

Towards end of book, written in the first person

Because prostitution is usually illegal and underground, there are no reliable statistics about the extent of it. Most of the women I interviewed did not report a history of abuse, but those who had been abused seem to be helped by therapists. Some providers had been abused in a non-sexual way. The more I thought about Dr. Peterson's theory, the more I discovered valuable insight, affecting my self-understanding. Her theory connects the main topics that run through this book: sex workers, their clients, a new way of understanding their behavior, and my own fascination with them. The fact that Mary was transformed and so pleased with her new life was a resolution for me. I had changed her life, and it went both ways. I instantly knew the book's story was complete. My strongest lifelong passion and joy is to touch an audience with something I wrote and directed, and seeing the audience laugh, hold their breath, stand up and cheer on cue, cry or moan with feeling. I'm fortunate to have achieved it a couple of times.

Women might get into the sex trade because they are desperate for money, to flaunt society's mores, are materialistic, lazy, and are led to believe they are going to make a lot of money, are so beautiful that men are throwing money at them, enjoy sex with numerous partners, are easily bored, or crave excitement. Most of them agree it has something to do with power over men. But the need to touch or be touched seems to lie behind much of it, even if it's just to take advantage of men's needs, like the provider who suddenly said it was revenge, then didn't know why she'd said that. I think we should listen to the women who say that there is some denial and self-loathing, but we should also listen to the providers who say they really don't have a problem with the work itself, except for the prejudice against it, and the law, which not only threatens their safety, but also allows some police to get away with abusing them. Police and military officers have been caught doing this and given very light Punishments, but recently police have lost their jobs over it. Some providers are smart enough to avoid problems with the police, and don't care about society's opinions. After I conducted the interviews, I spent over a year writing and collaborating with Dr. Peterson, and then checked out the websites of the providers. Most of them were no longer on the internet. I worked for years on other projects, and when I turned back to it the sex business had changed again. Escorts were charging more than twice as much and there were websites and other groups to protect their safety. There is no summary I can give that is better than the words and thoughts of the providers themselves.

WHAT'S NEXT?

What will the next sexual revolution look like? The government is afraid to teach much sex education in the schools, but children are getting plenty of it elsewhere. Popular culture and the internet are sexualizing young people. National polls report that in America, ninety percent of children have viewed pornography on the internet by the age of eleven. On June 15, 2016, BBC in the U.S. said that online pornography is "desensitizing young people." Young teenagers who are not ready for sex feel pressured to have it, and in the unrealistic and sometimes sadomasochistic manner they see in pornography. Boys watching porn assume they are watching "normal" sex, and are unable to perform" what they see on their smartphones. Young girls are subjected to painful acts, which comes across as rude and negative rather than endearing. The BBC said that some English girls wear shorts under their skirts to protect themselves in case they are suddenly grabbed in public. More education was recommended. On the other hand, on August 23, 2016, N.P.R. did a piece on the scientifically measured effects of pornography vs. the commonly held narratives. Scientific studies showed that the bad effects of pornography were not there, contradicting claims that it causes rape, true addiction, or sexual dysfunction for males. Men who have viewed pornography are LESS likely to commit rape or other sex crimes. Laypersons refused to accept it, but they had no evidence to back up their opinions. Those who perceive pornography as a painful addiction are actually expressing their sense of shame over it. Pornography seems to be watched more frequently by people with conservative religious backgrounds, just as buying or selling sex is more prominent amongst them. Dr. Peterson feels that when parents show pornography while small children are there, the main problem lies with their

inability to consider the effects of their actions on their children, indicating poor parenting skills. Sexuality is obviously becoming more common in popular entertainment. Teen pop stars act like strippers. Sex and nudity are omnipresent on television and the internet. Most television and moviemakers still depict escorts or exotic dancers as faceless sex objects, bodies, instead of real people. Will this create a more sexual society? I asked that around 2003, and the answer seems to be “yes”, along with a strong backlash. Will we become more tolerant, like in Amsterdam, where pretty much anything goes, but the people are not fixated on it? I believe there is more tolerance by young people towards sex from adolescence on. Most men have always been proud of having sex, but women are now just as open about it. As to the internet, I have an impression that young people get bored with pornography after awhile, and their exposure to sex might make us more like Europeans, less obsessed with it. But no one knows.

Dr. Peterson wrote me: “Many close and warm friendships have been developed with some of the providers as a result of your interviews. They have been given an opportunity to share their stories, ideas, hopes and fears. What kind of a future can we envision for these women? This book could assist in helping to create a new world or paradigm for providers and hobbyists.”

Response: I am not at all sure what will happen to any of them. Because of the secretive nature of this business, I don't know their real names. A couple of providers who were happy to share their stories with me later asked me not to use their interviews, seemingly for no reason. Perhaps they wanted to discover their inner feelings, but seeing them in print removed a layer of fantasy or protection. Many of the women who seemed most likely to quit this business were still advertising on websites a year or two later. Others are not, or may be, but have changed their online names. Several young providers who were working while in college seem to have retired after completing their educations. I erased cross-references to their working names and changed most locations. As Taylor said, their lives start over every few days when they meet new clients. That would make our interviews a distant memory. I hope that the interviews and this book improve the lives of providers and hobbyists. I also hope that it alerts readers to the pitfalls and benefits of this profession, to the humanity of providers and hobbyists, I hope it encourages tolerance.