimacy between children and adults is not inherently harmful, and that children are capable of making proper consent decisions about sexual consent. For convenience, I’ll call these refer to them as ‘Radical Pedophiles’ (or RadPeds).

VirPeds are committed to helping “pedophiles never abuse children” and also to reducing “the stigma attached to pedophilia by letting people know that a substantial number of pedophiles do not molest children, and to provide peer support and information about available resources to help pedophiles lead happy, productive lives”.

Their principal strategy for preventing offending is to maintain in the mind of potential offenders (i.e. pedophiles) a heightened awareness of the sheer wrongness of acting on their desires.

This strategy serves another important function: just as during

mating the male spider, must unceasingly pacify the female to suppress her predatory instincts, every syllable that VirPeds present to the general public must express an emollient acknowledgment of the wrongness of not only all child-adult intimacy, but also of the desire itself.

Any questioning of that wrongness is necessarily taboo:

“All the discussion in the group takes as its premise that sexual activity between adults and children is wrong. The idea that it is only the legal system and misguided attitudes of society that keep adult-child sex from being a good thing is not welcome here. Detailed discussion of why such activity is wrong is not allowed either.”–

‘INTRODUCTION and RULES’ of the VP forum

The corollary of this is that VirPeds are obliged to curtail any philosophical or sociological reflection which throws into question the dominant narrative round pedophilia. It also obliges them to maintain an a-historic and mono-cultural frame of reference, lest they encounter cultures with different conceptions of child sexuality to their own.

One strategy that embodies this absolutism, and which is also

useful for signaling their closeness to the dominant narrative, is to define themselves as ‘anti-contact’ and to define RadPeds as ‘pro-contact’.

The language here is important: ‘anti-contact’ implies that VirPeds are not only against any sensual intimacy between children and adults, but that they believe pedophiles should avoid any ‘contact’ - social, professional, familial – with children: a position, of course, very reassuring to minds marinated in the dominant narrative.

Conversely, the term ‘pro-contact’ insinuates that RadPeds want sex enforced on children for their (the children’s) own good, like vaccination or eating broccoli—a position I suspect very few RadPeds would defend. VirPeds, by painting their enemies blacker than they are they make themselves appear more virtuous.

VirPeds’ intense focus on the need to resist temptation inevitably begets an equally intense preoccupation with the desirability of the object of temptation—a process identical to that sometimes seen in the recovering alcoholic, whose constant efforts to resist the bottle effectively keep its pleasures ever-present in his thoughts.

In truth ‘resisting temptation’ is one of the last factors which keep pedophiles on the easy side of the law. The real reasons are usually quite mundane, and intervene well before resisting temptation becomes an issue (they are also analogous

to the factors that ensure that most hetero-teleiophilic men don’t try to seduce every woman they encounter) namely, the child not finding the adult attractive, the adult not finding the child attractive, the adult not wanting to betray the child’s parents, the adult not wanting to abuse a professional position, respect for the rule of law etc.

It is my impression that RadPeds do not consider ‘resisting temptation’ the great against-all-odds achievement that VirPeds seem to do.

Whereas VirPeds, out of a fear of temptation, generally urge pedophiles to have minimal interaction with children, RadPeds would generally consider, say, tickling the tummy of a friendly, giggly little girl as one of life’s harmless, unalloyed pleasures. Much like having a glass of wine with one’s meal.

VirPeds, with their ‘recovering alcoholic’ mindset, see this single glass as the starting-gun to a binge whose near-inevitable conclusion is an unrestrained spree of child molesting and illegal pornography.

The majority of RadPeds recognize that the intense stigmatization of pedophiles and child-adult intimacy makes it unethical to engage in activities that are likely to bring disruption and stigma into children’s lives, even if those activities are wanted by the child and are, of themselves, harmless.

But RadPeds limit this interdiction to those social contexts where

such intimacy is illegal and stigmatised.

But it seems that VirPeds consider this pragmatic advocacy of celibacy as not being good enough. They have something of the overly-pious who consider secular morality, even when identical to their own, as insincere and too contingent, because based on Reason rather than Faith. It is not enough to be celibate within the narrow bounds of one's culture; one has to be celibate in every possible culture—real or imagined, past or future. The ideal VP is someone who'd insist on celibacy not only in a society where consensual child-adult intimacy was permitted, but one where it had been demonstrated to be unquestionably beneficial to all concerned.

There exists a third group of pedophiles. I'll call these—for want of a better name—'encultured pedophiles' ('encultured' meaning 'having thoroughly adopted the attitudes and behavior patterns of the culture in which they are immersed').

Encultured pedophiles have internalized the dominant narrative that depicts and defines the pedophile as a 'Monster' and 'Predator'—immoral, out of control, cunning, low-functioning, doomed to act on his desires, someone who despises children and who seeks only to have power over them. They are adrift in a hostile dominant cultural narrative and have to somehow create an identity out of the only archetypes society allows the paedophile.

The culture's promotion of the 'monster' archetype as the only identity available for paedophiles makes for self-fulfilling prophecies. The encultured pedophile is caught in a net—he either resists the archetype, making himself more vulnerable to self-loathing, depression and isolation, or he acquiesces to it and starts acting like a predator/monster—putting children at real risk.

A significant part of the VirPeds purpose is to reach these Encultured Pedophiles. Undoubtedly VirPeds are a much better option for them than the dominant narrative: offering a community, an identity that promotes self-esteem, respect for the child, and self-control—things which have no part in the Monster and Predator archetypes. Having said this, in my opinion it would be better that encultured pedophiles encounter radical ideas first. But RadPeds have had much less success than VirPeds in accessing the media. And the little access that is granted them does not allow for a proper expression of their ideas.

But we shouldn't make the best the enemy of the merely good: the second-best of VirPeds is still preferable to being abandoned to the virulence of the populist narrative.

Has the success of VirPeds been detrimental to Radical Pedophilia?

If one judges by the amount of bad feeling generated, or by some notional aspiration to unity in the

pedophile world, then yes. And VirPeds have undoubtedly managed to reach and educate the public, in a way that RadPeds have largely failed to do.

But would RadPeds have been offered such a platform if VirPeds had not elbowed their way to front-stage?

The ideas of both RadPeds and of VirPeds are unthinkable for the huge majority of the public (if you doubt this watch some Youtube video responses to the media appearances of Todd Nickerson—an irreproachably virtuous VP). There are, however, degrees of unthinkability: RadPeds occupy its outer hinterlands. VirPeds, on the other hand, have received sympathetic hearings and responses from the public, as well as the support from famous scientists (most notably Dr James Cantor). This suggests VirPeds are edging closer to those borderlands where 'unthinkable' becomes the slightly more acceptable 'Radical' (...oh, the irony!).

And this difference has meant that VirPeds have been able to introduce, if not quite to the general public, at least to a more thinking and humane section of the public, some valid ideas and nuances—not least the idea that pedophiles need not conform to the Monster or Predator archetypes. They have managed to get the wheels spinning in a discourse that has been mired in the bog of ignorance.

Can an entente cordiale be established between VirPeds and

RadPeds? Or should the pedophile world resign itself to civil war?

For peace to break out in the pedosphere both RadPeds and VirPeds may have to face some uncomfortable facts.

VirPeds have not elbowed out RadPeds. If VirPeds didn't exist, RadPeds would not instead be enjoying sympathetic articles in respected news sites, or having documentaries made about them, or having their cause championed by famous scientists. RadPeds need to accept that, for the moment, VirPeds are the ones getting things moving, even if only slowly.

RadPeds should also support those VirPeds who have come out and who have defended pedophiles – even when that defense is based on abjection and self-loathing, and misrepresentations of the positions held by Radical pedophiles.

RadPeds also have to face the fact that any support they give VirPeds will not be reciprocated. Virpeds know that any rapprochement they make to RadPeds will be interpreted by the general public as a contamination of the purity of their 'anti-contact' stance.

It is a hard bullet for RadPeds to bite but maybe the best thing is for RadPeds to wish VirPeds well, rather than to wish them away.

However RadPeds must continue to hold VirPeds, who are prone to intellectual flabbiness, to account in discussions and debates away from the public gaze. Unfortunately,

this is made difficult by the fact that VirPeds have abandoned non-partisan forums for their own forum, where they can shelter from dissenting ideas.

This ghettoization impoverishes discourse. Echo-chambers are useless for the proper testing of ideas and claims.

To this end non-partisan forums need to ensure that those holding dissenting opinions are welcome. This is not just a question of banning abuse, but also of fostering an ethos where dissenters are not swamped, hounded or have their opinions maliciously misrepresented.

As to VirPeds: they need to take a 'reality check'.

Radical Pedophilia has as-near-as-damn-it no chance of even getting a fair hearing in the current climate, never mind of getting their ideas accepted or enacted.

Treating RadPeds as a major threat smacks of totalitarianism, especially when heavy use is made of knowing misrepresentation. VirPeds have proven themselves intolerant of any deviation from or questioning of their position. The presence of a single RadPed contributor on a forum or blog (even when his contribution touches on nothing controversial) is sufficient in their eyes to damn that forum or blog as 'pro-contact'.

Many of the attacks VirPeds make against RadPeds are not about preventing the abuse of children,

but rather about stamping out a system of ideas subversive to the ideology they share with the paedophobe culture. VirPeds should acknowledge that there is room for diversity of voices and opinions, and should engage with them rather than (in an echo of the tactics of 'social justice warriors' on American campuses) trying to silence them, ban them, shout them down, or ostracize them. VirPeds should define themselves not against the oft-cerebral RadPed, but rather the culturally ubiquitous archetypes, which damn countless pedophiles to think of themselves as monstrous predators.





TAKING THE SPOTLIGHT:

Media Activism as a Girl Lover
by **Lowercase punk**

I was tense and nervous. I felt uneasy, as though I were enrolling in a new school for the first time. This was going to be my debut. The point of no return had passed; from then on, things would change. “When will it happen? At any time. I just have to keep waiting.” I was attempting to get an article about pedophilia by a minor-attracted person published by a large media company. The following is the story of that experience.

I had previously wanted to write something directed to the media about what pedophilia really is in order to make a distinction between the sexual attraction, loving relations between adults and minors, and actual sexual abuse. However, the drive to do so had burned out due to my then lack of sufficient knowledge about the subject, confidence about how to write, and the pressure of standing all by myself without any support from others.

But first of all, who am I? I am someone who grew up as a deviant loner bullied by other kids, so I

got an early experience how it is to suffer for other people’s pleasure and contentment. I became familiar with the communities for minor-attracted people (MAPs) BoyChat, GirlChat and VoA in 2014, while I was facing a personal crisis. However, I soon lost my faith in them for several reasons, including the difference between the sad life I lived back then compared to the ones the members of the communities had. I was “such a sad puppy”, and actually planned and nearly attempted suicide. I am here to write this article because my plan got disrupted by the flu and I decided to give college a try.

During the first months of 2015, I returned to the MAP communities, and a few months later the first highlight of the year happened at VoA. On one important day in April, I got promoted to the next membership rank and gained access to additional parts of the forum where sensitive topics could be discussed without needing to fear antis among the

lower ranked members. Yes, VoA consists of many forum parts which are hidden from most of the userbase, but as a Global Moderator of that site I can tell that we are completely legal in all ways, and actually most of the content that violates rules is posted by new members in the more public areas.

Since this might be the first time you are seeing the word “anti” being used, here is an explanation: While definitions can vary across MAP communities, often this word is used to describe a person who invests much of their time into causing social, or in rare cases, physical harm to MAPs due to a substantial hatred for them. They are currently the main influence (often only) of opinions on minor attraction. Antis are very quick to promote the shunning and ostracization of any person expressing a positive, or even neutral view on MAPs.

Now that I have told a bit about myself, I will change the focus to how I became involved with NRK.

NRK stands for “Norsk rikskringkasting”, or “Norwegian Broadcasting Company” in English₂, and is Norway’s biggest media organization.₂ This media company contains many divisions of different sizes, and this article will mention the following two divisions:

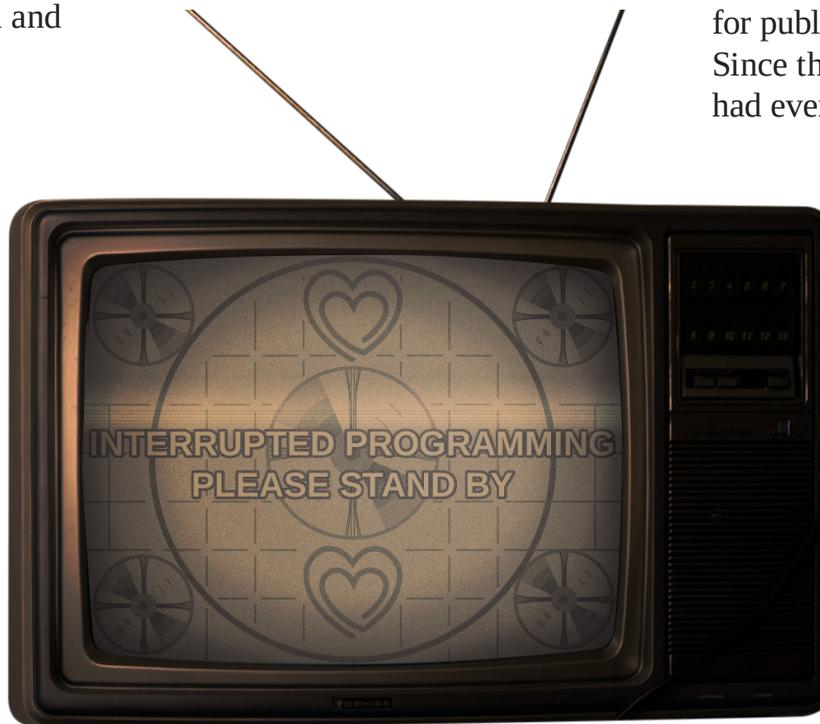
NRKbeta a division of technology journalism with the slogan “NRK’s sandbox for technology and new media”.₃

NRK Ytring “NRK.no/Ytring is an editorially controlled website for exchange of news, social and cultural issues”.₄

It all began with NRK’s Scandiland “disclosures” in May 2015, when NRKbeta published an article₅ about their forthcoming electronic article series about the darknet Scandiland community. And this article in general terms mentioned “pedophiles”, or more correctly “minor-attracted people”, as a bunch of dingy criminals with pockets filled with child pornography. The article’s title translated into English reads: “NRK REVEALS FORUM FOR SCANDINAVIAN PEDOPHILES: How far would you go with a child?”

So when the first introductory article₅ about the coming article

series on Scandiland was published by NRKbeta and I found it, I got the depressing feeling that I always get when reading anti-pedophile stuff. However, I also got the urge to write something to reply to this in a way, and I began to jot down some ideas. I ended up with about 750 words, which I sent to NRK Ytring. I soon received a reply stating they were interested in my article, and they assigned a journalist to be the liaison between the redaction and myself.



They informed me that they needed my real name to know who I was and how to contact me, and to verify that I was a real person to publish my text as an anonymous written article. I complied.

We communicated by e-mail and telephone during the editing process. In a rush, they wanted to schedule the publication of

this article on a certain day. They wanted to change the article by trashing the part about the terms from infantophilia to teleiophilia in order to make a “dummy article” about “pedophilia” written by a “pedophile”. Furthermore, they added more of my views about stuff where the given details were not satisfactory in their eyes because it did not meet their expectations.

After corresponding with them for a few days, I was told that the article was ready and scheduled for publishing some hours later. Since this was the first time I had ever done something like

this, I was pretty nervous. I was never told the exact time for the publishing, and the following hours were long and nerve-wracking. My article₆ suddenly appeared at NRK.no; it was given a lot more space than I expected, and with a counter article₇ next to it

which, until then, I did not know about. Nevertheless, I was not surprised, since I wrote from a pro-contact view. My article got the title “Jeg er pedofil”₆, which translated to English means “I am a pedophile”.

What does “pro-contact” mean? For us, it means not avoiding children at all costs because we

know we aren't a bunch of unstable child molesters. We pro-contacters are peaceful humans who simply enjoy each chance we get to share love with and care for the minors crossing our paths. We are happy for each smile, hug, and laugh that we receive.

One example of their tabloidization of my article₆ was their problematization of my statement where I said I had no problem being around kids, that I was not a ticking bomb, ready to molest at any time. When speaking my thoughts about being around children and having contact with them, the editors added this sentence (translated from Norwegian): "I manage to control it," where "it" implicitly means my "aggressive sexual urge" towards children, as though we strive each day to keep ourselves from raping children.

The counter article₇ was obviously written spontaneously since they took the most controversial sentence they could find in my original draft and made some psychologists react to that line so they could compose a "slaughtering" counter article. It contained the standard arguments like "children can't have sex without being damaged" and "children are immature and can't consent". (Quotes translated from Norwegian Bokmål.)

Even the following title is nothing more than a line of popular bigotry: "Det å være glad i barn er noe annet enn å være pedofil"⁷, which translated into English means "loving children is something other than being a pedophile",

an assertion which was already dispelled by the preamble in my article₆: "The word pedophilia originates from the Greek paidophilia: pais 'child' and philia 'love, friendship'." (Quote translated from Norwegian Bokmål.)

In the end, getting an article about pedophilia published was an eye-opening experience. If I were to try again, I would write an article that was in the format used in the redaction of my first article so that the editors would have less to alter, hopefully leaving the substance of my article intact. I would also mention the difference between pro-contacts and anti-contacts to indicate that pedophiles are not a homogeneous group.

If you are thinking of writing your own article to send to an editorial staff for publishing, I would recommend that you do so only if you are sure of yourself. I would also recommend that you familiarize yourself with the journalism code of ethics in your region, as well as the rights that you have as a writer.

[1] AliceLovers Magazine (2019) Understanding Minor Attracted Persons (Page 1-4)

[2] Fordal, J. A. (2015). A gigantic small broadcaster. Almost everybody in Norway makes use of one or more of NRK services during the course of an average day. NRK - the public broadcaster – unites the people of Norway. Retrieved from Om NRK website: <http://www.nrk.no/about/a-gigantic-small-broadcaster-1.3698462>

[nrk.no/about/a-gigantic-small-broadcaster-1.3698462](http://www.nrk.no/about/a-gigantic-small-broadcaster-1.3698462)

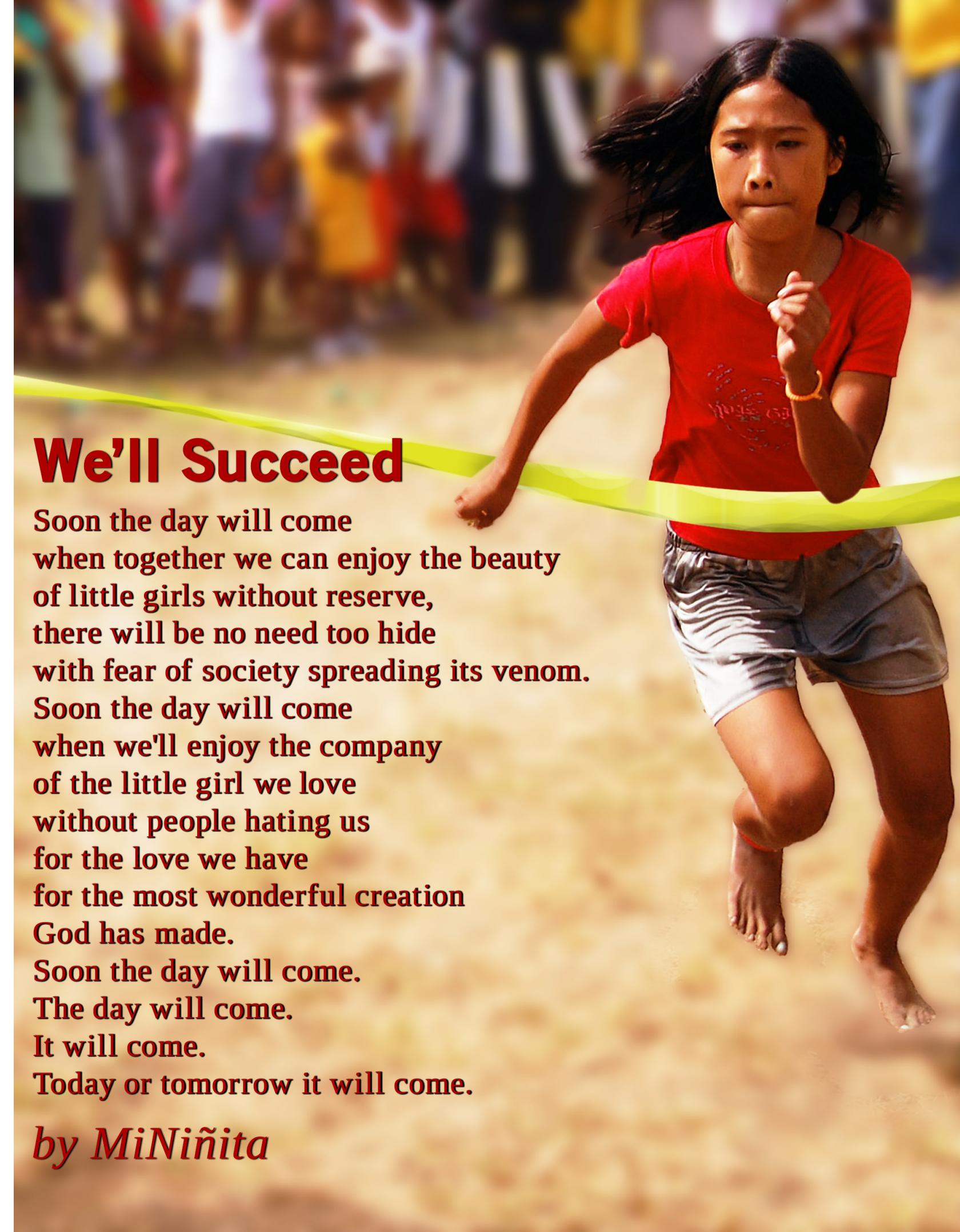
[3] NRKbeta. (2009). What is NRKbeta? Retrieved from NRKbeta website: <https://nrkbeta.no/about>

[4] Tretvoll, H. (2012). Send oss din Ytring. Retrieved from NRK Ytring website: <http://www.nrk.no/ytring/send-oss-din-ytring-1.8271030>

[5] Lied, H., Skille, Ø. B., Hansen, S., & Kristoffersen, E. B. (2015). NRK AVSLØRER FORUM FOR SKANDINAVISKE PEDOFILER: – Hvor langt ville du gått med et barn? Retrieved from NRKbeta website: <https://nrkbeta.no/2015/05/13/nrk-avslorer-forum-for-skandinaviske-pedofile-hvor-langt-ville-du-gatt-med-et-barn>

[6] Anonym, & NRK Ytring. (2015). Jeg er pedofil. Retrieved from NRK Ytring website: <http://www.nrk.no/ytring/jeg-er-pedofil-1.12361773>

[7] Kolberg, M., & Nilsen, K. S. (2015). – Det å være glad i barn er noe annet enn å være pedofil. Retrieved from NRK website: http://www.nrk.no/norge/_-det-a-vaere-glad-i-barn-er-noe-annet-enn-a-vaere-pedofil-1.12362402

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a red t-shirt and silver shorts, is captured in motion running a hurdle race. She is barefoot and has a determined expression. A bright yellow-green hurdle ribbon is stretched across the frame. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators on a sandy field.

We'll Succeed

Soon the day will come
when together we can enjoy the beauty
of little girls without reserve,
there will be no need too hide
with fear of society spreading its venom.
Soon the day will come
when we'll enjoy the company
of the little girl we love
without people hating us
for the love we have
for the most wonderful creation
God has made.
Soon the day will come.
The day will come.
It will come.
Today or tomorrow it will come.

by MiNiñita



You Are Not Alone: A Look At Society's Pedophilia Stereotype

by KatieCuddles

I've known for a long time that I was a girl-lover. I've always found young girls to be desirable, on an emotional and physical level. I couldn't explain these feelings and didn't know why I felt that way. All I knew was that I truly had a passionate, romantic love for them, and that I meant no harm.

But everywhere I went, everything I read, every time I turned on the TV, there were always people condemning pedophiles as evil monsters. I absorbed society's negative

view on pedophilia for years. I developed a mindset that was very similar to society's view. Everyone who is attracted to kids is an evil monster. Everyone but me, that is. Because, unlike them, I truly love little girls.

I tried to come to terms with this attraction I had. I had trouble relating to my friends who were attracted to people their own age. They started wondering why I never seemed interested in people close in age. I never had a partner, and had always longed for a relationship with a long-

lost, much younger girl that I had fallen for while I was in junior high.

Around 2007, in the midst of my lonely turmoil, a friend posted a Myspace bulletin (remember those?) with a link to an evil pedophile site called Puellula. The website was run by Lindsay Ashford, a well-educated man who didn't fit the stereotype of a creepy pedophile. I read through his site, and realized there is someone else out there that feels the way I do. There's someone else who loves and cherishes little

girls. Someone who cares for their well-being, and only wishes to have a loving and romantic relationship with them.

After finding Lindsay's site, I came out to my friends and family that I was a girl-lover. I explained to them "I'm not like all the evil pedophiles out there. I truly love and cherish little girls and have no bad intentions." As you can expect, it didn't go so well. Many people, including some of my own family, labeled me as one of those evil pedophiles, offering no distinction between a child lover and a child molester.

I was devastated. I had nowhere to go, and no one to talk to. Then I decided to return to the Internet, and came across the message boards GirlChat and Visions of Alice, which catered to people who identify as girl lovers. I was quite apprehensive at first, but out of desperation, I decided to become a member of both of these sites.

When I joined, I still felt that I was the only good-hearted girl-lover on either site. All these other people I was interacting with were just evil pedophiles. Sure, they say they've never hurt anyone, but how was I supposed to believe that? No one is who they say they are on the Internet. Right? Even though I was now surrounded by a support system of like-minded people, I hadn't really accepted them. I felt I was different. I didn't relate. I was alone.

But over the course of several months, I read through their heartfelt messages about how much

they love and care about little girls. What they were writing was exactly how I felt. And what they preached never changed. They all truly love little girls, just as I do. These people are just like me. They live normal lives, and also go through the same trials and tribulations I was going through. They weren't bad people. They weren't the evil pedophiles I had been so conditioned to believe in. Instead, They were just like me.

Society has sensationalized the image of the creepy, evil pedophile, lurking in the shadows, waiting to kidnap, rape and murder your children. This view, however, is very skewed, and far from the truth.

So what is a pedophile? Ask several people and they will describe something that has to do with child molestation and hurting children. But pedophilia has nothing to do with this.

The words "pedophilia" and "pedophile" come from the Greek roots pais meaning child, and philos meaning loving. So from that, one can gather that the term means a "child lover." A lover of children. Period. Nowhere in that does it say anything about hurting children. Last time I checked, love is a good thing.

So why are pedophiles so reviled by most of society? It is because they have been wrongly associated with child molesters. The word "pedophile" has become a catch-all term meaning something along the lines of "a person who is attracted to and

sexually abuses children." But that definition is wrong.

Pedophiles love children. No really. They hold children's well-being in high regard. They want what's in the child's best interests. I know it's hard to believe. We care about the well-being of children. Let that soak in for a bit. We cry when they are hurt. We pick them up off the ground when they fall. We comfort them when they're sad. We reassure them when they're bullied. We take care of them when they're sick. We rescue them from burning buildings. But you never hear about that.

When we do something good for kids, we're just considered human beings. It's considered a way of being an upstanding member of society. It's only when someone does something to hurt a child that they become a "pedophile" – which goes completely against the very origins of the term. Most of us have a sense of civic duty and compassion to do the right thing. No one can believe that some of that compassion is rooted in our love for children.

I challenge you to question what society has told you about us. Put aside all the negative things you have heard about us. What does that leave us as? We're just people. Human beings. Just like you.



Smartphone and tablet security for girl lovers

by joedoe

It is not possible to secure a smartphone 100% against threats, but it can be secured to a level such that it will be extremely expensive and time consuming for a third party to breach your privacy, which is the goal of this tutorial. Always bear in mind that if you have something very important to hide, like a diary or notes, don't store them on a smartphone because the risk is too high.

Highly sensitive data should always be stored offline inside an encrypted external hard drive that has no Internet access and is only plugged into a computer for viewing it, ideally, using a live

CD with Internet access disabled.

This article is aimed predominantly towards Android and iOS smart phones but the recommendations can be applied to any mobile OS. Some mobile phones like the Blackphone or the open source free security OS "Copperhead OS (copperhead.co/android/)" provide privacy and security features ready enabled and configured.

Turning off location sharing

New phones, by default, share your location with websites. The first thing you should do when you buy a smartphone is go into settings and minimize the

excessive sharing that is enabled by default on Android and Apple platforms. Some new phones may also be set to automatically upload your personal photos to the cloud without your knowledge.

In late 2014 there was a high-profile case, called by the media "The Fappening", where celebrities' intimate photos were leaked to the Internet. These celebrities' photos were being automatically uploaded to the cloud, and a hacker broke into their accounts due to their weak passwords.

The celebrities had no clue that pictures deleted from their phones years ago had been saved in Apple

cloud servers for backup. You should disable any kind of cloud storage service or risk ending up like them. In addition, some cloud storage services scan your private files.

Tip: Turning off location sharing in your phone does not prevent your network provider from tracking your every move using cell base station triangulation, but only a law enforcement agency with a subpoena will be able to access mobile phone GPS data. This problem is of no concern when defending against hackers.

Taking photos and videos

If you take a photo with your smartphone camera two things could happen that endanger your privacy. One is that the phone will embed EXIF and GPS data in your pictures. This will identify where you are and who you are depending on what kind of metadata is embedded. The second thing is that the photo may be automatically uploaded to the cloud.

Disable all cloud services and scrub pictures' metadata with an EXIF cleaner to avoid this.

Encrypt your operating system

A passcode is not enough to stop an adversary from accessing the data in your phone if you lose it. You need to fully encrypt your smartphone operating system.

iOS 8, Android Lollipop and above can prevent everyone,

allegedly including Apple and Google themselves (their own claim), from accessing the data on the phone. If you have an older model you can still fully encrypt your smartphone manually by going to the security section of settings. Recent vulnerabilities have been discovered in both iOS and Android that suggest it is possible to trick these phones into decrypting their content. However, such an attack is not trivial and would require a determined and highly skilled attacker to perform and so encryption is still strongly advised.

Tip: Make sure that you have chosen a strong passphrase. It will be very annoying having to enter it every time you switch on your mobile device, but it is the only way you can guarantee that a powerful computer will not brute force a short PIN code in a few days.

Malware and viruses

Never download any app from untrusted sources and always scan everything with a mobile antivirus like Avast or AVG. The downside to this is that antiviruses drain your battery.

Encrypted and anonymous chat

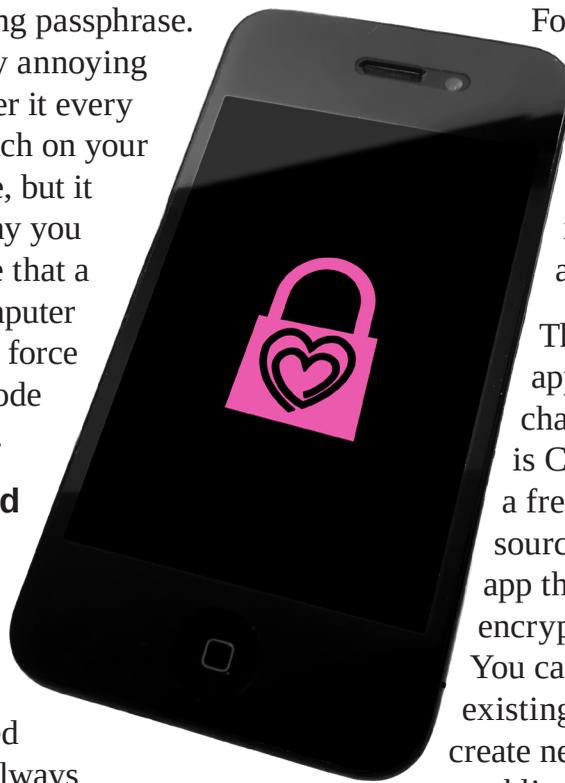
The problem with messaging apps is that there is always a server in the middle managing the messages you send and receive. Mainstream messaging apps like WhatsApp, Kik, Line, and Telegram are definitely not secure to protect from illegal spying. To securely communicate with others you will need an app that encrypts data end to end and hides your computer IP.

Encryption guarantees privacy and hiding your IP guarantees anonymity. When encryption is involved you will want to make sure that this is end to end and your provider has no way to decrypt the information.

For this to happen encryption must take place in the device with your own keys and not in the messaging app server.

The best messaging app for anonymous chat on a smartphone is ChatSecure, a free and open source messaging app that features OTR encryption over XMPP. You can connect to existing accounts or create new accounts on public XMPP servers (including via Tor), or even connect to your own server for extra security.

ChatSecure only uses well-known open source cryptographic libraries to keep your



conversations private. Other apps may make claims about “military grade” security but, without publicly auditable source code and verifiable end-to-end encryption, you cannot be truly safe.

<http://www.chatsecure.org>

There is another app called SureSpot that is also open source and encrypts the messages in your phone before sending them, but a server in the middle is involved to deliver those messages. This can be exploited for metadata and it should only be used if anonymity is not important and all you care about is securing communications in transit.

<https://surespot.me/>

Anonymous web browsing

Tor is free software and an open network that helps you defend against a form of network surveillance known as traffic analysis that threatens personal freedom and privacy, confidential business activities and relationships, and state security.

Orbot is an open source smartphone app that uses Tor to encrypt your Internet traffic and then hides it by bouncing through a series of computers around the world.

<https://guardianproject.info/apps/orbot>

Tip: Be extremely careful if you use Tor. It is possible to download something illegal by accident, and once it has touched your smartphone storage it will be

extremely difficult to erase it. As a girl lover, nobody will believe you if you claim that something illegal was downloaded by accident—don’t visit hidden sites using Tor.

VPN browsing using a mobile phone

There is a free VPN app for smartphones called HotShieldSpot, but in exchange for using their services for free you agree to seeing advertisements. It is not a very secure VPN; however, if you don’t want to pay for a smartphone VPN provider HotSpotShield can offer LOW-LEVEL anonymity. Only a valid warrant from law enforcement will be able to unmask your IP in HotSpotShield.

<http://www.hotspotshield.com/vpn-for-android>

Note: Due to end to end encryption making it much harder for organisations to eavesdrop onto

communications, law enforcements agencies now rely more on metadata around communications rather than communication content to build cases

against people. Therefore combining a VPN with TOR can help to mask source and location metadata.

App permissions

Verizon reports that there are more than 5 billion downloaded apps vulnerable to attack. This makes mobile apps one of the most important attack vectors on mobile devices. Android is reported as the most high-risk mobile platform for this type of attack. Mobile operating systems reduce the risk of attack from apps by requiring all apps to request permission from the phone’s owner for use of the

minimum set of phone features needed for the app to operate.

However, many apps request permissions to use features they don’t really depend on such as flash light apps with access to voice calls and contact lists.

Apps like “Permissions Watcher” and “App Permission

Watcher” will scan all the apps you have installed and report which apps have potentially dangerous levels of access to your phone. For high risk apps,



you should consider whether alternatives could be used that have more sensible permissions.

Wiping files in your smartphone

It is not possible to securely erase individual files in your smartphone. The only way to be sure that everything is gone is by wiping the whole device. There is an option to do this in your smartphone settings, but a recent study found out that not everything in Android was erased as Google claimed, although it came pretty close to it.

If the kind of data your smartphone holds would endanger your personal life, for example by exposing you are girl lover to the world and ruining your family life beyond repair, you will have no other choice than to physically destroy the device, ideally by burning the phone with a blowtorch.

If you can't afford a new phone and really need to destroy the data on the phone, reset the device to wipe everything. The chances of recovering data after resetting the phone to factory settings are extremely low, but not totally impossible.

If you have an external memory card, extract it and wipe the whole memory card. Plug it into your computer and use specialist software like Eraser on a desktop computer.

You can also try wiping files using various apps that can

be found in a smartphone marketplace. Just don't count on them to protect you from anything other than nosy people, not against high-level threats like your employer hiring an expert to analyze a business smartphone.

Smartphone file encryption apps

There are hundreds of smartphone apps that promise to encrypt files in your smartphone so that nobody will be able to read them without the password. Over half of those apps will only protect you from your wife, but not from a computer forensics expert, so don't rely on those apps for serious security.

But, this is not to say that you should not use them; the apps can slow down an employer investigation, should an employer hire an expert to analyze your business smartphone. It will cost them more money and time to find out what files you have if they have to crack low-level encryption than if you don't.

Tip: File encryption and full encryption will be useless if your phone is taken while still switched on and fully decrypted. A sophisticated attacker could bypass a screenlock by plugging in a USB cable to your

device and extracting the decryption keys while the phone it is still switched on.

Note: It is possible to intercept cell phone communications by deploying a device called a femtocell which spoofs a cell tower. This is a technique used by law enforcement and criminals and is hard to detect. Checking the phone network provider name on the phone—which will often change when being spoofed—is one means of knowing this has occurred. This technique is still uncommon.

Conclusion:

Smartphones are not devices that can be easily secured. The basics of security on a smartphone or tablet come to this: disable all default sharing options, fully encrypt the device, and always use Tor for web browsing and chat.



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A young girl with long dark hair, wearing a white tank top, a red cape, and a red skirt, is running through a forest. She is holding a small object in her hand. The forest has tall, dark trees and a path covered in brown leaves. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting a sunny day. The girl is the central focus of the image, and her movement is captured with a slight blur, giving a sense of action.

See more of Alice's world at:
alicelovers.net

