

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JD DOYLE: The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature which may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

[MUSIC PLAYING - SONYA, "FALLING"]

(SINGING) After hours. After hours.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes, you've tuned in to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude, right here on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM. The crew of *After Hours* is ready to bring you news, interviews, dialogue, and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people, and their friends. Here at *After Hours*, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are.

Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *After Hours*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Hello, Houston and College Station, and Sarasota, Florida, and all of New Hampshire, and the world. And welcome to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude. I'm your producer for the evening Jimmy Carper. And my first half co-host is already here.

SARAH Hello, Houston. Hello the rest of the world. How the hell are you?

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: It is Sarah DePalma yes. Yes, yes, it's that night, folks. It's that night you've been waiting for. And before we get to Sarah, let me tell you about the music that you heard. That was Sonya with her song, "Falling." And that little bit before there where she says, hi, you're listening to Jimmy Carper and all that, that was recorded by my good friend JD Doyle, who goes out and gets interviews with these folks, and puts them on this way out.

SARAH And he has one of the best shows going.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: You bet. Every fourth Monday, the second half of *Lesbian and Gay Voices*, you're going to hear the Queer Music Zone with JD Doyle. And you're going to hear music from the past. You're going to hear interviews with rising GLBT artists, and music that you don't hear anywhere else, folks. Good show, tune in every fourth Monday.

Now, I've told them to tune in every fourth Monday, what I haven't told them to do is go to their telephones right now and to dial 713-526-5738, 526-KPFT, because this is the fall membership drive. This is your last chance of this year to make a contribution to KPFT and *After Hours*. And your contribution not only keeps the station running because we don't do commercials.

SARAH We don't do commercials and we no longer have leaking roofs.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: And we no longer have leaking roofs because of your generosity in the past. But it also tells management, yeah, hey, there's a nice base there for this program. Not only does it have some of the highest ratings of any midnight show in the city, but it's got folks that are willing to back it up with the bucks.

SARAH And this show has taken some risks.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh-oh.

SARAH I mean this show has-- this show has really taken some risks.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SARAH In fact, we're taking one tonight.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, we are. This is another show. And I've got to say that in the 14 years that I have been associated-- well, the show's been on the air, not ever-- not one time has management ever said, oh, don't do that program, don't talk about this, don't do that, never.

SARAH No, I'm proud to say that I was the first openly transgendered radio host in the entire world and it happened right

DEPALMA: here on KPFT.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

SARAH Over the years we have received information and letters from Germany and from Great Britain. We've spun off

DEPALMA: shows in Australia. For a small station with a mid-size audience, we have done amazing things. Now we're heard on the internet. I get letters from Ireland, for god's sakes.

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

SARAH People who are listening to us in Ireland.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: And this is-- just think about the show that we're putting on tonight. This is a breakfast show in Ireland.

SARAH S&M and Irish coffee, way to go. But the fact of the matter is this station has taken-- this show has taken a lot of

DEPALMA: risk. Not once have they ever come to us and said, no, don't do this.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

SARAH We've done shows on-- we did a show one night on the biological-- a very graphic explanation of what happens in

DEPALMA: a sex change operation.

JIMMY CARPER: Yep.

SARAH And the only complaint was why didn't we let them know in advance so they could have publicized it more. OK?

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: That's the kind of management we have here.

SARAH Yeah.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SARAH Yeah, I mean, we have--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: We have talked--

SARAH They've been nothing but great to us.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Many years ago, we talked very-- very openly about safer sex and what you had to do, and what safer sex was, and what it wasn't.

SARAH When you couldn't get the information anywhere else.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. We were talking about it. And we weren't mincing any words, folks. We were telling it just exactly how it's done and how it shouldn't be done.

SARAH That's right. We've done all kinds of shows. And really, this station, I listen to it at work during the course of the

DEPALMA: day. And I listen to it because I don't have to listen to-- we really will save you, you know.

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

SARAH But that doesn't mean that you get the services for free. It's a matter of how you pay for it.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. What we like to think of it is that instead of you're buying cola and pimple cream, and then them giving the money to us, you give the money directly to us, so you know exactly where it's going and how much.

SARAH That's right, that's exactly right. And so the number is 713-526-5738 or as Ray Hill likes to say if you can spell

DEPALMA: better than you can add, the number is 526-KPFT.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. And I talked with Ray briefly this evening. It's his happy birthday, his very happy birthday.

Something about 61 in the air. And I--

SARAH Did you hear his show last night?

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: He can't be that old.

SARAH Did you hear-- I don't know if you happened to hear his show last night.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: No, I didn't.

SARAH Some of the calls were just-- you want to a good reason to support KPFT? Listen to Ray Hill's prison show.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, you bet, every Friday night, 9:00 PM.

SARAH And he had-- so we were driving back from somewhere last night, I forget where, but we were listening to it on

DEPALMA: the radio. And some of these calls are just heartbreaking.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

SARAH I mean, little kids calling in to their dads in prison.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SARAH And I'm telling you, it's just-- it just broke our heart.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SARAH And if you really want to know why this station is worthy of your support, that's a darn good example of that. Ray

DEPALMA: Hill's show last night, we just sat there, and all the way-- we didn't want to get out of the car, because we were afraid we're going to miss something that Ray was doing last night.

JIMMY CARPER: I know the feeling, yes.

SARAH I mean, that's-- that's worthy--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, that second--

SARAH --of the support.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: That second hour of his show when those folks call in, it is a heartbreaker.

SARAH Oh, it's incredible.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: We already have a couple of pledges. And I am very thrilled-- very, very thrilled. Paul has given us a generous pledge. And Paul comes through just about-- oh, gosh-- no, Paul does come through every membership drive. And an incredibly generous pledge from Ryan.

And Ryan is a new member, by the way. A new member pledging mucho bucks because he believes in this radio show, and what it does, and who it reaches, and the fact that when you listen to this show you're listening to three hours of queer life every week.

And if you happen to be young, and just coming out, and living in a small town, gosh, I've had people come up to me and say, I used to listen. In fact, I used to listen to this show with a transistor radio-- or maybe not a transistor radio.

SARAH Well, yeah, we've had people tell us--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Under the pillow--

SARAH --they listen with a transistor radio.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: --in the closet.

SARAH Yeah.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SARAH I can't tell you how many people have come up to me in the last couple of years and said, I made my transition

DEPALMA: because of something you said on the air, or I got the decision, I got the strength to decide-- I either was or was not, for example, transgendered because of something that we said here. And how many letters and responses we've gotten from people, who said this was the only place that they could get impartial information and we were willing to take on tough subjects.

And let's face it, you can't find that just anywhere. You're not going to-- I like listening to 104, but you're not going to find these kind of topics or discussions on 104--

JIMMY CARPER: You're right.

SARAH --that's for sure.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: You're right. I was at Empower today. It opens up-- it opened up tonight--

SARAH How was that?

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, it's wonderful. It's-- each year it gets more and more professional looking, and more entertainment, and, gosh, we just kind of-- we're filling up that place little by little. I mean, one of these years, we're going to be just taking over the whole George R Brown.

And it's going on all day tomorrow-- George R Brown. So it's free to the public. Go see Empower.

SARAH Does the audience know what Empower is?

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: They should, we've been talking about it every week.

SARAH Just being sure. For years, Jimmy would say to me, well now, make sure they understand what it is that--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: That's true.

SARAH --you're talking about. So this is my chance.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: The GLBT Exposition. It's organizations and businesses in the GLBT community, who are proud of supporting us and want you to know it.

SARAH Darn right.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: So stop by and see all the booths. There's lots of goodies to be given away. And especially since it's held in the month of October, lots of candy. Oh, yeah, oh, yeah-- that's why I'm still going strong here. Anyway--

SARAH Why don't we tell the audience--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: --where was I going?

SARAH Why don't we tell the audience what kind of a show we've got in store for them today? We've got a room full of

DEPALMA: really interesting people.

JIMMY CARPER: One more thing, because I wanted to-- one more point about who we reach here. Long ago, I wanted to have-- I talk about teens on the show. But I am long past teen. And if--

SARAH Just a little.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: --you want people to listen what you're talking about, you better be one. And so I thought, well, it's time to get teens on the show. And I finally got HATCH group on.

And tonight, I met the mother of the guy, the HATCH guy who heads this up.

SARAH Right.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Who comes in here. And she and I were both-- she and I are close to the same age. And we were in tears. Just, she's so proud of her son. And I'm thinking, you know, gosh, it's-- here we are, we're talking about a gay son and the mom who's saying, I'm really proud of him.

SARAH Boy, have times changed.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Have times changed.

SARAH Times have changed.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: And it's been because of shows like these, and this, and Lesbian and Gay Voices, and other things. So that number, 713-526-5738, 526-KPFT. It is time to bring on your show.

SARAH Well, let me tell you a little bit about this show this evening.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

SARAH Traditionally, my segment has been known for doing something new.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah.

SARAH Something different, something fresh, original. Now I sound like Jerry Springer. OK, but tonight we really have a

DEPALMA: cast of-- well, of a lot of people. And what we're going to be talking about tonight is S&M, the leather community, transgenders in the S&M community. There are just all kinds of different aspects to this.

And we have got a cast of characters tonight. They are-- some of them are leaders in an organization in Houston called People Exchanging Power. Some of them are leaders in an organization called Open Door. Some of them are longtime members of either, or both, or multiple numbers of leather organizations.

And so we're going to be talking about leather and the leather community, transgenders as it relates to leather, I mean, just a whole world of topics. And so once again, we are going to be taking on a topic that you won't hear anywhere else.

We did a show similar to this about two years ago. And Garland Ganter called me a few days later and said, I'm not mad you did the show, I'm mad that you didn't let me know you were doing it in advance so we could promote it.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, yeah. He was listening.

SARAH So for those of you who have been reading these things about how there's censorship at this station-- what?

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SARAH What? What are you talking about?

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Can't prove it from this corner.

SARAH Yeah. So in any case, why don't we turn on their mics and let's let them introduce themselves. OK, the mics are

DEPALMA: on. And everybody in there, we're live. OK. And what I'd like to do is just to have everybody go around one time, introduce yourself, tell us what organization you're from, and we'll take it from there. They're live, go ahead. You can bark at them.

JESS: I'm Jess.

SARAH There you go.

DEPALMA:

JESS: And I'm co-founder of the Open Door, member of H PEP HOH and Bulldog Productions.

SARAH And you're involved in something really special tonight and this weekend. Why don't you tell people about that?

JESS: Yes, I'm involved with Bulldog Productions. We're doing the Lone Star Leather Fest. And we started last night at the Ripcord with a meet and greet. Today we did seminars and workshops all day. Tomorrow we're doing the Mr Lone Star-- Mr Drummer--

SARAH Lone Star Drummer.

DEPALMA:

JESS: Lone Star Drummer contest. We're doing brunch. We did dinner down at the Spaghetti Factory. And they looked at us a little strange when we all walked in there with our little leather outfits on and our little t-shirts. And they kind of got a big kick out of that. They hurry up and sat us down, though, I can tell you that much. And so that's who I am.

SARAH Didn't even have to flash your flog at them , did you?

DEPALMA:

JESS: What?

SARAH You didn't even have to flash your flog at them, did you?

DEPALMA:

JESS: No, didn't have to flash a flog. I walked in with--

SARAH An attitude. And Vindala wanted to tell people--

DEPALMA:

VINDALA ZANE: Yes. I'm-- excuse me. I'm Vindala Zane. I'm from Baltimore, Maryland. I'm a professional lifestyle mistress. And I'm in town for the weekend as well. I'm seeing the contest.

SARAH And you were saying-- telling me out in the studio that you just did a special with HBO, is that right?

DEPALMA:

VINDALA ZANE: Yes, for Pony Play. It's going to be HBO's real sex and people who like to be human ponies and trained as human ponies.

SARAH And we'll get into that later, but that's a real interesting aspect of things. I know a lot of these--

DEPALMA:

VINDALA ZANE: Oh, it's just one aspect.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, I've heard of puppies, but ponies is a new on me.

VINDALA ZANE: Puppies, ponies--

SARAH Puppies--

DEPALMA:

VINDALA ZANE: --just about everything is in there.

SARAH The psychology is the same. The playing out of it is somewhat different.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

SARAH OK. And next.

DEPALMA:

LORI: I'm Lori, or My Lady on my email. I've been in-- well, H PEP actually started in my living room about 10 years ago. And I'm a member of Open Door, which is a wonderful program and open to everyone. Jess should be very proud of that. And Sarah and I will be together-- well, we're together nine years just this past--

SARAH We just hit our ninth anniversary, that's right. And we have a very special event coming up on November 10th.

DEPALMA: We are going to have a reaffirmation of our vows-- it amounts to a wedding, really-- at the PEP meeting in November. And I couldn't-- I can't even tell you how excited I am about that. And our cohost--

JIMMY CARPER: I'm excited about this and nervous.

LORI: [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: Just a little nervous.

LORI: --just like little kids.

SARAH Our co-host here, Jimmy, is going to be serving as my best man, or my witness, or whatever you want to call him--

DEPALMA: --call Jimmy. And somehow, it wouldn't have seemed right otherwise.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you.

SARAH So, yeah, I'm very proud to have my lady here and to have this ceremony coming up. And next.

DEPALMA:

VIXEN: I'm Vixen. And I'm the submissive to the next gentleman, who will be speaking, Master Whip. I belong to H PEP and the Open Door. And I'm Secretary for both of those clubs. And I also run a BDSM book and movie group that we call HELL.

SARAH And what does hell stand for?

DEPALMA:

VIXEN: Houston Erotic Literature Lovers.

SARAH See, now people were up there with all kinds of visions in their head and it turns out to be something very kind of common.

VIXEN: I like to tell people to go to hell.

SARAH And the nice part is, they do. OK. And who do we have-- who's next?

DEPALMA:

MASTER WHIP: Yeah, hi, my name's Master Whip. And I'm a board member of H PEP and a member of HOH and the Open Door. And I'm just enjoying the scene right now.

SARAH Yeah, Master Whip is being very modest. He's really a leader in the community and has been for a long time. He's
DEPALMA: just being very modest about it.

MASTER WHIP: Well, OK.

SARAH OK, and who's next to him?

DEPALMA:

WENDY: My name is Wendy.

SARAH Come on up closer to the mic, Wendy.

DEPALMA:

WENDY: My name is Wendy and I'm a member of H PEP, Eros, Open Door, a group called Bad Girls in Portland, Oregon. The list could probably go on a little bit longer, but that's probably good enough. I don't really hold any position to speak of within the community, other than I like to have a lot of fun, meet a lot of people, and work real hard.

SARAH Wendy has been in the scene for quite a long time. And Wendy will be talking about the lesbian approach to this. **DEPALMA:** Because I can tell you from my own personal experience, over the years I've taken a lot of heat from the lesbian community. And I've been told just flatly how politically incorrect S&M is and et cetera, et cetera. And OK, and next to Wendy is?

CAROL: Hi, my name is Carol. I am the chairman of H PEP. I've been in the scene for about 12 years. And Wendy's my beautiful wife, sitting next to me. And she does do a lot in the community, because she's a board wife. So is Vixen.

SARAH Well, that's exactly right. And I'm proud to say that Carol is going to be presiding at our ceremony in November.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh.

SARAH Carol is-- Carol was actually in the room the night that Lori and I met. And so it seems only right that Carol--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

SARAH Yeah, it seems only right that Carol would be presiding over this. So, this is pretty exciting.

DEPALMA:

CAROL: And I'm very honored to have been asked.

SARAH So, OK, let's start with some of the common myths. OK, I've been asking people on the internet the last couple of days, give me some-- some of the things-- what have you heard about S&M? What do you think? OK, and the first thing I heard was S&M equals cruelty. OK?

JIMMY CARPER: Even I laugh at that.

SARAH But they're serious. If you watch Jerry Springer that's the impression that's being left. So why don't we talk about that. Who wants to begin with that, that S&M equals cruelty?

HOST: It's kind of consensual cruelty. It's really fun.

HOST: They're talking more about the lines of abuse.

SARAH Right.

DEPALMA:

HOST: Yeah.

SARAH Yes.

DEPALMA:

HOST: And when-- when it's past-- it gets past the point of abuse, it's not-- it's consensual how can you hurt someone that wants to be hurt? Or how do you-- you know when to stop when you're loving someone in a consensual way.

HOST: My thing is people always say, do you hurt people? And I say, no, I just give-- there's a difference between hurt and pain to me. Pain is actually the physical aspect. Hurting someone, to me, could be abusive. So I usually use the word I'm just giving them pain. that's kind of the way to explain things.

SARAH Well, when I answered back, I talked about safe, sane, and consensual. And when we talk about that as a starting point, that this is not cruelty, that there's a mutual exchange going on.

HOST: Basically, it's like an endorphin rush. When things are done to your body, whether it's like tactile or even a runner's high, people who exercise a lot get an endorphin rush. That's basically what we're delivering to people. And we use different implements-- toys, we call them toys, although they're toys for grownups. They're not little toys.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, they are.

HOST: But we can use anything from our hands to fancy whips and things like that. But it can be erotic and all the way up to more harsh. There's lots of different aspects of it. But normally people do it at home anyway. Some people do bondage, with tying to the bed, a lot of couples do-- play with it a little bit. So we just kind of take it to a different level. We have lots of cool outfits and more toys and everything.

SARAH The clothes are better.

DEPALMA:

HOST: Yeah the clothes are definitely better.

HOST: Definitely better. I think for safe, sane, and consensual, safe meaning that we know we're safe. We use terminology. OK, terminology is-- we can go into a lot of detail here, but for us, we play with what we refer to as bottom submissives, boys, and for them to know that they're safe with us. That we're not going to do any-- we're not going to go-- we're not going to cut off their arm. We're not-- there's a lot of things we're not going to do.

MASTER WHIP: They tend not to come back if you cut off their arm.

HOST: And we don't-- those are toys. You don't-- we were taught not to break our toys. Because you can't just go out and buy another submissive or get another submissive in 15 minutes. You can get another flogger, but you can't get another toy. But they're safe with us. Consensual, it's a combination of they give their consent for us to do things to them. OK?

HOST: Stop means stop.

HOST: And stop means stop.

HOST: I think a major part also is communication. And that would enter in the safety part. Because you would need to know whether or not the person you're playing with has certain limitations, whether they have a weak back, or kidneys, where there can't be pain in a certain area. And in that part, the bottom, or the sub, slave, or whatever part of-- whatever they consider themselves, has to be honest with the person they're talking to and who they want to play with them. Otherwise, there can be all sorts of problems that could creep up without that knowledge, without preparation.

HOST: What I'd like to say is that I will hurt them, but I will not injure them. And there's a vast difference between the two. I won't do permanent damage to a person ever. One of the things that I've found in my experience is that the most important-- one of the most important things is being able to read the people that you're with.

HOST: I agree. I agree.

HOST: You need to be able to see, because sometimes they are so high on endorphins and so far out in space that they can't communicate with you verbally. So you need to be able to read them and know that they're OK, they're just happy right now.

HOST: I think a new terminology too that's coming out, besides safe, sane, and consensual is risk aware, that whoever you're playing with is aware that there is a risk there. That you're playing-- I know I play with knives. Wendy plays with knives. We're-- sharp, shiny, steel, I love sharp, shiny, steel-- fetish, OK? And very sharp blades.

But nobody walks away with body parts missing. So they're risk aware. They know there's a risk there, but yet it's fun. It's exciting, it's thrilling. You see the look of ecstasy on a sub's face when you're playing with them that just goes beyond.

MASTER WHIP: We also-- a lot of us, anyway, have been doing this for a while. So we've got a little bit of practice in the things that we're doing. And it's either safe because we know the risks that are involved or it's risk aware, because we are aware of those risks.

HOST: I agree.

MASTER WHIP: Consensuality is a great thing, because if it wasn't consensual, you wouldn't have a submissive to play. After you played them one time, if they didn't like it, they wouldn't come back.

HOST: You'd be in jail.

HOST: I like to think of it as a kind of a conspiracy between the submissive and dominant or top and bottom, especially if you've been playing with the same partner. You're reading off each other. And there's the ability to judge how much is too much, when to lighten up, when to get heavier, and so forth. So there's a lot of nonverbal communication going on during a scene as well.

SARAH Can I just jump in here and say that perhaps we need some new terminology. Because we're talking about cruelty and pain as if-- and most people think these are bad things.

HOST: Well, you know you're right about that. You're right about that. And that was a subject I was going-- I was going to get to. And that is, what people-- when I talk-- about S&M, what people have failed to understand is the submissive, or the bottom-- maybe, let me try this a different way. Why don't we-- why don't we approach it this way.

If I was a new submissive or I thought I was a submissive and I wanted to find out things about myself, how would I do it? How would I be able to go about it and not get myself killed in the process? And where would I go to learn these things?

HOST: Meetings-- you find a group in your area.

JIMMY CARPER: You educate yourself.

HOST: Yes.

HOST: Educate yourself, and the groups in Houston have great educational processes. H PEP has SIGs, special interest groups that tone it down to specific learning. We have a protocol where you can learn protocol. If you want to learn-- and to learn those things. Before you get into actual getting pain or finding someone to play with, learn about what you're getting into first. Learn about and watch people play. Find your interests that way.

You can, once you get into the groups, find people that you like and you get to know people. And then slowly work into, once you find someone you can trust, and the only way to do that is meeting people, jumping up from online into someone's-- under someone's flog or into somebody's bondage, that's not safe. Going to meetings, meeting people, reading stuff on the internet. Some of the sites are really good.

HOST: Books. Books.

HOST: Books.

HOST: Books, there's a ton of books.

HOST: Go to HELL.

HOST: Yeah.

HOST: Yeah.

HOST: There you go, read.

HOST: Go to the HELL meetings, yeah. But there are a lot of books out there that explain just about everything we do. I think if you walk into some of the stores, erotic stores throughout the city.

HOST: Lobo is one of the best in the Montrose area.

HOST: Yes. Lobo's, Dare Wear is another one that has books. And you can pick up books like *Screw the Roses*, *Give Me the Thorns*, which really explains a lot of things. *The Loving Dominant*--

HOST: *S&M 101*.

HOST: *S&M 101*-- most of those books will explain to you what it is that we do and they explain it well. On the web, the Castle Realm website is probably one of the best-- www.castlrealm.com. It is a fabulous website. And they explained it both from the dominant viewpoint and submissive viewpoint.

HOST: But don't lead the story of *Oh, and 9 and 1/2 Weeks*, or *The Beauty Series* and think that's the way it is.

HOST: Oh, yes.

HOST: Because that's--

HOST: [INAUDIBLE]

HOST: A big mistake. [INAUDIBLE]

HOST: We're talking about nonfiction books for educating yourself.

HOST: That's right. That's right.

HOST: The others are great to inspire you, but they're not the way it's going to work when you're really in the dungeon.

HOST: That is true.

MASTER WHIP: I just thought we'd like to try and [INAUDIBLE].

HOST: Yes.

HOST: Well, I think the important thing people need to understand is there's nothing going on that has not been mutually agreed upon. I think Jimmy is right, we talk about cruelty or some of these other terms, and people think, oh, gee, this sounds awful. It sounds like they grab somebody off the street and beat the hell out of them. And that's not what's going on at all.

And it's funny, I've been to I don't know how many different-- we call them play parties, but parties over the years where there's all sorts of activity going on. And sometimes some of it is pretty extreme. What needs to be remembered is there's nothing going on that wasn't mutually agreed upon before anything was started.

HOST: That's very true. That's very true. I've always probably not been the best negotiator at doing things over the years, but one of the things that I always make sure of is that I know the medical history of the person. I know their mind frame. Before we start playing, I know if they've had a bad day, or a bad week, or if they're having emotional problems of some kind. Because all of those things make a difference.

HOST: Jess talked about me using knives. I won't play somebody that's taken aspirin within eight hours with a knife.

HOST: I never would have thought of that.

HOST: That's something that we have to think about.

HOST: Makes sense.

HOST: Or have been drinking alcohol. Alcohol is like, in my opinion, a big no-no when you're doing this.

HOST: Alcohol is definitely a no-no. Because it makes you misjudge your own body. And the next day you wonder why you've got all these black and blue marks and how did I get into this mess. Not a smart thing.

HOST: I think people also ask us why we do this--

HOST: Yes.

HOST: Which is the main thing. Especially professionally, on a professional level, I do it for my lifestyle, which is my personal life as well as professionally. Professionally is I'm helping someone express their sexuality through a fantasy. And I'm lucky enough to be able to help people that I just meet do that. It takes time to learn a person and ask the right questions about a scene and what they're into and what they're interested in.

And also on a personal lifestyle level, it's just kind of a good rush. It's a good way to get close to a partner. It's a good trust factor. In most S&M relationships I've been involved with, you skip over all the little things and you go exactly to trust. I'm with them, that's it, I trust them with my life pretty much. So that's-- and there's not a little catty stuff.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

HOST: You have to communicate or something might happen that you may not want to happen.

HOST: Now one thing that I wanted to talk about was my experience has been that there is a huge number of transgendered people involved in S&M and this sort of thing. And my own experience in talking to them over the years is they can go to an organization like PEP or some of the other organizations in the city, and it's a safe place for them to go. Fetish is not only accepted, it's encouraged.

So if you want to go someplace cross dressed, or if you want to learn something about yourself as a cross-dresser, or whether you're a fetishist, or a transsexual, my experience has been that these are pansexual groups by and large, meaning that whether you're gay, or lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, you're welcomed in. Is that generally the case and most people agree?

HOST: Yeah, I believe so.

HOST: I know that H PEP from the beginning has always been a very pansexual group. With you and with myself being a lesbian, it has been very welcoming and loving atmosphere. We consider ourselves family with each other. Some of us stay together and be friends for years, and years, and years. We see each other's children grow up.

We've been-- everybody goes to the weddings. We have weddings. We have Thanksgiving at someone's house, Christmas at someone's house, Easter at someone's house. And everybody's welcome. I guess because we want people to accept us for who we are, we have to accept everyone for who they are.

MASTER WHIP: When somebody that you know is, for example, of one gender, shows up at a play party as another gender, you have to be accepting. Because that's the lifestyle that we choose. We did this the other night, actually. This beautiful young lady showed up and we both-- Vix and I both said, wow, you look great. And it was only yesterday that we met this gentleman who introduced himself and said, hey, I met you all at the party the other night and I was Misty.

VIXEN: Yeah.

MASTER WHIP: Said, oh, hi, you were great.

VIXEN: And for whatever it's worth, I was surprised at Misty too. She said, oh, did you recognize me? And I said, no, should I?

MASTER WHIP: What a great [? gal ?].

VIXEN: Yeah, and it turns out I was sitting next to him the next night. So it was--

HOST: That was his first venture out ever, OK. It had been a fantasy. It was his first venture out, and just fabulous, absolutely fabulous. Transgender, transsexual, for me, since I have a transsexual submissive, I know at times she feels kind of strange, even at some of our meetings and stuff. But I think it's because those are her own cynical things that are coming out of her, not so much the community. She'll probably get mad at me for this one, but I'm going to tell it like it is.

MASTER WHIP: She's not here, it's OK.

HOST: Yes, she is. She's out there.

HOST: She can speak for herself.

HOST: She doesn't like me to say anything. But it is a place for her to be accepted. She can be who she is. And no one looks at her strange, no one-- it's family. Especially if you have family or so forth and so on that has looked at you and turned their back on you, and here, you walk into this group of people, knowing not only that you're transsexual, but that you are a kinkster, OK, a pervert.

And you can walk in there and be accepted for that individual that you are. To me, that's probably the greatest thing about our society. Anyone, whether you be lesbian, bisexual, transsexual, or transgendered, cross-dresser, babies-- I mean, we have everything. And they can walk in there and just be who they are.

They don't have to put on a show. They don't have to pretend. They don't have to do any of those things. They can just be themselves. And that's probably for-- I know probably for Sarah, who-- it's a great place to go. It's a great place to be. She can be Sarah. But Sarah's Sarah all the time.

SARAH Well, the thing I found-- I found about PEP and organizations similar to that is a lot of beginners come out to PEP.
DEPALMA: And a lot of times, I can spot them because they're over there standing against the wall, all by themselves.

HOST: Oh, my, what have I gotten into?

HOST: Yeah.

SARAH Looking extremely scared.

DEPALMA:

HOST: Dressed to the nines.

SARAH Yeah, he's dressed to the nines, looking scared to death. And you can almost see it coming out of your ears,

DEPALMA: going oh, my God, what did I walk into? And so I've made it a point of going over to him and saying, hi, welcome. It's really OK. And you can almost hear the, OK, I'm going to live through this.

HOST: That sign of relief.

SARAH Yeah. And I've often thought that that's a big part of what actually is attracting transgenders to the world of S&M

DEPALMA: is its automatic acceptance right out of the shoot. And if you're really new at it and-- a lot of people who turn up at the meetings who are clearly very new-- it's a safe place to start. No one's going to laugh at you or say anything to you. You can-- it's someplace where you can begin.

HOST: And you don't even have to be into BDSM, or S&M, or anything like that to come. Because you're still going to be welcomed whether you just want to stand and watch, or get to know people, or just make friends.

HOST: You just have to be tolerant. That is the only thing that we ask, is you don't judge what other people are doing. It may not be something that is your cup of tea, but that's OK, because we're willing to accept you as long as you're willing to accept us.

HOST: I wish more the world was like that. It'd make it a lot better place.

HOST: I think we try to create our own little world too when we have people come in. A lot of us are considered outcasts anyway, whether it's in the beginning, for being gay, and then into S&M. And so we're kind of making it smaller and smaller to be accepted worldwide.

But that's why I think we have such open minds when people come and see us, and want to talk with us, and be at parties. So we're definitely very welcoming and talking. Just because we dress intimidating doesn't mean we are. We could be, but it doesn't mean we are.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

HOST: Yes, I can be very intimidating if you want me to be.

SARAH I think-- I'm sorry, go ahead.

DEPALMA:

HOST: Oh, OK. I know for me, I'm not transgendered, I'm just kind of a boring old hetero female, but I don't-- I don't come from a very strong or supportive family structure. And case in point, I just went to visit one of-- well, my father in the hospital tonight. And that was very sad. But I felt very awkward being around my parents. I don't feel like I belong with my family anymore.

And I felt so much better when I got here around my friends. I feel like they really are my family. And it's a very comforting thing. Because they accept me for who I am. And so it's--

SARAH Jimmy introduced me to a term that I've been now using a long time. But Jimmy was the one who taught me
DEPALMA: about the phrase family of choice.

HOST: Family of choice, exactly.

SARAH Family of choice, yeah. And I think that's a lot of what goes on in some of these S&M organizations, that they are,
DEPALMA: in fact, a family of choice. And I think there's a lot of that. Wendy, why don't we talk about the lesbian community
and S&M a little bit.

WENDY: Real opinions here?

JIMMY CARPER: Is there a lesbian community?

HOST: Is there one?

SARAH Oh, yes.

DEPALMA:

HOST: This is getting to where Wendy and I know a lot about this.

SARAH Yes, you do.

DEPALMA:

WENDY: Unfortunately, we're intimately familiar with it. I will say that it is getting better. I do see improvements now. But
I've been actively involved in the leather community for about 10 years. I have been out as a lesbian for over 20
years. And very interested in-- on the fringe of the leather community for that entire 20 years.

And I know the reason that I stayed for 10 years on the fringes was because I was in San Francisco. And I would
watch the looks on all my friends' faces when they saw these leather dykes and gay leatherman doing their thing
at Pride or going to the SF Eagle or something like that. And they would have the most disgusted look on their
face. And they would make some of the rudest comments.

And those people were-- they were very derisive towards them. And even though a part of me really wanted to
be with that group of people over there wearing those cows--