

JEWEL GRAY: And Jimmy Carper's here.

JIMMY CARPER: How you doing?

JEWEL GRAY: And Sarah.

JIMMY CARPER: And Sarah Jean!

JEWEL GRAY: Hey, Sarah.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: Yes.

SARAH: He's a little happy because I bought him a Coke.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, hey. And you didn't bring me one.

SARAH: I--

JEWEL GRAY: You didn't bring me one.

SARAH: He kisses me like--

JIMMY CARPER: Like a [? gina. ?]

SARAH: Like a [? gina. ?] He gives me special [? gina ?] Kisses.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, I have to ask her about that later.

JIMMY CARPER: We can't even attempt to explain that now.

JEWEL GRAY: I have to ask you about that later. Oh, for those of you out there who are wondering where Jewel is at tonight, she is sitting here at KPFT, and she's feeling pretty good. So if you thought I wasn't going to be, you were wrong. That's for those people out here who know how my day went.

Let's see. We got a lot of stuff going on tonight. We're going to have the FIST women here, Females in Search of Trouble. We got one out in the lobby. Boy, I'm telling you. I can't wait. Fabulous party ideas. We'll read out of the fabulous party idea book.

JIMMY CARPER: Hold on here. Wait a minute. Wait a minute one. FIST?

JEWEL GRAY: FIST. Females in Search of Trouble. Didn't you see them in the voice last week?

JIMMY CARPER: We talked about this last week that these women were going to be here. And I could remember the females and I could remember the trouble.

[LAUGHTER]

JEWEL GRAY: Well, for those of you who are not familiar-- and I am not that familiar. I've talked to Joshi a couple of times. And for those who you not familiar, this is a new group in town. I think it's part of a national group.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh yeah?

JEWEL GRAY: I think she said it was a national group and they're trying to get started here. Females in Search of Trouble. It's a new S&M group. So those of you who are interested at all or just curious, stay tuned. We'll talk with them a little later. Charnae is going to be here.

JIMMY CARPER: Tranae Chardon.

JEWEL GRAY: That's it. Tranae-- Charnae Tradae. I know you're listening. Don't worry. Don't worry.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. And members of Diverse House.

JEWEL GRAY: Diverse House?

JIMMY CARPER: Tranae's new group. Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: Cool. What are they going to do? You didn't tell me that. What are they going to do? They gonna dance, they gonna sing?

JIMMY CARPER: We're going to talk to them and maybe get them to do a new song.

JEWEL GRAY: A number.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: Live in the studio.

JIMMY CARPER: Wouldn't that be cool?

JEWEL GRAY: Cool. Yeah, really cool. And I'm really hoping that we can get Rich over here from Pet Patrol. I've been talking to Rich for a couple of weeks, and he's been in and out of town. And we're going to try to get him in here tonight. Rich, if you're out there listening, this is your night, dude. Come on down.

There's a lot of stuff going on in town today. A lot of stuff going on in town. The international festival open. Have you been down there yet?

JIMMY CARPER: No, I haven't.

JEWEL GRAY: It's the Italian. It's the Italian International Festival.

JIMMY CARPER: That makes me so nervous. All of those curly-headed guys.

JEWEL GRAY: I was down at the library the other day.

JIMMY CARPER: With those chests, and--

JEWEL GRAY: Friday.

JIMMY CARPER: --hair.

JEWEL GRAY: Thursday.

JIMMY CARPER: And stuff. Oh, what? Huh?

JEWEL GRAY: Wake up. Wake up.

JIMMY CARPER: What were you saying?

JEWEL GRAY: I was down there Thursday and they were putting it all together. And I swear to God, I could hear voices. People speaking back and forth.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: But they weren't speaking a language I recognize. I thought, what is going on? And somebody said it's Italian Festival. And I said, well, yeah, yeah, yeah. They were speaking Italian! The workman, the guy with his pants down just below the crack and his, you know, hairy butt sticking out, and all that.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, saying yes to crack.

JEWEL GRAY: Right, yeah. And you know, sweaty, profusely sweating, and all that stuff. And they were speaking Italian, putting up the exhibit. So i they're not saying, these are Texas Cowboys dressed up like Italians.

JIMMY CARPER: These are real.

JEWEL GRAY: These are Italians. So if you're a--

JIMMY CARPER: That really makes me nervous.

JEWEL GRAY: If you're a fan of Italy, or you've been there, or plan to go there, or never think you'll ever get there, this is a good chance to see a little bit of what it's like.

JIMMY CARPER: You know that one of the only men who broke my heart was Italian.

JEWEL GRAY: Was Italian.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: And he broke your heart.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: I'm trying to think. Yeah, I'm trying to think. No, I don't have-- I have an Arapaho Indian woman, but not an Italian.

JIMMY CARPER: You thought I had a heart of stone.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh yeah, don't we all. Don't we all. And Diane, Diane, if you're listening, I made it. I don't think Diane expected me to make it tonight.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, how come?

JEWEL GRAY: 'Cause I wasn't here last week. And I told her I would be.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

JEWEL GRAY: Something came up. Jewel's been in a real funk all week. And something came up last week. And I couldn't get down here.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, it happens.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, for those who are interested, Jewel's free again.

JIMMY CARPER: Stanley-- oh.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, yeah. For those who are interested, Jewel is a free woman again. The number here is 526-5738-- 526-5738. That's first time I remembered that number. You know why? Because it's stuck to the window there. Sarah has got me covered, waving it at me.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, Hal, that Scott has a husband hunt.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, why am I-- I don't want a wife. God knows I've had the wife. I don't want a wife.

JIMMY CARPER: What is it that you want?

JEWEL GRAY: I want a friend. I want a friend. And that's all I want.

JIMMY CARPER: A friend who puts out? What?

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, yeah, occasionally, occasionally. That's a strange thing. People see me. They meet me. They think that I have a libido the size of--

JIMMY CARPER: Texas.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, Texas, yeah. But the truth is, and I'm going to tell the world, I don't care if I have sex ever, ever, ever, ever again-- ever. You hear that, Sarah? Sarah's taking her shirt off in there.

JIMMY CARPER: You have just turned off 50% of the available women.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, no, I think I probably turned on those out there who know what I'm talking about. It's terrible. It's terrible.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you see, guys are just the other-- I've got a friend who I occasionally have sex with. And it's really wonderful.

JEWEL GRAY: Really?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, really wonderful.

JEWEL GRAY: The number here is 526-5738. If you're interested, give us a call. I wonder if they would call that soliciting or something, now that I think about it.

No, no, there won't be any exchange of anything here. But it's been kind of a strange day for me. If you guys are-- anybody out there is a fan, I can remember when this happened to me last time. It was--

JIMMY CARPER: Not good.

JEWEL GRAY: It was not good. And--

JIMMY CARPER: We're not going to-- I'm not going to play any--

JEWEL GRAY: Maudlin? No, no, no, no, no.

JIMMY CARPER: I lost you. And now I'm going to go out and eat worms in the backyard, kind of music.

JEWEL GRAY: No, no, no, no, no, no.

JIMMY CARPER: As a matter of fact, what I've got set up is something I played at the end of the show last week.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh yeah?

JIMMY CARPER: It was right after the tape we're doing, on AIDS caregiving.

JEWEL GRAY: And you're going to do some more of that tonight?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, that's for the week three-- week three out of week four, four weeks. And I want to do this because it's a special piece that has been on *This Way Out*. It was put together by the originator of this program, Buddy Johnston.

JEWEL GRAY: Yay, Buddy!

JIMMY CARPER: It's a special mix of coming out of hiding. Remember that?

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, that's it, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Remember that? And it's got all kinds of stuff from Harvey Milk, little speech-ettes in there, little things that Harvey said, and stuff from the first and second marches on Washington, and all kinds of great stuff. And I think we probably ought to go to it now.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh yeah? Oh yeah, I think that's a good-- I'm a little distracted. The phone's lit up. And I'm just shocked. The phones are all lit up. I want to take a few calls here.

JIMMY CARPER: So are we ready?

JEWEL GRAY: We're ready.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, go.

SARAH: OK, well, the lines are ringing. Do you want to hold on, or? Hello?

NARRATOR: The disorders began with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar, The Stonewall, on Christopher Street in the heart of the West Village.

[SCREAMING AND YELLING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

WOMAN: Why don't you say it so they can hear you in the Capitol? For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. I want you to savor this next moment.

I have the proud task of telling you that the official count of the Lesbian and Gay Rights March, the official count is over 500,000 strong!

HARVEY MILK: We must destroy the myths once and for. Shatter them. We must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out.

[CHEERS]

[MUSIC - PAMALA STANLEY, "COMING OUT OF HIDING"]

Standing in the shadow too long. Waiting on the sideline too long.

Boy, I've been watching you. Now you're going to watch me, too. I'm coming out of hiding. I'm coming out of hiding.

It's no mystery how you missed me for so long. But that's history. You were so wrong for so long.

Boy, I've been wanting you. Now you're going to want me, too.

I'm coming out of hiding. I'm coming out of hiding. I'm coming out of hiding.

DOROTHY It's all right. You may all come out.

GALE:

MAN: We're queer.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

AUDIENCE: Now!

WOMAN: What do we want?

AUDIENCE: Gay rights!

WOMAN: When do we want it?

AUDIENCE: Now!

WOMAN: What do we want?

[MUSIC - PAMALA STANLEY, "COMING OUT OF HIDING"]

Standing in the shadow too long. Waiting on the sidelines for too long. Watching and wanting you.

Now you're going to want me, too. I'm coming out of hiding. I'm coming out of hiding.

Coming out of hiding, looking for somebody like you. Coming out of hiding, coming on the run, coming for nobody like you.

Coming out of hiding. Coming out of hiding. Coming out of hiding. Coming out of hiding.

DIANNE FEINSTEIN: As president of the Board, I'm-- as president of the Board of Supervisors, it's my duty to make this announcement. Both Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed.

DOROTHY GALE: Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.

WOMAN: They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about [? white ?] politics. This is not a movement from the waist, down. We are talking about our right to love, and to choose, and to live.

And I don't care about straight tolerance. And I don't care about straight understanding. You've got to hear me in Washington. We are demanding. We are demanding our civil rights!

HARVEY MILK: And I asked people all over this country to do one thing.

[MUSIC - PAMALA STANLEY, "COMING OUT OF HIDING"]

Come out of hiding. Come out of hiding. Come out of hiding. Come out of hiding.

HARVEY MILK: We must destroy the myths once and for all. Shatter them. We must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out.

REPORTER: Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?

HARVEY MILK: Come on out! Join us!

[MUSIC - PAMALA STANLEY, "COMING OUT OF HIDING"]

Coming out of hiding, looking for somebody like you. Coming out of hiding, coming on the run, coming for nobody but you.

HARVEY MILK: Difficult as it is, you must tell your immediate family. You must tell your relatives. You must tell your friends, if indeed they are your friends. You must tell your neighbors. You must tell the people you work with. You must tell the people in the stores you shop in.

[CHEERS]

HARVEY MILK: Once they realize that we are indeed their children, and we are indeed everywhere, every myth, every lie, every innuendo will be destroyed, once and for all. And I ask-- I ask people all over this country to do one thing. Come out. Come out, America. Come out!

[CHEERS]

WOMAN: What do we want?

AUDIENCE: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

AUDIENCE: Now.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

After hours, after hours.

JEWEL GRAY: Ooh, they're so mellow. Did you ever see a picture of these Thompson Twins? Swing Out Sister, that's it. Swing Out Sister.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, Swing Out Sister.

JEWEL GRAY: We had a request a little bit ago about Pet Shop Boys.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah? We always have Pet Shop. Every week, somebody calls in, Pet Shop Boys, *Go West*, right?

JEWEL GRAY: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Was that it?

JEWEL GRAY: Are we haunted? Yes. I think it was *Go West*. It was a two word title. *Go West*, is it a hot number?

JIMMY CARPER: Well, we try to do it every other week.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, yeah?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: Is it a hot number? I can't remember.

JIMMY CARPER: It's the old Village People.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, is that what it is?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah!

JEWEL GRAY: Oh yeah, I remember now. I know that one now. Something I was going to say-- oh, I saw an old *David Letterman* the other day, on TV. Now that I have cable again, I get ETV. I can watch *Letterman* in the afternoons. Are we on? Are you--

JIMMY CARPER: We're on.

JEWEL GRAY: I'm panicking? And I'm watching old *Letterman* the other day with Carole King on it. And she did a song that we do here.

JIMMY CARPER: Which one?

JEWEL GRAY: I'm trying to think now. But I thought, geez, why didn't I watch more *Letterman*?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh?

JEWEL GRAY: It was a song that we do here, a gay song. Not a Melissa Etheridge song.

JIMMY CARPER: A gay song, like *From A Distance*, or?

JEWEL GRAY: It might have been *From A Distance*, Carole King?

SARAH: *She's So Vain*?

JEWEL GRAY: *She's So Vain*, yeah. She's so vain, she probably thinks this song is about her, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Any dedications on that tonight?

JEWEL GRAY: It might have been-- it might have been that one.

JIMMY CARPER: Like *From A Distance*, or?

JEWEL GRAY: Like *From a Distance*, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Something like that?

JEWEL GRAY: I can't remember. But I thought then, I thought, all right, *Letterman!*

JIMMY CARPER: *Heroes*? No, um--

JEWEL GRAY: Not *Heroes*.

JIMMY CARPER: Not *Heroes*?

JEWEL GRAY: Not *Heroes*. I think it was the other one, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: *Wind Beneath My Wings*, that's the one I meant.

JEWEL GRAY: Wind beneath your wings?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, well, it's also named *Heroes*.

JEWEL GRAY: Where'd Jimmy go? He's not back yet.

JIMMY CARPER: I am Jimmy.

JEWEL GRAY: No, the other Jimmy.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, Jimmy Vaughn!

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, where'd he go?

JIMMY CARPER: He went to pick up Matt.

JEWEL GRAY: Matt will be out there answering phones in a little bit.

JIMMY CARPER: Matt works until midnight. And sometimes, he doesn't get out of there just right at midnight.

SARAH: Matt, hurry.

JEWEL GRAY: Hurry, Matt.

JIMMY CARPER: Hurry, Matt.

JEWEL GRAY: For those who are still holding on the line, I already have a full-- I already have a couple of numbers. Don't call anymore.

JIMMY CARPER: Do not call it, 526-5738.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, that's right. Do not call. Do not call.

JIMMY CARPER: The spousal search is over.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right. Quite a few phone calls. Let's see. You know, I've been watching the community recently a lot. Did you see my picture in *The Voice* last week?

JIMMY CARPER: I did, indeed.

JEWEL GRAY: Was I cute or was I cute, huh, sitting there with a little bunny. That was cute. I almost threw up when I saw that. I didn't know they had taken-- I knew that the picture had been taken. But I did not know it was taken by a photographer, by photographer from one of the--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, you just thought it was a person.

JEWEL GRAY: I thought-- yeah, I didn't know the woman who was there taking the pictures. And I thought she was just, like, somebody's mother, or somebody's sister, or something.

JIMMY CARPER: She may be.

JEWEL GRAY: She may be. But I didn't realize it was going to be in there. So when this big bunny grabbed me, and said here, hand me this bunny, I just kind of shook it at him. And they took the picture. So here I am, in *The Voice*, shaking my bunny.

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa, I'll get a copy of that.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, I know you guys are waiting to hear from the FIST women. And they are here. And we're going to be talking with them very shortly, and find out more about FIST. I'm excited about FIST. Aren't you excited about FIST?

JIMMY CARPER: I'm excited.

JEWEL GRAY: You're just excited, yes. I see that, yes. Where's Dora? Does Dora listen to us, Dora?

JIMMY CARPER: She's sleeping.

JEWEL GRAY: She's snoring?

JIMMY CARPER: Or out in the clubs or something.

JEWEL GRAY: Out in the clubs or something? Yeah, uh-huh, Dora Dora on the couch, yeah, yeah. Well, I thought-- well, I thought maybe that this would be something that you could get off to, Sarah.

SARAH: Excuse me?

Excuse me?

JEWEL GRAY: Yes, ex-squeeze me.

SARAH: Excuse me.

JEWEL GRAY: The FIST women--

SARAH: I'm listening with bated ears.

JEWEL GRAY: And I heard about FIST before the word was out. And people were talking before I--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, we talked about them weeks ago.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, but I didn't have any connection to them. I'd only heard whisperings around town about this new group. And I've had people call me at work that'll listen to the show here and ask me about things that they can't find elsewhere. So is there something wrong?

JIMMY CARPER: No, no, no, no, I'm just watching the monitor.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, OK.

SARAH: He's just paranoid.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, is somebody coming? Oh yeah, Matt's coming.

JIMMY CARPER: We hope.

JEWEL GRAY: And kind of whispering-- and I've had these people call here, call the station, and call the switchboard, looking for groups, like, this akin to this group. And now we have one we can tell everybody about. And for those of you who've called me and asked, this is the group that you can get more information from, or participate in, or connect with.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, it's time for a group like this in Houston.

JEWEL GRAY: I agree. And boy, I love that acronym, FIST. I love it. It just works. It works. Well, what we're going to do is we're going to bring the women from FIST in here. And we're going to start talking to them. But we're going to go to-- what are we going to go to?

JIMMY CARPER: We're going to go to a song. This is kind of strange because it's twice in one night. But I ran into Buddy Johnston a few weeks ago. And he donated a CD to *After Hours*.

JEWEL GRAY: Cool.

JIMMY CARPER: Because of a particular song that he just felt-- all the time, all the years he did *After Hours*, he had a message of hope and dreams for everyone who listened.

And there's a woman named Gabrielle who's got a CD out. And one of the songs is called *Dreams*. And so from Buddy Johnston, the originator of *After Hours*, to everyone out there, *Dreams*.

JEWEL GRAY: I will send this to Gabby, personally.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

[MUSIC - GABRIELLE, "DREAMS"]

Dreams can come true. Look at me, babe. I'm with you.

JEWEL GRAY: OK-- oh, that's strong. That's better, OK. OK, we're back. And we're back with the women from FIST. I keep saying that, the women from FIST, ha. And I know there's a lot of people out there.

I think what we'll do is we'll talk a little bit. And then we'll open up the phones, and see if we can get anybody to-- see if they have any questions because this is really new stuff in town.

Many years ago, they had a bar here called Twins. Were you here-- either one of you here, when they had the bar?

WOMAN 1: I'm new to Houston.

JEWEL GRAY: And it was really hush, hush, kind of quiet. But certain nights, you could go there.

And they had clientele who were into S&M and B&D, and all the little esoteric kind of things that you couldn't find at the local bars, and things like that. And they really promoted that. But then when Twins closed, it kind of just drifted away.

So you guys are fresh again. And there's a lot of people out there looking for that outlet. I have with me Josie and Jan. And they're with FIST. And they're going to tell us a little bit about it. I made a stink early, and said something about this being a national organization that you've?

It's not a national organization. It's local. My misunderstanding, I thought I heard-- and maybe I think I read it in *The Voice*, with that little piece that you had in the voice with your picture in it last week.

WOMAN 1: You might have read something in association with the National Leather Association, which we are not a part of. This is a separate organization.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, how did you start? Who, like, somebody just sat home, and said, hey, I'm going to do this.

WOMAN 2: No, I was involved with the SM clubs on the Eastern seaboard. And when I moved down to Houston, I wanted to get involved with similar clubs here in Houston. And discovered that out of the dozen or so leather patch clubs in the city of Houston, none of which were SM clubs.

WOMAN 1: And none of them were--

WOMAN 2: --women SM clubs.

WOMAN 1: --female only.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, that's the problem.

WOMAN 2: There was one male SM club, Brotherhood of Pain. But they're men only.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, that's the problem here in Houston. For some reason, the men run everything. Isn't that right, Jimmy?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

WOMAN 2: That's nationwide.

WOMAN 1: There's one mixed here, People Exchanging Power.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh yeah, they meet at Charlie's occasional, yeah.

WOMAN 1: No, they've moved twice. They now meet at the River Cafe.

JEWEL GRAY: River Cafe, boy, they've gone upscale from Charlie's to the River Cafe. Hey, they must be really doing well. So tell me about your group. It's not part of a national group.

So you decided that there wasn't some outlet to socialize with and meet other people who are interested in this. And what'd you do? Did you just start calling friends you knew? Did you have some acquaintances, and say--

WOMAN 2: Yeah, some friends of mine on the national level at Pantheon put me in touch with some local individuals who also were interested in starting a club of this nature. And so FIST got born.

WOMAN 1: And that's where I met her, at Pantheon of Leather. She approached me, and said, we wanted to start a women's group. Was I interested?

JEWEL GRAY: Pantheon of Leather, what is that?

WOMAN 2: It's a national awards ceremony sponsored by the Leather Journal, which is a national leather publication. It honors significant contributors to the leather lifestyle, internationally.

JEWEL GRAY: Cool, Pantheon of Leather. Have to keep that-- maybe we can get somebody down there from there. OK, so it's a social club, as it is now.

WOMAN 2: It's a social, educational club.

JEWEL GRAY: So people can get in touch with you if they want to know more?

WOMAN 2: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: And somebody will come out and talk to a group or something?

WOMAN 2: That can be arranged.

JEWEL GRAY: We'll be talking. We'll be having you down for continuing education at the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard very soon. You can bet on it.

WOMAN 1: That's what we'd like to do. In a part, with our monthly meetings, it is educational as part of the program. We want to teach because we go by safe, sane, and consensual SM play. And people who are new to the field and want to learn more, we'll teach and mentor them the best we can.

WOMAN 2: Yeah, our meeting last week had nice mix of experienced players and new people that were new to the leather scene. And the topic was rope bondage. And even some of the people that had been involved in the SM community for years learned a few new tricks.

JEWEL GRAY: OK, I don't want to-- you have to pardon my ignorance, OK? I don't know much. So if I say something that is way out, just correct me because that's what I want. I want to be educated here. S&M, being sadomasochistic sexual pleasure?

WOMAN 1: Sexual magic.

JEWEL GRAY: Sexual magic? I like that.

WOMAN 2: Sensual magic, sexual magic.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, tell me about that. Tell me what that is. How would you describe what your interest, and why this group exists?

WOMAN 1: My interest in SM, as far as it goes in sexual magic, it goes beyond sensuality other than just sex. You have the whole body to work with. And there are different types of sensations, feelings that you can-- what I like to impart on my partner.

Some people, sexualized pain, people who are into heavy S&M, but to most people would feel like a hurt that feels good to them, that does not feel like pain to them.

But also, it's a way to get in touch with the entire body. I mean, you can have a sexual relationship without actually having sex. To me, SM and sex are two separate issues. You can do them together. But they are not one in the same.

WOMAN 2: Yeah, no, I'm a homosexual female who has been known to play with SM with both heterosexual and homosexual males. And believe me, there is no standard sex involved.

JEWEL GRAY: I'm just-- I'm thinking of all the things that are just running through my head. I'm thinking of that scene with Madonna, the one where she dripped the pan of candle wax on, I guess it was Garcia, Andy Garcia or something? And that's the picture people have of S&M, and connecting with pain, and pain to the point of being not a pleasure. And that's not what this is about.

WOMAN 1: Well, no, well, pain doesn't necessarily have to have anything to do with it. It doesn't necessarily have to be floggers, whips, candle wax, or fire play. It can be things like feathers, lambskin, very light, very gentle-- doe-skin floggers. It doesn't have to be hard or heavy.

We have a term for those that just have straight, normal, non-exciting sex, which is vanilla sex. Anything beyond that to an extreme is the beyond vanilla. But it doesn't have to necessarily involve pain. I don't like heavy, deep pain. But some do. But for those who don't, there are other means. Some people like, for instance, bondage. It doesn't involve pain at all.

WOMAN 2: Matter of fact, one of the more interesting episodes, in my personal experience, involved tickling someone. And that was what we did.

JEWEL GRAY: So what we're doing here tonight is dispelling the myth that S&M has to be about hurt.

WOMAN 2: No, S&M is basically a voluntary, consensual exchange of power.

JEWEL GRAY: Exchange of power.

- WOMAN 2:** Either someone is giving me the power to control them in some way, or I am giving them the power to control me in some way. And it's voluntary.
- WOMAN 1:** It's a situation of trust. For instance, people who like to bottom, meaning the one who likes to be either tied up, flogged, or tickled, or whatever, to them, it gives them a great release to just give up complete control to somebody else. Let someone else take care of them, treat them in a way they know they'll be fine, and give them the feelings and sensations they want.
- For me, I'm a top. I like that someone would put their faith in my hands, and trust me, and let them know that I'm not going to push them further, or take them farther than I know they can handle them-- I know they want. And that's where I get my power in return.
- JEWEL GRAY:** Where do you think this comes from? I mean, I was sitting here thinking as you talk because this is really fascinating to me, personally, because I've always been on the fringe of this-- always just wondering and curious. Bondage is something I've done a lot of, and control games-- control games, those kind of things.
- Those are things that I've played with. And I've always wondered about more. But the stereo-- I mean, the myth about S&M has always kept me from exploring further because that's not what I want. I don't want to get into pain. I don't want to get into-- I don't want to get into anything too heavy.
- I'm a player. You use the word play. I like to play a lot, sexually, all kinds of ways-- not just in a sexual, genital way, but in a lot of ways.
- WOMAN 1:** The whole body can be a sex organ.
- WOMAN 2:** The whole body, and most importantly, the mind. One of the points that is brought out in the book, *Coming To Power*, edited by Samois-- is that the pronunciation?
- WOMAN 1:** I think so.
- WOMAN 2:** Is this one woman, in her little essay, is writing that the heaviest SM she does, things that she finds real, real heavy in SM, is when her lover makes her put on lipstick.
- JEWEL GRAY:** Yeah, I can see if that's not what you would normally do, to have someone make you do that, that would fall into that-- So it could be-- so you could take anything, that quote unquote, "average vanilla sex" is going on, you could take anything like that, and make it into the same thing. Make it into S&M by using control, or bondage, or those kind of things.
- WOMAN 1:** Well, you keep touching on something that could be another myth, control. Yes, one party will take control. But the other person has given their consent--
- JEWEL GRAY:** Given, right.
- WOMAN 1:** --for that person to take control.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, I definitely want to highlight that we're talking about consensual because I'm in a place here where I'm really uncomfortable because this is something I know very little about. And I am usually very knowledgeable about a lot of things. So it sets me off here. And I'm not quite sure where to take this.

My question is, where do you think this comes from inside you? Is this something that fascinated you as a child? Did you pick up on books. And you wanted to explore and experiment? Did someone bring you into this? Then you found great pleasure, and you wanted to carry on with this?

I mean, how did you come about to this place? Because I think, generally, most of us have the same-- as youngsters, have the same kind of myth forced at us about S&M.

WOMAN 1: That was never even brought up in my family. My sister, who, her friends all loved mischief in our family's life, introduced me. I guess she's been in leather SM for maybe 8 to 10 years.

She introduced me about, oh, maybe five years ago. I remember visiting her and her husband's apartment. And I couldn't understand why they had a riding crop in the bedroom.

And eventually, they introduced me to the leather bars, introduced me to the people. I went to the Living And Leather Convention in Chicago for a few years, and got to meet more people.

And I think what attracted me first were the people that I met there. Particularly a lot of the gays that are out into leather, they've had to overcome two obstacles, coming out being gay, and coming out as being into leather.

And most of them were the most together people that I have ever met. So that's what attracted me first, were the people. And then as I got to learn and experience and see more, it was just the development, the opening of the mind, that there's more to sexuality and sensuality than just your sex work. Instead, you have your entire body to work with, and lots of different materials and toys that can stimulate.

WOMAN 2: The back is a marvelous sex organ.

WOMAN 1: Oh, yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, you keep going back to leather. I mean, leather is like a place to go through to get here?

WOMAN 2: No.

WOMAN 1: No.

JEWEL GRAY: Or it's a part of--

WOMAN 1: No, you don't actually have to own any leather to be part of it.

WOMAN 2: No.

JEWEL GRAY: No, but you're the first group that's said that to me.

WOMAN 2: It's just commonly referred to as the, quote unquote, "leather lifestyle," which is not true. As I said, when you were asking about founding the group, of the dozen leather clubs here in town, there's only one other that's SM-oriented.

JEWEL GRAY: So it's not necessary.

WOMAN 2: And yeah, People Exchanging Power isn't a leather club.

WOMAN 1: They're an SM club.

WOMAN 2: They're a flat out SM club. I'd say maybe 20% of them don't-- the only leather they own is shoes. I've got friends in the scene on the East Coast who are ethical vegans, and don't own any leather to include their shoes. Yet they're in the scene.

JEWEL GRAY: But if someone were interested in picking up something to introduce them to this, rather than coming to the club meetings, is there some readings, some beginning reading that you might recommend to somebody?

WOMAN 1: *SM 101, Learning The Ropes.*

JEWEL GRAY: I don't think-- you probably couldn't pick those up at the library.

WOMAN 1: No, no, probably can't pick them up at the library. But they can be ordered.

JEWEL GRAY: From like, Bookstop, or something like that? [INAUDIBLE] Books?

WOMAN 2: Crossroads.

JEWEL GRAY: Crossroads?

WOMAN 1: Yes, I picked up all my material from leather conventions, like Living In Leather, and Pantheon, and IML.