



Making out Like a Virgin: Sex, Desire and Intimacy after Sexual Trauma

Making out Like a Virgin is a collection of essays by survivors who have experienced many different kinds of sexual violence. This book fills an important gap in literature by and for survivors about healing from sexual violence across the lifespan. Many of the essays explore

the experiences survivors have with their sexuality decades after the assault. The authors write about sexuality from a variety of perspectives including essays by survivors across the gender spectrum and from a multiplicity of cultural backgrounds.

In Your Advocacy Work

This collection of essays can be a useful advocacy tool:

- In support groups. An essay can be used to vision what participants in the group want or don't want in their sex lives.
- For survivors who are not ready for a support group. This collection of essays does have some graphic details but far fewer than other collections. The focus on healing makes it an ideal resource for survivors that are feeling isolated in their experience and questioning their ability to heal.
- In workshops about on-going healing from sexual violence or in a healthy relationship class series.
- For partners of survivors who are trying to understand how sexual violence can impact survivors' sexual lives.

This collection can also support advocates who are uncomfortable talking about the impact of sexual violence on a survivor's sexuality. Sexuality is a subject many advocates are uncomfortable talking about openly with clients. Because survivors will sense our discomfort and share less, we will lose valuable opportunities to share resources and information about healthy sexuality, sexually transmitted infections and identifying boundaries and desires. This collection can support advocates who are seeking points of advocacy on the topic of sexuality. Advocates can continue to learn more about sex-positivity and safer-sex practices so that they have accurate information to share with clients.

Additional resources on sexual health and wellness and sexual assault

Additional resources in the WCSAP Library:

- Healing Sex, Staci Haines
- Queering Sexual Violence, Jennifer Patterson
- What You Really, Really Want, Jaclyn Friedman
- Sex Matters: The Sexuality and Society Ready, Mindy Stompler
- S-E-X: The All-You-Need-to-Know Progressive Sexuality Guide to get you Through High School and College, Heather Corrina
- Sex Ed and Youth: Colonization, Sexuality and Communities of Color, Jessica Yee
- Yes Means Yes! Visions of Women's Sexual Power and a World Without Rape, Jaclyn Friedman and Jessica Valenti

Reference

McHardy, C. Plourde, C. (2016). **Making Out Like a Virgin: Sex, Desire & Intimacy After Sexual Trauma.** Portlyn Media