

The Adult Spanking and Discipline Handbook



A Comprehensive Guide to Corporal Punishment
The Governess Gemma Forbes

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and Discipline Handbook

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First Edition

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DEDICATION

Gratitude to my friend SM without whose help and tough love this book would never exist.

Thanks to CR, a wonderful and supportive mate, whose assistance made this a better book.

To Troy, great friend, mentor and charter member of the *rooftop luncheon society*.

Boundless appreciation to the amazing Ms. Marwood for her many contributions here and throughout my life.

To all the dear boys and girls who have shared their most intimate secrets (and bare bottoms) with me. I value your trust more than I can say, and you've taught me more than you'll ever know.

To all my beloved friends and family who will never know this book exists. I officially bequeath you all a copy in my will, just so you can read this: Thanks for all the love, thanks in advance for the understanding, and never forget to occasionally explore things outside the box. It will keep you forever young. Trust me.

– GF

PROLOGUE

Governess Gemma Forbes is one of the best known spankers you've probably never heard of. Intensely private, her expertise in the art and science of traditional, old-fashioned domestic discipline is known among the initiated the world over. Now you are about to benefit from that knowledge.

The daughter of an American college professor and a British dance instructor, Gemma was born in London, England. Her family relocated to the U.S. when she was six years old. Her background in literature and the theater prepared her well to explore her fascination with spanking fantasies. One thing led to another and, in an era when such things were tolerated far less amicably than they are now, she transformed her recreational pursuits into a continuously expanding trade, at which she was able to bring her unique brand of excitement to the lives of spanking lovers worldwide.

In the pages of this book you'll find a plethora of stories about the early days of Ms. Forbes' career. I'll let you discover all that yourselves. You'll also find here essential useful tips, hints and advice for beginners and experienced spanking enthusiasts alike. If there's ever been something you've wondered about spanking games, you'll likely find it addressed right here. There's information on how to begin your exploration, how to find someone to play with, how to use (and even find) spanking implements, how to broach the idea of inviting your significant other to join you in your penchant, even what to do when a spanking scene goes wrong... and much, much more.

A talented psychodramatist and corporal specialist, Gemma Forbes has always been a generous, caring, and responsible professional, as well as a respected educator and advocate for safe, sane and mutually consensual punishment play. Retired now from her professional activities, Gemma resides with her family on her ranch in the American Southwest. As her fondness for bare bottomed adult discipline still remains, a few select people still garner the occasional invitation to take position over her knee for a bit of spanking good fun.

Gemma is also a successful mainstream author and playwright, and donates

much of her time to several local charities. I have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the editing of this book, and am grateful to be able to consider Gemma Forbes a close friend and colleague these past twenty years. Being qualified to speak broadly on the subject of spanking myself, I can promise that you, dear reader, are definitely in store for a treat.

Bottoms up!

– Ms. Harriet Marwood

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CHAPTER 1

The Jig Is Up

Pssst! Hey, you... That's right, you. Don't look around. I'm talking to *you*...

Here we are, you and I. You're peeking into the opening pages of a book about spanking. And here I am writing one. (Well, by now that's a *fait accompli* or we wouldn't be having this special moment together.) Now, I know that I am a highly intelligent, well-rounded, creative and, I'm told, interesting individual. So I'm guessing that, since you're here and, like me, doing something off the beaten path (okay, poor choice of words there!), something that is adventurous and a bit unconventional, that you are, too.

You're here because, either you're an established enthusiast of the subject herein, or you've long wanted to be, and, try as you might, you can no longer deny you have more than a passing interest.

Common, ill-informed myth dictates that anyone who even considers exploring non-mainstream erotic pursuits is some kind of deviant weirdo. However, over the years, I have met enough extraordinary and upstanding participants of these games we shall be investigating here to know that that is as far from truth as it can be. So... the fix is in. Be assured that you, the curious peruser of these pages, are in very fine company indeed.

A worthy spanking has to hurt to one degree or another, but... corporal punishment games must never, I repeat *never*, inflict any form of psychological or physiological damage upon anyone. As long as your intentions are to solely and exclusively participate with mutually consenting adult partners, and you never perpetrate any true or vengeful harm, spanking and discipline play is just another form of recreation and exploration. Sensible boundaries are crucial, and I will be discussing them here. The credo of all experienced spanking enthusiasts is "*Safe, sane and consensual play*". If you wish to be one, it must be your motto.

Fortunately, we now live in a time when the subject of spanking no longer sends civilized people into spasms of horrified shock. While there are still those who

would condemn a *safe, sane and consensual* thrashing as “sinful” or “wrong”, those same people would probably censure many other commonly practiced ideas and pursuits. They are the book-burners and blindly orthodox. But they are not going to be the readers of this book.

Through much research regarding the psychology of people who practice corporal discipline role-play and related activities, I have seen no evidence that it stems from nefarious sources. I have learned that even the medical profession doesn't regard spanking as “deviance” or “a perversion” but as, essentially, just another form of human erotic expression.

So if you want to order this book on the Internet under an assumed name and hide in the darkest corner of your basement whenever you dare read it, go ahead. But you'll find that, as far as therapeutic experts are concerned, you are going to a lot of unnecessary extra bother. The things you fantasize over are not heinous crimes against society. They're just another example of the endless creativity of the human psyche. Whether it's spanking or any number of other potentially titillating fantasies you have, you can be sure that the guy in the suit and tie next to you on the commuter train or the well-dressed woman standing behind you in the line at Starbucks have had reveries just as colorful and blush-inducing as your own. So let's all get over it and agree right now to embark on an open, mature and mindful examination of this fun and fascinating world.

For many years, I provided a safe environment in which both men and women could come to me and experience their spanking desires, needs and fantasies. I've spent true, quality-time with them and have listened while they examined their attraction to getting a good hide tanning. I've done this with enough good souls to clearly determine that there is no particular pattern or history that produces this itch. Some people were spanked as children, at home or at school. Others stumbled upon a peer or relative getting a sound walloping. More had never been exposed to spanking at all, yet came to crave it nonetheless. I also know still others who never felt even a passing curiosity for it. Then, randomly, an acquaintance or an intimate partner brought them to it.

The commonality I have found is this: No matter where or when the urge originated and ultimately became established, it wasn't going anywhere. No amount of avoidance, denial, deprivation or force of will would serve to purge or diminish it if it was truly in their blood. And the release and relief these individuals would derive from this pastime would not only be liberating, but also

therapeutic. People of all sorts have confessed to me on many occasions that if they suppressed this itch, it would erupt in eventual frustrations (often unconsciously) and impinge on other aspects of their lives. On the other hand, if they were free to enjoy it, a nagging pressure was instantly released – much the same as after a vigorous bout of physical exercise, like a three mile run or a good game of tennis.

So if you're a fervent spanko, chances are you'll always be a fervent spanko. And maybe, just maybe, there's no need to be embarrassed about it. That doesn't mean that certain occasions aren't more appropriate than others to indulge in an open display of enthusiasm for the subject. Maybe for you it's best to only reveal it to those you know to be likeminded. That kind of choice is yours, and yours alone. But if you bury it as a deep, dark, shameful little secret you could be hurting yourself (and I don't mean in the fun way we're going to be exploring here). It's time for all of us to stop sweating the small stuff, grow up, and walk into the 21st Century.

Whether you've had a nagging curiosity about adult corporal discipline games, or you're a card-carrying, life-long member of the club, my objective is to give as thorough a tour of the subject matter as possible. I want to explain how to scratch your itch in safe and satisfying ways. That having been said, I very much want to leave it to you to take from this excursion only what you find useful. I offer my insight and considerable experience in the spirit of play. When you attempt anything you learn here, firstly, make sure to play safely, but then let go and enjoy yourselves! There are few generalizations that hold true on this or any subject. But I will go on record with this one: If you're not experiencing joy from spanking then, either it's just not your thing... or you just haven't figured out yet how to do it right.

Let me see if I can help!

CHAPTER 2

What's It All About?

Before we dig into the juicy fun stuff, let's take a look at what we're talking about. The variety of erotic fantasy activities are too numerous, nuanced, and varied to enumerate. Suffice it to say that this book will *not* deal with the area of the hard-core sadomasochistic and/or the dominatrix-oriented leather-fetish milieu. My personal area of interest and expertise is traditional domestic and institutional spanking role play, as well as pure corporal discipline.

What does this mean? Well, since this is essentially your game, you can, of course, tailor it to your own preferences, and as you read on, you should always keep that in mind. Take that which is presented here as a launch point and feel free to add, subtract, multiply or divide as you see fit. But what I address here is spanking in its most commonly expressed forms and formats. That means no slave collars, thigh-high leather boots, whips and chains, elaborate bondage contraptions, or cock and ball torture.

There will be no body worship, sensory play, toilet training, medical play, breath play, piercing, branding, or shaving discussed here. I don't like to be called *Mistress* or *Goddess*, (actually, I'm partial to simply *Miss* or *Ma'am*) nor do I partake of activities that require anyone to grovel or regard themselves as lesser or lower than myself. When I play, the recipients of my corrective measures are simply considered *naughty*, *disobedient*, *errant*, or in some other way *guilty of misbehaving*. They are in need of being taught a lesson and as such deserve or are "in for" certain prescribed consequences. Such consequences are administered to their physical person, and most commonly confined to that illustrious area entitled their *bottom*, *rear end*, *derriere*, *tushy*, *backside*, *hiney*, or *butt*; to name a few terms of endearment. There are other areas to which corporal punishment may be applied, and some of them will be mentioned as well.

Since I will illustrate examples of fantasy scenarios in a later chapter, here I simply discuss the general parameters of spanking activities of interest to the majority of explorers. Since the most common impression of spanking role play

consists of a naughty boy/girl being lectured and summarily turned over to an adult male or female authority figure's lap (for starters) I will dispatch the less common approaches first.

One more thing before I begin: in many cases, the people who are drawn to participate in spanking games also find an element of arousal and eroticism connected with it. However, there are many for whom discipline has no sexual or erotic component at all. For the purposes of this book, I will not be addressing the erotic aspects of these games. I consider that to be an individual choice, and none of my business. Spanking enthusiasts have differing views on this. I'm a purist. My personal philosophy is that spankings are punishment. If, after a thorough bum-tanning, someone wants to then spank their monkey, I have no judgment about it, but I don't include or allow that as a part of my disciplinary play. To me, gratifying some sexual urge is the very opposite of discipline. It's certainly not punishment. It's certainly not teaching a lesson in self-control. In fact, it's actually a reward, isn't it? But boys will be boys, and if you happen to feel differently, find partners of like mind and have fun. Now then, why don't we proceed to some of the most common spanking manifestations.

- THE MASOCHIST OR SENSATIONALIST -

I know many who have no desire to invent a context or take a role in order to justify their getting a spanking. This type of player just craves only the sensation of being smacked, whacked and walloped by various implements. This intense physiological event seems to provide a profound and cathartic release. It's often described as a stress reliever. It is the pure pain experience that they require. No justification is necessary.

In my play with such people, we get together, usually have a lovely visit to break the ice and make sure everyone is comfortable and relaxed before we jump in. Then I take them into a quiet room and bend them over something. I direct them to my lap, a stool, a rack of some sort, and begin to whack their behind; sometimes with a hand warm-up and sometimes starting *cold*, with implements, depending on their preferences. Some like a ten or fifteen minute *warm-up* with my hand, wherein I gradually build up in intensity. This serves to prepare the surface of the person's buttocks to receive smacks from harsher sources, such as

paddles, belts, straps, crops, hairbrushes, canes and the like. (I will go into this in more detail later.) The people who prefer to be spanked cold usually have a very high pain threshold and it takes a considerable degree of sensation to affect them. Then there are those who fall somewhere in between. We're all wired differently. Our central nervous systems operate in our own unique ways.

The part I find the most fun about these non-role players is that, in many cases, a guy will simply plop himself over my knee. I'll smack away at his hind quarters, and we'll engage in mundane conversation the whole time. "So, how've been?" he'll ask. (*Whack, smack, whap!*) "Fine," I'll say, "What have you been up to since I saw you last?" (*Whack-whack-whack!*) "Just got back from New Orleans..." We'll discuss politics, movies, or share private jokes about our spanking foibles. All the while I just go to town and inflict good deal of stinging pain to my compatriot's nether parts. This never fails to put a smile on my face – the sheer incongruity of it all!

There are other pure pain-receivers who are not inclined to be social. They're what I call *body types*. They drop deeply into themselves and go into an altered state, both mentally and physically. Once the intensity reaches its emotional peak they don't want to talk to me. They don't want me to talk to them. They simply want to *feel*. They just want to be a body and have an experience with no distractions from the sensations that my hand, strap, tawse or cane will inflict. These "body types" usually like a gradually escalating, sizable amount of pain which culminates in a long, hard sustained "attack". They say it washes them clean. It drowns out all of the preoccupations of personality. There is no room to think, plan, worry, project, obsess, question, doubt, or fear. They drop into a vortex of physicality that rises and falls at the stroke of my implements until resistance surrenders, all is let go, and sensation is all there is. I'm told it begins uncomfortably at first, but then, through my appropriately timed and guided escalation, it becomes the most exquisite state they can ever find.

These are the least common partners I have encountered. I'm sure the dominatrixes have met many more such people than I have. The ones who have found their way to me, however, don't want to be in a dungeon environment. They don't want to be shackled or beaten by a leather-clad siren. They want to be around familiar objects in *the real world*. But the destination is the same. They seek transcendence.

- BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION “THERAPY” -

I have had a surprising number of people come to me who want to use their affinity for spankings to motivate them in their real lives. They have some core issue in their real lives that has in some way become unmanageable. They face what seems to them to be an intractable obstacle. Together these “self-improvement” types and I have a discussion about what their wishes and expectations are for enhancement. Then we make a plan.

For example, one gentleman had his own business. He was horribly disorganized and preferred to interact with his clients and not face the onerous task of handling paperwork and keeping records. Since his work was the hub from which everything flowed, nothing could run smoothly until he handled his part of the paperwork. I arrived at a prescription for him: a program of incremental improvements requiring him to address all the boring little tasks he liked to avoid. I set up a separate project to streamline his systems of operation, update computer hardware and create programs that made the yucky stuff easier for all. Together we created monthly goals. I even got permission to check in with someone in his office to keep tabs on his efforts and make sure he was telling me the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Since he was very charming and enjoyed being a brat I simply had to insist on this stipulation.

He’d report to my office once a month and I would punish him if he did not stick to the plan we’d agreed upon. If he had been lax with his assignments, he would get a dreadful thrashing. (Keep in mind here that all limits and use of implements are always discussed and mutually agreed upon before any kind of discipline program is set in motion.) If he made improvements I would simply give him a “reminder” spanking, which was more recreational than correctional. In the course of about a year and a half, this man’s office underwent massive improvements. That is not to say he didn’t occasionally lapse into his lazy ways from time to time. But when he did, he certainly got to pay for it.

Enrollees in my behavior modification programs address a myriad of problems. They want to lose weight; clean up and/or organize their homes; adopt a healthier lifestyle routine; meet deadlines for blog articles; or treat their wives, girlfriends, or female coworkers more respectfully. And they want me to motivate them. In all cases, the incentives I provide prove to be highly effective persuasion.

- REAL LIFE RESOLUTIONS -

The last kind of uncommon enthusiast I'll describe here is the person who wants to re-enact an actual experience or experiences from their past. Sometimes these encounters engender positive feelings and they enjoy recreating them. However, for me the most interesting ones were those who wanted to re-explore a troubling incident from their past, in order to move beyond haunting feelings of guilt or regret. These people were spanked as children. They did something wrong but didn't get caught. They dodged the proverbial bullet and were never properly disciplined. They were so troubled that they sought me out to help them reenact the whole scenario – but this time with a different ending. In our version, they got the sound discipline they deserved.

My favorite was a lovely gentleman from the Midwest. We'll call him Frank. When he was a mischievous teenager, he perpetrated a prank on a neighbor lady. His mother had been a staunch proponent of the philosophy, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." Thus, he knew if he ever got caught, his bare bottom would be in deep jeopardy. Well, this neighbor (we'll call her Dorothy), who was also his mother's best friend, had somehow figured out that he was the culprit of this deed. She called the boy's mother and arranged a pow-wow involving the three of them and told his mother that she knew the boy was guilty of the dastardly deed.

The boy's mother turned to her son and said, "Frank, I'm going to ask you this question only once. I know you understand the importance of this confrontation here and now, and so I trust you to tell me the truth. Whatever you say I will believe you. Did you do this thing to Dorothy's house?" Well, Frank stood there petrified. He knew that if he admitted his guilt he was in for a blistering paddling with the hairbrush. He wished he were brave enough to be the truthful boy his mother believed him to be, but his fear won out. He denied his guilt.

His mother looked at him long and hard, then turned to Dorothy and said, "If Frank says he didn't do it, I have to believe him. It must have been somebody else." Dorothy said she knew that it was Frank, and she'd even caught a glimpse of him leaving the scene of the crime. Dorothy was so disappointed in the way Frank's mother handled the incident that the two women never spoke again. Frank knew that he had destroyed the relationship between his mother and her best friend with his lie. He never had the chance to come clean before

his mother passed away. So he visited me whenever he came to town and we re-enacted the event, with, of course, the one amendment – that this time around, he got that thrashing he so rightly deserved. We did this on about five or six separate occasions across a dozen or so months.

One day I got a call from Frank. He said this to me: “You know, for over thirty years, there was not a day that went by where I didn’t think of that childhood incident and feel pained by it. Sometimes it would stick in my thoughts all day. Sometimes it was just for a moment, but it never left me. About a week after our last encounter I noticed that it was just gone, and a kind of lightness had taken its place. It hasn’t been back since, and I really want to thank you for giving me what I needed to finally let that go.”

- NOW FOR THE SCENARIO LOVERS -

Scenario lovers are the folks who just love to make up stories and, for example, enjoy feeling transported to the simpler days of their bratty youth. Or perhaps they like to pretend to be naughty adults who act up inappropriately in ways they wouldn’t dare to do in their real lives. They are called out for it by a stern authority figure and duly punished. Some want caring, maternal warnings with a *this-is-going-to-hurt-me-more-than-it-hurts-you* approach. Others want chiding and finger wagging and strict, scary raised voices. They want corner time and a mouth soaping. They want warnings of reprisal. But they all want it to end the same way. They want hard smacks to a bared bottom.

It’s liberating for these participants to invent naughty personas and play at rebellious behavior. They know all the while that they will have to endure the sting of the hand, hairbrush, strap, cane, or tawse until Auntie, Teacher, Governess, Boss, Secretary, or Neighbor deems them well-spanked and duly corrected. The anticipation and dread is as rewarding as the actual walloping. They love not to know how much, how long, or how hard they will be tormented. Correction: “love” is a misleading term, perhaps, for what they feel about corporal punishment play. More accurately, they enjoy *not* enjoying the startling stings they are set to endure. This category of spanko, as far as I’ve seen, is not only the most common but the most vocal about their affinity for the sport. Later on I will explore role playing in more detail.

At any rate, you can see that there are lots of reasons why people are drawn to the world of corporal discipline games. If you're still wondering what you're still doing here, curiously turning pages, well... at this point, if you're still on board, you're either a full-on spanko or a very enthusiastic and open-minded explorer. Might as well let go and enjoy yourself. Let's roll up our sleeves, shall we?

CHAPTER 3

Bottoms and Tops

Yes... Those are your choices. (Well, I could also include Voyeur, but that's not the subject of this discourse.) If you've explored spanking, you already know your preference. If you're still in the fantasizing phase, you may think you know it, but, trust me, you might surprise yourself once you get going. For now, let's just look at things from both positions, and investigate some options.

A couple reasons that you need to understand both sides of the game: If you're a *Bottom*, the *spankee*, you must know your own limits. By the same token, if you plan to be a *Top* – the *administrator* of the spanking – I believe it is imperative that you know first hand (no pun intended) what *all* your implements feel like in action. The first reason for this is safety. You can do some real damage if you don't know what you've got in your hands. We will discuss this in more detail later. You also need to know how to deliver the desired affect on your “victim”. Start too harshly with an implement and you risk physically and mentally jarring your partner right out of the experience. Also, some people want to avoid being marked. Know your implements and you will be empowered to inflict maximum effect in the appropriate manner and, if necessary, avoid leaving any “trace evidence” after you've finished. It's crucial to take both sides into consideration when you embark upon a spanking scene. You must know how to establish a conscious connection and meaningful communication with your partner, before, during and after the punishment is administered.

- BOTTOMS -

This is a pivotal word in our adventures, since, whether you are the giver or the receiver, the buttocks—or “bottom” – is going to be a featured focus in this drama. At this point, however, when I refer to a *Bottom*, I mean the person who will be getting the spanking. I suspect that you already know which you are, but as I said, many have started out being positive their propensity lay on one side or the other and have found that either (a) they actually preferred the opposite, or

(b) they enjoyed both duties equally. So keep an open mind. The majority of my partners have been male. But I might switch back a forth with the male/female pronouns here.

So, you like a nice, sound bare-bottomed tanning do you? Or maybe it sounds good to you in theory and you're just dying to try it. That, my pet, makes you a *Bottom*. Sounds pretty cut and dried, eh? Not if you've never played before. Let's say you secretly hope against hope that some night your boyfriend or husband will just grab you by the forearm, pull you over his lap, pull down your panties, and let loose with a strong right hand on your trembling cheeks. Sounds like just what you've longed for. But what will you actually, in reality, be in for?

The first and the most important step in partner play comes before the panties (or Calvin Klein sport briefs) come down. That part is called *talking*. Yes, it can be embarrassing to put your longstanding, secret desires into words. In America, we still have a rather puritanical attitude toward creative erotic play, so some people might fear that there is a certain stigma attached, and they worry about being judged. In all my encounters with people over the years, I've met some who say their partner just didn't want to participate with them. Some even expressed a distinct dislike for the idea. But I haven't met anyone whose significant other ran screaming out of the room, never to return. As long as you discuss things earnestly and put no pressure on your partner, the people who love you will usually be open to at least understanding your desires, even though they may not want to enact them with you. You have to use your own intuition. In most cases, it's at least worth a try to involve your gal or guy-pal if you can.

The best thing you can do, as a beginner, is homework. For example, read books like this (Congrats, you're already a genius!). Do some research and find out the many permutations of spanking play, so you can be as clear about what you want as possible. This is especially incumbent upon the *Bottom*. If you have a life partner who never had these inclinations, you need to be able to clearly present what you ask of them. Many times, a partner will agree to join in because it's important to *you*. Do everything you can to up the odds of a successful first outing. There are many online chat forums and websites that cater to spankers. There are fictional and non-fictional books, though good ones can be hard to find. You can even look for a highly regarded professional corporal discipline provider who will work with couples to arrange a session to help you get started. Be curious. Be creative. Be caring. Come armed with ideas and

information about your wishes.

If you're a *bottom*, here are some questions you can ask yourself:

- Do you want to pretend you're a naughty little brat, or unruly adolescent, who needs to be scolded and sternly reprimanded for an age-appropriate infraction. Do you long to be sent into spasms of squirms and squeals of vain protest?
- Would you rather have no context or pretext, surrender control, and have someone administer stinging swats to your backside or possibly even your upper thighs? Do you want your face slapped, your palms strapped with a tawse or ruler? Or maybe you even want your back whipped, though this is far less common to spankers than it is to BDSMers. Do you long for just the sheer sensation of the sting and the release? Do you crave to give yourself over to domination and its escape?
- Do you consider spanking play to be a way to motivate you to address real life issues or faults? Do you want to be held to account by your life partner or find a neutral party to take you to task? By the way ladies, I have found "motivational spanking" to be an excellent method to introduce excitement and novelty into your relationship. It spices things up wonderfully and motivates that man of yours to finally do all those things you hound him about. Just think, instead of turning yourself blue in the face trying to coerce him to do his share of the chores, you'll turn his backside blue if he doesn't! Consider implementing a regime of *action vs. consequences* that incorporates corporal discipline!
- Is spanking something you enjoy as a prelude to sex with your partner. Or is discipline and its ensuing intense embarrassment an end in itself?
- Do you want a caring emotional connection with the disciplinarian? Or would you prefer that he or she be dispassionately neutral, simply dispatch his or her duty, and leave you to feel purged, refreshed and able to go on with your life?
- If you are involved or married, might it not be best to play with other married people? (There is no guarantee that temptation won't develop here also. You will need to be able to set clear-cut boundaries for yourself and hold to them, or realize that you risk unanticipated complications.)

You can probably find other more personal inquiries as well. It's beneficial to ponder them fully before you approach a potential partner. Then, of course, you need to find out what your partner derives from his or her side of things. You may not always coincide. If not, you may want to take turns at a compromise here and there so that each of you can come closer to your respective ideal. If you are in a relationship and you talk these things through nature will usually take its course. Over time you will both come to an intuitive kind of awareness. A general meeting of the, uh, minds will occur.

When you first begin playing, you will probably want to experiment. You'll try out various character roles if you're so inclined. You'll sample different implements, and all sorts of positions. You'll investigate with gusto how hard, fast, slow and in what amounts you most prefer to be spanked. There's no shame in getting to know yourself and testing your limits. You can start out cautiously and request that your partner use only the hand; that he deliver no more than a specified number of strokes at a time. You can use signals and safe words to communicate to your partner when you are ready to escalate, or when things are getting a little bit harsher than you can handle. In due time, your partner will develop a sense of exactly how to deal with you if you make things clear in the early stages. Then you just relax, surrender, and let things unfold.

The first time you play with a person, *safety words* can be as helpful for the *Top* as the *Bottom*. If your partner is a caring, responsible adult he will not want to harm or upset you. He will feel more comfortable to fully commit to the moment because he can count on you to let him know whether or not you can handle what he's inflicting upon you. A good *Top* has excellent insight and intuition. But if you're both novices, it's essential that you set up guidelines and signals at the outset, and feel free to use them. Most true *Bottoms* abhor saying "uncle". But *Tops* are much happier and freer to play with you when they know they can trust you to help them understand what you want and how much you can handle.

The next thing that's essential, especially if you plan to play with a particular person again, is the *debriefing*. You should always plan to spend time afterwards giving each other feedback. *Bottoms* love to know that they "took a good one", so, *Tops*, acknowledge their efforts at taking whatever you chose to dish out! *Bottoms*, talk about your *Top's* approach and demeanor and whether it made things more exciting for you or whether it made you aware of ways in which you would have been kept more on edge, or more on your toes, or more apprehensive

of disobeying your authority figure's control over you. Be respectful and honest. We learn from each other. Often, in the beginning we don't even know what our limits are. We need these early times to make discoveries.

I had one client who had no interest in role play. He just wanted to be spanked. He didn't really know what his preferences were as to type of spanking, the kind of implements, the degree of severity. But he insisted that he had a low pain threshold. Well.... can we talk?! It wasn't more than twenty minutes into the session that I had not only used almost my entire arsenal on this guy, but that it was clear to me he could take whatever I could dish out. At one point, I thought my arm would wear out before his butt did. It turned out he had one of the highest pain tolerances I've ever encountered, before or since. He just honestly didn't know that. Don't judge yourself if you don't know. Just do your best to establish a foundation of open communication throughout. And remember, experience is the best teacher.

While it's important that you trust your partner, oftentimes you may not know that person well quite yet. Trust will come as you get to know each other. I'll say this again: a true *Bottom* never wants to admit defeat and never wants to interrupt a scene or feel like they've let their *Top* down. If you're a *Bottom* and find your ego stubbornly clinging to your "principles", just remember one thing – your *Top* likes to scold and correct you, but he/she does *not* want to abuse you. You can, and will, build your pain tolerance the more you get spanked. There'll be plenty of chances to test your mettle. Don't endure something that shocks and jars you simply out of sheer stubbornness. Even my most die-hard *spankees* admit that on some days they can handle more pain than they can on others. I've been doing this a long time, and I can usually see and sense this and tailor our scenes accordingly. But you, my dear *baby-bottom*, need to bear your share of the responsibility in the discovery phase of the process. Be forthcoming and be honest. You become a more desirable *Bottom* when partners can count on you to always let them know where you stand, instead of making them play a guessing game,

In conclusion, the *Bottom's* main responsibility is due diligence. Think about what you want from the scene itself and from your partner. Honestly communicate your desires as best you can. If you have an experienced *Top* she will ask questions and narrow the focus. She'll zero in on things, including that tender target area at the posterior of your loins! She'll do her very best to achieve your ideal results. If she's not experienced, then *you* are responsible to

make sure she has not only heard you, but really understands what you want. Just because you have it clearly pictured in your head, don't assume your *Top* has painted that exact same picture. Make certain you communicate your desires as effectively as possible. Once you're lying on his or her lap, with your legs pinned down and the business side of a very hard wooden hairbrush coming down full force on your hiney, it's too late to establish nuances! At that point, you'll have to take your comeuppance and wait for the ensuing re-cap for any further adjustments.

- TOPS -

The most common misconception about any kind of dominant/submissive play is that the person on top runs the show. It's the opposite. As a *Top* it is your inherent responsibility to make sure that you take care of your partner. Safety is the first order of business for the *Top*. Yes, your *Bottom* needs to communicate clearly with you what he needs and wants. However, the onus is on you to do no harm. You're the one with the heavy artillery at your disposal. Being a *Top* is not just being demanding and bossing someone around. Don't get me wrong – being bossy and demanding is a huge amount of fun! However, first and foremost you must look after your *Bottom* in much the same way a good parent would look after a child in need of supervision.

Many *Bottoms* are shy or self-conscious and are reluctant to express the “gorey details” of their spanking hopes and dreams. You will have a very appreciative and dedicated *Bottom* if you take the lead with such personality types and ask a lot of questions. You probably know what you like or want to do with them, even if you've never actually *scene'd* with them before. Just put yourself on the opposite side of it in your mind, and you'll think of all kinds of things you'll wish you'd known about them once you're in the thick of it. Now is the time to find out exactly what makes them tick.

Here are some questions for you prospective *Tops* to ask yourselves before you seek out play partners, or play for the first time, as the case may be:

- Do you have a preferred style? If you don't quite have a feel for this, ask yourself if you have any favorite fantasies. How does the authority figure behave there? Is he/she forceful and aggressive? Would he/she bark

orders and in no-nonsense fashion, jerk the guilty party over his/her knee? Or is the star of your fantasy the caring nurturer who confronts the perpetrator and reprimands them “for their own good”? Do you fall somewhere in between? Are you a little of both? A spanker can be just as forceful with a calm, sure but commanding air, as one who shakes a finger and yells threateningly. It’s your preference.

- Do you like the drama of playing the stern mother, angry neighbor-lady, boss, or school principal. These roles provide context, a plot line if you will, for the spanking. Do you catch him red handed as he cheats on a test, peeps into the neighbor’s window when she’s getting out of the shower, or looks at porn under the covers in bed? Do you love to make a whole to-do about such infractions when you confront, scold, and punish the perpetrator?
- Do you simply enjoy the take charge approach and relish the safe infliction of pain on a person who longs for it, devoid of context, simply for the experience itself?
- Is spanking play an end in and of itself or is it a prelude to sex for you? If the latter, you absolutely must come clean about this to any prospective partner. If you agree to meet, make sure you are both on the same page about it.
- Are you simply looking for a play partner as you would a tennis partner? Or are you hoping to meet your next romantic partner? If it’s romance you seek, be honest with yourself about this first and foremost; and then be honest with your potential partner. Obviously, when you first meet a new spanking mate you probably wouldn’t tell them you’re looking for the love of your life! But if you find you are attracted to that person after you’ve played a bit, you need to be honest about your agenda. If you try to sluff it off and just keep playing, one or the other of you is going to sense some weird vibes at some point. This usually happens sooner rather than later. If you don’t talk about it, it’s likely to interfere with and probably contaminate an otherwise fun relationship. One that likely could have continued if the parameters were made clear and consented to up front.

- TAKING CONTROL AND GIVING IT BACK -

As the dominant partner, it's your responsibility to "hold" the scene. Your partner turns herself over to you. You are the authority figure. You give the orders. She may be the submissive type, or she may be a non-compliant wrongdoer. But ultimately she submits herself to the sting of your firm hand. That's the whole point of this game. You not only call the shots, but you take on responsibility for your partner. The contract of this liaison, either expressed or implied, is quite simple. You're the boss and she will do what you say, one way or the other, and she's not in charge of her own fate during this time period.

One way to take care of your partner is to be confident. Let her know she is in good hands. By your every word and action, let her know you are someone who knows what to do and how to do it. If you truly don't know what you're doing yet, you need to have done enough research and investigation to at least be confident you understand what happens in a spanking scene and what your responsibilities are. If you are new, keep it simple. You have to start somewhere, so you need to let your partner know if this is your first attempt, and find out if they have any requests, such as letting you break character periodically to ask how they're doing. Or you might decide to take breaks in, say, 15 minute intervals to make sure it's okay to proceed or to escalate.

If you discuss the relevant topics, you'll know what is needed and what your sub can handle. Embark on the scene with confidence! Don't second guess yourself. Don't yell or threaten to assume authority. Just take the authority. Don't get me wrong, yelling can be fun for a bottom who likes it. But you can also speak quietly and firmly. Once you start the scene, you decide what happens. You can say it quietly, request it firmly or demand it harshly – but your word is law. If you believe it's a done deal, she won't mess about with you! And if she does, teach her the consequences.

Make direct eye contact. This is even more important than what you say and how you say it. Confront your errant charge and let her know she's not wiggling out of anything. Also, convey to her with your eye to eye connection that, while you will not be trifled with, you are there, doing this, because you care about her, not to menace her. Make sure she gets it. Get a response. If she's the bratty type and tries to be obstinate or contrary, look her in the eyes and firmly query, "Do you understand me?" or, "What did I just say to you?" Make her reply so

you know that if she's tuning you out you will stand firm till she tunes you back in!

Once the psychological control has been clearly established, i.e., you have discerned what you consider to be clear evidence that she has acknowledged your authority, then you can proceed to the games of the scene, whatever you've mutually chosen them to be. You can manhandle her/him a little, or (safely) a lot. Firmly describe the "crime" and give a graphic list of what consequences you intend to inflict to create a looming tension and apprehension. Or, if you prefer, state that he's been caught red-handed and guilt is a certainty. Jerk him brusquely over your lap and deliver a flurry of vigorous swats just to punctuate the fact that you mean business.

It's just as important to return control and autonomy back to your partner at the end of a scene as it is to establish it at the outset. Much of this is covered in the section called *After-care*, but I will mention it here as well. Make the same direct eye contact at the end of your play. This helps you assess what physical and mental state your partner is in and what they may need. They may be able to transition quickly from *sub state* to *normal state*. You may need to "make an announcement", such as "It's clear to me that you've been properly punished. Now it's time to put yourself back together, and we can reconvene in the living room for a more pleasant conversation." Sometimes you can just resume your normal identities then and there. It's just good to let your partner know when you are resuming the position of "real self" and now they're off the hook. Some partners might need some physical contact: a hand on the shoulder and a "How are you doing?" Or sitting quietly together, either touching or not, just so your sub doesn't feel abruptly left behind. If your partner seems as if he's back to his own real-time self already, you can just be yourself too. Do what feels most appropriate.

Another way to minimize end-of-scene ambiguity is to broach it in your pre-session discussion. Decide how you will signify that the scene has ended and it's time to rejoin reality. For example, you might agree once you decide it's finished, you will leave the room and come back in again in an agreed upon interval. Your partner will know that your re-entry means he no longer needs to act with obedience or submission. You both can resume relating to each other normally again. You also can make it a part of the scene that, at the end, you would say something like, "You've taken your punishment, learned your lesson. Get dressed and do your homework. Come out when you're done and we'll

have a nice dinner together.” You then leave and go into another room. When he/she comes out to greet you, dressed and recovered, you resume your normal identities again. Just make sure you and your partner *both* know the appropriate signals.

Make sure you create a way to clearly establish the delineation between the scene and “life”. It’s your job as *Top* to call the shots, and that means holding the control in your hands—which includes respecting the well-being and state of mind of your partner. If you are in an ongoing relationship with this person, it’s especially important to communicate that you know he/she is a capable, autonomous individual for whom you feel care and respect, both before and after.

- BEGINNING TO PLAY -

As I said earlier, whether you are a long time player or a newbie, you really must find out what the implements feel like that you intend to use. If you have the chance, it can be fun to have your *Bottom* give you a whack with each. Many will get a kick out of it... and the bratty ones will use it to egg you on to make sure you retaliate. Some *Bottoms*, however, are loath to do anything dominant. If he/she doesn’t want to whack you, find some other way.

Once you find her limits, if you’re an expert you can jump right in. If you’re a novice, you should probably devise a *safe-word* or hand signal system to start with, and you had damn well better pay attention to her while you’re spanking her in case she uses one of these. And when she does, *respect it!* Nothing will erode trust faster than when a *Top* disregards his partner’s expressed preferences and signals.

Years ago when I first started to play, a fellow *spanko* my boyfriend had met with at parties asked him about doing a session with me. I booked the session, trusting the man because of his association with my significant other. This man, let’s call him Ollie, knew that at that time I used to switch (only with my boyfriend) and asked if, when we played, he could give me a short spanking at the very end for ten minutes. I happen to have a rather alluring derriere and am constantly fending off invitations to subject it to the peril of other *Tops*. I really am a big baby and don’t enjoy *bottoming*. But, again, I trusted Ollie because he

was referred by someone I trusted.

I gave him my laundry list of requisites: a light hand spanking, only the on the cheeks, you can pull my panties down just below my bottom—don't take them off! And no marks. He proceeded, once we got going, to disregard all of the above, one by one.

When I'm in a scene, the agreed upon "reality" is sacrosanct to me. I will do just about anything to avoid breaking character. Most of his antics I basically put up with. He spanked my thighs (and, I might add, left clear imprints of his hand that lasted for days), he wound up using some of my paddles toward the end (against my expressed preference), his hand even tried to roam into a very ungentlemanly invasion of my private parts... and unbeknownst to him, he almost earned himself a swift uppercut to the chin had he not taken my hint when I squirmed out of reach. But when Ollie tried to take off my panties I put my foot down, broke character, and ended the session!

I have developed a strong professional ethic about my sessions, and therefore adopted a calm and cordial demeanor when finally stopping our little duel. I chatted with him for a few minutes as I tidied up the room. I smiled as I sent him out the door. He had no idea that I was feeling homicidal toward him all the while! I was furious at him for years after that. We ultimately became friends again, but it did take me a very long time and a lot of persuasion before I would take his calls again. Once you breach the trust of your *Bottom*, your relationship is distinctly altered. It's much easier to earn her trust through communication and keeping your promises than it is to try to regain it once you've disregarded your mutual pact.

As mentioned earlier, a good *Top* is not afraid to take charge, but more than that, she knows how command authority without being abusive. This comes through confidence, and confidence usually comes from experience. When you're beginning, you may have a bit of hesitancy. Maybe because you're not sure how you're coming across and don't want look like an idiot. Maybe because you don't want to hurt your partner and are frequently distracting yourself by second-guessing what you're doing with her.

Don't worry about it. If you're a newbie, this is where the preliminary pow-wow and the subsequent *debriefing* come in. While you're playing, be safe, but have fun doing what you're doing. If you have any doubts, let them go and evaluate later if you wish. As long as you've determined what your *Bottom's*

limits and objectives are and keep them in mind, you should just feel free within that context to take over. Order her around, send her to stand in the corner or wash her mouth out with soap if she sasses you back (if you've pre-negotiated this). Put her in her place and make clear what the consequences of disobedience will be. If she violates this, it's your job to deliver swift and stern punishment. In the imaginary land of spankology: *Discipline is Love*.

Sidebar: For those of you who are concerned about being marked or bruised, if you are taking aspirin, Ibuprofen, or many blood pressure medications this can cause you to bruise more easily. So if such medications are not medically necessary, stop taking them several days before a spanking session to help avoid marking.

- SWITCHES -

What if you find you like both sides of the equation? If you're someone who believes it is *as blessed to give as to receive*, then you may want to find a partner who likes the same. We call you "versatile" sorts *Switches*, for obvious reasons. If you play with a *Switch* he/she will usually know to a good extent what it is you're looking for from the outset. Since they have intimate knowledge of both sides you can skip a lot of the trial and error prelims. The odds are lower that you'll find such a person, but it happens.

Many people who switch have one side that is more prominent in them than the other. Maybe they crave a good spanking once or twice a year, but when they want to play regularly, they like to *Top*. And vice versa. Very few hard-core *Bottoms* I've met have a real thirst for being a *Top*. I've met a greater number of serious Dominants who simply need to turn the tables on themselves and just let go and be putty in someone else's capable hands on a quasi-regular basis.

If you're a really social type, being a *Switch* puts you in a situation where you can seek out and enjoy playing with lots of different people since you can rise to any occasion! Some *Switches* also find that they crave one thing for a while and then lose interest completely, only to desire the opposite for a long while. I even met a very submissive *Bottom* who, one day, just didn't have the urge anymore for any of it again. Will the urge ambush him one day when he's walking by a sporting goods store and sees a display of ping pong paddles in the window?

Maybe. Who knows?

I was never a *Switch*. I like to *Top* and I do not enjoy *Bottoming*. But when I was in a relationship with a guy who was a *Switch*, while I didn't especially like taking the spankings I let him give me, I got very turned on by what I noticed it was *doing* to him to give them to me, and *that* did turn me on. A lot! And the ensuing consequences of that were quite enjoyable. So... as I always say, it's good to keep an open mind.

- WARDROBE -

I have often been asked by amateur players if they should be wearing spanking outfits. My answer has always been that the most important component of any scene isn't wardrobe, setting, or even the collection of implements they have. It's that organ between their ears. You can wear a burlap sack, but if you command authority no sub will dare cross you (or you'll give them reason to regret it, won't you?). That being said, wardrobe can add a layer of drama, which can excite your scenes.

One thing about dressing the part, it tends to put you in another frame of mind. If you're playing the role of a strict school headmistress and your husband is your naughty school boy, wearing a straight black skirt, a starched white blouse and a pair of plain black pumps sends a different kind of message to your partner than wearing everyday clothes and just acting the part. I used to have an acting teacher who told us to wear someone else's shoes when doing our practice scenes in class. This one small detail had a surprisingly big effect. The subtle strangeness your body senses when you're outside your normal (sartorial) element influences how you feel.

So, dressing up for play time can definitely help you shed your normal selves for a while. If Jim wears a pair of shorts and knee socks, penny loafers, short sleeved oxford shirt and bow tie, simulating a school uniform, he will start to feel more like a young school boy when his partner Josie stands over him, hands on hips, tapping her foot. At the very least it will make him feel awkward, which is an appropriate emotion for an adolescent boy. And a sub.

If hubby is used to seeing you in your sneakers and bike shorts, or jeans, and one

night he comes home and you're wearing an equestrian riding habit, with a riding crop in your hand, he will tend to pay attention! Maybe you're even wearing your eyeglasses to add to your no-nonsense air. He will have an immediate visceral reaction to you. My guess is he'll figure he must be in some hot water!

You can even take costume play a lot further. I've heard women say they fantasize about being pulled over by a handsome police officer, arrested and spanked. Or an army officer. Buying or renting a police uniform can really up the excitement. We have all been culturally programmed to accord a modicum of seriousness and respect to people in uniform. Military spanking scenes can be fun, since nowadays both parties can be in uniform. You decide who's the lowly private and who's the superior officer. I think you can use your imagination to feel how this adds extra emotional juice to your games.

For some, costume play can be a turn off. Certain people find any kind of artifice a distraction. It accentuates the artificiality of the scenario and adds a feeling of self-consciousness. So, before you decide to go to the costume rental store and blow a hundred dollars on the regalia of Attila the Hun to give your partner a special treat, make sure you know her personality and her preferences, or you could end up feeling silly greeting the pizza delivery guy at the door in your armor after she's given a hearty thumbs down to your big surprise. You may have made the pizza guy's day though, and maybe he gives you some extra cheesy bread just for the laugh. So there's that.

Costumes can be an extra pain the neck if every time you play it has to be a big production getting yourself all kitted up. So you might want to save that for certain occasions, like a novelty, and just be spontaneous the rest of the time. Spanking should always be an enhancement to fun and intimacy, not a chore. This is just another tool in your toolbox.

CHAPTER 4

Finding a Partner

We've explored *topping* and *bottoming*, the different ways to play at spanking scenes, and some ideas for finding likeminded enthusiasts. Now what? Now you need to find the right partner. Some of you might want to start slow and test the waters, hunting for "the best fit" for your personality and interests. Others might want to jump in head first and sample as many experiences as you can and sorting it all out later. If you are already in a relationship and you (a) don't know how to approach your partner so they are receptive about participating or (b) know your significant other has no interest in joining you in spanking games, this will be addressed in greater detail later. Meanwhile, here are some ideas for how to embark on your first (or next) adventure.

For the more conservative newbies, there are a multitude of online clubs, websites and chat boards where you can be a lookie-loo for a while. You can then move to take a more active role, asking questions of other participants, possibly even inspiring a dialogue among many of the online denizens. Much can be discovered as various people and their viewpoints are exposed. It may relieve some of your own self-consciousness when you find that others share many of your questions or concerns. Eventually you'll become ready to narrow down your objectives and you can start sorting for someone to meet with. You may even be someone who likes to travel outside your home turf, so there's less chance of running into anyone you know. The internet can certainly provide ample opportunities for that.

Shadow Lane is a club in Las Vegas for people who enjoy all manner of spanking play. They welcome all interested parties, experienced or not. (www.shadowlane.com) I have found the people affiliated with Shadow Lane to be very gracious in fielding questions and making recommendations. They are well-known for hosting parties and social events and, from what I'm told from those who attend, it's an easy, relaxed environment where you can come and play or watch and learn. Many who attend seem to make some good contacts and, often, long-term friendships. They also sell videos and offer a newsletter subscription, both of which are excellent ways to find your footing, share with

likeminded players, and get ideas for scenarios. Eve Howard, its founder, has authored books of spanking fiction and still conducts spanking sessions.

“Cody’s Rocky Mountain Spanking Blog” website at www.coloradospankers.com is a great resource for subject matter, networking, photos, blog posts, and parties for those in that location. And even if you’re not, the site is full of fun tidbits.

NuWest/Leda is another well-known website with female-centric content, either females dominating or being punished or dominated. They have an enormous video catalogue. I haven’t sampled many, but from what I have viewed, their scenes are not fabricated; they are very real. Real people *really* being punished... hard! They also deal with whippings if you happen to be attracted to that as well. I used to know someone who owned hundreds of their videos. This is where I discovered that they’ve been filming OTK spankings, punishment canings, and other similar corporal scenes for decades. If any of these remain on the website’s catalogue, don’t dismiss them because they sound dated. Regardless of the bad hair-do’s and fashions, a squirming, stinging sore, well-spanked bare bottom is always in style! Leda/NuWest’s spanking recipients take quite a whalloping. (www.nu-west/leda.com) There is contact information there in case you have questions and a subscription oriented members section where enthusiasts can post comments. I have also found Ed Lee, the site’s creator, to be willing to answer questions regarding the website’s content.

My Number One favorite website for kinky networking is www.maxfisch.com. Max Fisch’s website is a massive compendium of BDSM and corporal enthusiasts of all ilks. The majority of the members lean toward the fetish-y side of things but don’t let that discourage you. This is the premiere website for kink lovers and anyone who is a serious player will probably know about it. Your likelihood to either make a connection or get advice that could point you in the right direction is very high, if you are patient. There is a chat board called “The Hang” with hundreds of threads you can read, add to, or track. You can post a thread asking a question of the readers and almost invariably you’ll get several well-meaning replies. You can also register for an account, which allows you to receive Private Messages, or PMs, from members. That way you can contact members with interesting posts in a more private manner instead of joining the thread. It’s also fun to start your own thread and see what kind of discussion you can rouse among the denizens. You never know what you might find out.

Max himself is an approachable gentleman who takes great care to keep the

online community civil and egalitarian for the most part, although any site that is open to all can attract its share of eccentrics. I have found these to be minimal here though. Another useful aspect of this website is the Reviews forum, which you can access through ‘The Hang’, as well.

If you want to session with a professional, you can search for a particular Pro-Spanker in your (or any other) locale and read lots of honest comments by people who have sessioned with them. Keep in mind that nobody can please everyone, so if you read a bad review or two it’s not necessarily reason to discount someone. Do a little more homework and maybe even contact the reviewer to find out more.

If your preference is to find likeminded people who are open to dating and other such longer term involvements, there are quite a few social websites for kinksters. Most are private and anonymous. I have never tried any of these but it could be a fun experiment. www.alt.com is one; www.pandemos.net is a femdomme directory essentially focused on dominant women. Danni, the website’s administrator has proven to be attentive and helpful, responding to questions in a timely manner. He offers diverse content, options for online chatting, and entertainment. This site is not spanking specific, but includes a wide variety of BDSM content. Another social networking site for BDSM and spanking enthusiasts is www.fetlife.com. I have very little experience with this one, but have known people who found playmates and even relationships by posting a profile there. It’s actually like a ‘Facebook’ for fetishists.

Another way to meet people is through social meet-up groups and organizations. The Eulenspiegel Society (pronounced “oil-en-speegle”) in New York City (or TES, as they’re known by those in the scene) is one such group. It was founded 1971 as a support, social and educational organization for people interested in BDSM and other non-mainstream sexual practices. Eulenspiegel holds demonstrations and classes, as well as sponsoring parties. They have quite a diverse and extensive monthly activity calendar, which can be viewed on their website at www.tes.org. My experience with the people there has been embracing and positive. If you happen to be a novice, you may find some of their classes to be helpful. Maybe you’d like to bring a likeminded friend. This could be a good icebreaker.

When seeking out online social networking, I would caution you about one of the most well-known venues, Craigslist.com. Many years ago I frequently used

CL to make connections, and while I did manage to meet quite a few nice people, I found more than my share of unsavory types. CL doesn't really monitor the personal ads sections of their site (or didn't when I participated) and because its membership is so vast it can be kind of a grab bag. With such a huge membership, it's hard to filter for the kind of people you hope to meet: sane and safe.

When making contacts via this venue, I set very stringent screening protocols for myself and never deviated from them. You should always do your due diligence no matter how you meet potential play partners. Even in the personal sections of CL, and most other such websites, you will find sex trade professionals and possibly even illicit purveyors posing as private people seeking discreet meetings or "romance". If you advance to arranging a meeting with someone, here or anywhere else, I recommend you make sure to get a real name and real phone number before you do so. It's one thing to meet in a public place first to get a sense of someone, but trust me when I tell you, people are always on their best behavior *before* they get you where they want you. Just because someone seems "nice" is no guarantee that you can trust them when you're alone with them. An ounce of prevention is worth a *ton* of cure.

If you're playing with a stranger for the first time, it's never a bad idea to let a trusted confidante know what you're doing and where you're going to be. You may even want to bring a friend with you, to wait outside or in the next room. At the very least arrange a *safe call*. That's when you have a friend who is expecting to get a phone call from you after your scene is over and you are heading home, or are about to depart. You give that person instructions that if they don't hear from you by a specific time, that they first try to reach you, and failing that they send help... or, if necessary, call the police. This might be advisable when not on your home turf, e.g., if you are meeting up with a strange man at his place, or at a hotel. It can be a great comfort, if you find that you have met someone you are starting to have concerns about, to be able tell him/her that there is a friend who knows where you are and who is expecting your *safe call* at a particular time. Ultimately, these precautions are up to you but I do recommend an ounce of prevention, at least until you log some mileage in this domain and develop your "radar" a bit more accurately. Actually, I'd recommend it, even then.

Finally, you might decide you want to go the Professional Spanker route. This is a great way for beginners to get started. Regardless of whether you're a newbie

or an experienced spanko, if you do your homework, it's highly likely you will find a partner who can tune in on what it is you want. A true spanking professional will undoubtedly also have lots of their own ideas and be able to surprise you and keep you on your toes.

Just like with finding a play partner privately, you should do some research. If you live in a major metropolitan area there will be a reasonable number of providers to choose from, though I have been informed by countless clients, it's much harder to find someone dedicated strictly to the art of old-fashioned corporal discipline than it is to find a dominatrix. So, when you find a lady who appears knowledgeable, you should probably take that route, rather to trust the sales pitch of a Jill of All Trades (a dominatrix who claims to be an expert on spanking). Some Dommies can do both however, and the only way to hedge your bets is to ask the right questions as we discussed earlier.

Use your instincts. You can tell when someone is trying to sell you as opposed to when they are genuinely enthusiastic about what they do. It's your time and money, and in most cases the money is no small sum. You might as well select your spanker with the same thoroughness you would use to find a good doctor. (It's harder to find referrals but, again, maxfisch.com does have that handy "Reviews Form"!)

Here's a few ideas. Ask the lady in question to describe some of the things she has done in spanking sessions. You have to be careful here. Savvy Dommies have had innumerable encounters with men who just want to get some free phone entertainment by enticing the women to give graphic examples of their work in the guise of due diligence. If you encounter apprehension in a nasty way, it's better to just move on. If you hear reticence from someone you have a good feeling about, you can always offer to send her a "tribute" (\$25 – \$50 should be an acceptable gesture, depending the time she will invest) as a sign of your good intentions, in order for her to properly convince you that she can fulfill your needs. (You can even use PayPal.com, which enables you to send money instantaneously while you chat on the phone.)

You could also ask her what implements she has. Ask her what her spanking specialty(s) is. If she can rattle off a few roleplays off the cuff with correct terminology, chances are she's for real. You don't want to end up with some 20-year-old ex-waitress. Just because she has a straight skirt, a white blouse, and hairbrush it doesn't necessarily make her a competent Pro-Disciplinarian. Nor

do you want to walk in to her lair and find her dressed in a leather cat suit and start treating you as a slave regardless of what you requested. Someone who doesn't know what they're doing can do more than just leave with you bruises that require you to back in and out of your boudoir when your significant other is around... they can inflict physical harm. Do your homework or your lessons will be learned through trial and error more often than necessary. This can get expensive.

Here's one more possibility: *Dominant Directory International* has been publishing their very high end Domme catalogue for years. It comes out two or three times a year and they have a high standard for the professionals who advertise there. You will not only find well-known professional dominants of all ilks on their pages, but the ads you peruse will be nicely composed with high level aesthetics. You can subscribe to their web magazine (www.ddimag.com) if you aren't quite in the position to receive this kind thing in your mailbox at home. The publishers are not only very professional, but they are good people and their publication/website are well worth looking into.

If you happen to be in the New York tri-state area, Margaret Davis' group, SCONY (Spanking Club of NY), is a trustworthy organization to investigate. For those who don't live in New York, it's possible that if you contact their website they may be a resource for other similar clubs elsewhere. (www.scony.com) This is also an excellent educational website like others previously mentioned with forums and articles available. [\[1\]](#)

Just use your imagination and be cautious, patient, and persistent. You'll find the appropriate course of action. Be curious. Have fun. Explore. This is one of the most exciting and delightful parts of your journey. This is where you get to draw the map. What kind of play do you envision? What qualities do you want in a partner? If you're a *Top* do you want your partner to enjoy being a naughty brat? Do you want him/her to be nervous and compliant or sassy, mischievous and challenging? If you're a *Bottom*, are you looking for a Daddy type to scold you and take you back to that moment in your own childhood... or someone with whom you can conjure and create your own original fantasies? Should she be a shrewd, assertive woman who can call you on the carpet for poor job performance, or your chauvinistic bad habits in the workplace? Do you want someone with common interests with whom you can develop a long term friendship... and possibly beyond, or do you want to keep things spanking specific and compartmentalized... so that whenever you meet this person you

are instantly transported into your respective roles?

You can make it up any way you wish. It's your fantasy, and there's bound to be someone who's searching for the counterpart for *their* imaginings: You! Now you have plenty of food for thought. What are you waiting for? Get *crackin'*.

CHAPTER 5

Okay, you've figured out what kind of games you want to play and you've found yourself a play friend or two. What are the possibilities once you decide to put your ass on the line... or your partners?! Let's address the newbies first. Later I'll recommend some resources where you can find stories and get ideas for scenes, whether you're new at this or a salty veteran.

Lonely at the Top

You eye your willing “victim” standing across the room, a look of foreboding in their eyes. If this is your first time topping you might be asking yourself, “Why do I feel as nervous as my naughty brat staring up at me right now?” Maybe not. Maybe you’ve been imagining the moment with such strong anticipation, when you finally get to enact that little movie you’ve been projecting in your head for so long all you feel is eagerness. If so, then remember your pre-negotiated boundaries and have at it!

I remember my first time. Regardless of what I’m doing, I always feel a strong sense of responsibility to the others involved and this was no exception. I cared very much about giving my partner an engaging experience. I was full of nerves and mental debating as I had no reference point. I was worried that my enthusiasm for getting started would be mistaken for the glee of some sadistic maniac. I didn’t know how to reassure them of their safety without breaking character. All these and many other thoughts were going through my head. This may happen to you.

Relax. You’ve already gone through the communication process, so you know what your partner wants and he/she knows you were a concerned listener. You know his/her apprehensions and concerns. You’ve established clear parameters for the things you will and will not be including for this first encounter (and possibly for all of them). You know exactly how far you can go. You know what implements are involved. You know how many strokes to start with, have a basic sense of how fast you should escalate, and, if negotiated, the safety word or signal your partner will give you if he/she gets too uncomfortable or fearful to carry on with the scene. (Note: you can decide to use incremental safe words, also. The first one means *back off a little*. The other one means that means *stop the scene immediately, we’re done*. This way, as you’re learning about your partner, she can clue you in on what she can handle while in *real time*, but you don’t have to interrupt the scene.)

At any rate, if you’ve prepared for this moment properly, you have a very good

idea of what's expected of you. Your partner has gained a feeling of trust that you've heard her and will not take her beyond her limits. Regarding "limits", my personal position is that it is okay to add a couple extra whacks at the point of reaching your partner's threshold... just so he/she knows that *you* are the one in control, not her/him. But don't go much beyond that point, unless you discuss this afterwards and your partner agrees that he can handle more than he originally thought.

Pushing limits is a part of the corporal discipline experience, but it's a fine line between bringing someone's threshold up appropriately, and startling their ass right out of the scene. These are things you only learn through experience but you have to tread carefully. It's one of the most fun parts of the process, seeing how your little "improvisations" are responded to and tapering up and down accordingly. The rise and fall of intensity is an important element of spanking play. It often changes, even within the same partner, from one session to the next. It's your job to always pay attention. This is one of the most delicious aspects for the *Bottom*. Being the center of attention, and being taken care of by putting their fate in your hands and letting you make the appropriate choices. This their *raison d'être*. You take care of them by paying attention and respecting their sensibilities. You presumably want the option of playing with this person again. Nothing will ensure that better than when they know they can trust you to know their needs. Once you do, then it's time for you take control.

After your *Bottom* has communicated his conditions and you're clear about them, it's your show. Within those expressed parameters, you get to do whatever you deem "necessary". Let's say you are the school principal meeting a repeat offender in your office. You let him in, sternly command him to sit on the punishment stool and stay put until given permission to move. You then leave the room... and let him stew. Now he gets to wonder what's forthcoming. How much, if any, wiggle room will he have to mitigate your mandates? How hard will your strokes be? Should he be compliant, or see how far he can push? Will it really hurt or will it hurt "just right" like his fantasies? Etc., etc. Let him stew for five or even ten minutes if you want to. Longer than that will start to erode the anxiety and nudge it toward boredom. If you happen to have hardwood floors, it's fun to walk past the closed door with slow deliberate steps, so he can hear you approach and then retreat, wondering if this is the moment it will all begin... or not.

When you enter, you get to confront your perpetrator with his crimes. If he gets

uppity you can move in, raise your voice and inform him that this is not a debate. He's been summoned because he's to be punished. You are merely offering him the courtesy to know why. If he sasses you back you might feel the need to drag him to the bathroom and wash his mouth out with soap (as long as you've broached this possibility during negotiations). If he's compliant, nervous, and trepidacious instead, well, isn't that delicious?! Many *Bottoms* love the threats and descriptions of what's ahead for them. The rising dread is part of the attraction. So, if you enjoy reading them the riot act, knock yourself out. Use anticipation to lead them into believing you're about to end your tirade and make them face the music... but then walk away, while they count their escalating heartbeats for a few more minutes.

The time comes. You take a seat in a straight-backed chair. You give him a piercing look and demand him to stand, march himself to your side and you pop open the buckle on his belt, slipping it from its loops. Maybe you double it over and snap it a time a two, announcing that it just may come in handy very soon, as you pull down his trousers. While he's picturing the reality of your threat, you grab his forearm and jerk him over your lap. There he is, exposed but for the protection of his thin cotton knickers, bracing for that first blow. Maybe you rub his bottom gently for a few moments, or maybe you don't want him to feel comforted, just concerned. But the moment is here. He feels your legs shift and he knows you're raising your arm high. He tenses. You bring your hand down (as forcefully as you've discussed previous to your scene-play) and whack-whack-whack! He starts to squirm. If you're so inclined, you can continue with the recriminations as you proceed, or you might just want the crack of your strokes to echo dryly... the only thing that breaks the stark stillness of the room. You'll find your own style. You'll learn what effect any given choice has on your partner as you put on your ESPN jackets and have your post-game recap later on. In the moment, however, you can just go with your impulses. Leave the fine tuning for the next session.

Here's another fan favorite: You can announce the number of strokes they can expect during each bout (from six to sixty-plus, depending on mutual preferences), telling him to count each one aloud clearly, admonishing that if he counts incorrectly or inaudibly you will start over back at number one until he pays attention and gets it right. You may prefer the element of suspense, not wishing to let your partner know exactly what they're in store for, left to wonder "When is this going to stop? How many more strokes? Will I be able to bear it?" Etc., etc. You're in charge now. Go with your instincts and see what

happens. Soon you will be pulling down his underpants. You can either threaten first, building the dread, or abruptly expose his vulnerable “target area” and resume. Just remember to watch your partner carefully during and in between bouts of spanks, so you know whether he/she is keeping up with you, or whether you need to temper things a bit. Sending someone to stand in the corner is a great tactic to let your partner catch his breath... and stretch his back and legs, if he’s just enjoyed a rather long stay over your knee.

From here, you use your knowledge of your partner’s limits and desires to take things where you want them to go. The goal from here is to get them to the point where they are earnestly indicating they are truly sorry for their poor behavior. I’ve found when someone actually reaches or nears their threshold, they automatically start apologizing, and not the apologies of a bratty child trying to escape their comeuppance, but a very passionate entreaty to be set free of the pain and embarrassment they’ve been enduring. If you pay attention, you’ll observe this phenomenon, too and be able to discern the difference between sincerity and manipulation. But, until you do, or until you become attuned to your partner’s responses, you can ask for cues. You can give his puffy, red cheeks a pinch and see if he jumps, showing serious tenderness. Command him to take a seat on a hard surface and watch for a flinch or grimace. Once you feel you’ve gotten your message across, you can start dropping hints that you might be willing to believe it’s time to bring this to an end. If your victim still has the gumption to get sassy, you know you’re not done yet. If you find him cooperative and compliant, you should probably assume he’s reached his limits and either allow him to pull up his pants... or announce that you’ll be giving him his last X-number of spanks and if he behaves and takes them obediently then his punishment will be over. Again, if he acts up, you’ll then know he hasn’t reached his limits yet.

This is a very generalized sketch of how a spanking session can be approached. Of course there’s a virtually unlimited number of possible character roles and scenarios. You also might be of the type who’d rather not bother with an elaborate plot outline. These choices are yours alone. The point is, as the dominant partner, you can confidently take the lead. Your *Bottom*’s only desire is turn control over to you (even, possibly, in spite of her objections and resistance) and be a victim of circumstance as you command, position, and mete out punishment. That’s what they want you to do! As long as you’ve taken time to talk and really listen to your partner in the preliminary phase, you have nothing to feel nervous or self-conscious about. If you escalate gradually and

watch their reactions, almost anything you do will work. And fear not, if you need more of a jump start, in future chapters I shall offer up samples of role play scenes.

- THE BOTTOM OF THINGS -

Not everyone likes to start at the top. So let's now look at things from the opposite standpoint: that of the *spankee*. These folks (and you know who you are by now!), are as varied in tone and style as their dominant counterparts. Some are self-conscious and would rather not even be pressed to verbalize their thoughts or feelings. Some want to be prodded and egged on so they can blurt out things they might not normally say... because that will surely end up getting them into even deeper hot water.

You may recognize your own flavor or find that you're a combination of types. Whatever the case, you're allowed to act... or act up, in any manner you choose. Just remember you will have to take the consequences! An uppity *Bottom* can end up getting her face slapped or her mouth washed out with soap. But, she can also be a great sport for her *Top* to react off of, goading and pressing him. So express yourself however you wish. Try different styles each time you play. Maybe you'll find your definitive manner or maybe you'll prefer to take on many roles. You should have discussed this type of thing in your preliminary chats with your partner and the two of you have presumably come to some mutual agreement regarding approach. You could agree to face one another cold, and find out what you'll be up against when you're face to face. These are only a few possible strategies.

The shy *Bottom* will be inclined to hold back, talk tentatively and almost inaudibly, and have to be coaxed to respond to any accusations or questions. This hesitance is great ammunition for your *Top* to issue more threats, get in your face, send you to the corner or begin many other escalation tactics. Also, some people want to be scolded, threatened and ultimately have their backside stung with hard paddle, but they're just too awkward to be very interactive. If you find yourself feeling like this, one way to get yourself off the spot (more like out of the frying pan, into the fire) is to balk, back away, look away, and just downright refuse to respond, forcing your partner to take a more aggressive stand. Trust me, if you hold out long enough, you're going to get jostled or

hollered at or simply jerked over your disciplinarian's lap to be swatted enthusiastically until a reaction of some kind just spills out of you. It may be in the form of an "I'm sorry! I'm sorry!" It may be the involuntary kicking and squirming of your thighs under his flurry of smacks to your rear end. Maybe, to your surprise, it comes in the form of tears. But if you can't or won't be forthcoming with answers or replies at first, once someone looms over you and barks out a loud, aggressive scolding... or bends you over, pins you down and lays into your tender netherparts non-stop for half a minute straight, you'll lose your shyness right quick and you won't even have to think about it. For a reluctant *Bottom* this is a great relief. To have no say in the matter, no time to be self-conscious. Just to be pressed into opening up and simply responding. For all you dominant partners though, be sure you've talked about this first, before assuming the quietness of your naughty girl is a signal to get physical. There are exceptions to every rule.

Alternately, if you're an *uppity bottom*, you may like to sass back at your teacher, father, gym coach at every turn. I always find a bratty playmate extra good fun. It really gets my dander up when the one I'm scolding defies me. I have many ways to get an uppity brat's attention and make him sorry he's apparently taken my threats so lightly. But enough about me. Let's consider the previous scenario, only from the standpoint of the *Bottom*.

You've been called to the principal's office. You're nervous. You've, of course, already had the talk with your partner and you've made your preferences clear. But in this moment you're sure of nothing. You've anticipated just such an encounter for who knows how long; imagined it so many different ways, but now you're really about to face a real person with a will of his own; an authority figure who's going to hold you accountable for some undesired actions and you don't know for sure exactly what he's going to do about that. As I always told clients, this is the best part, right before our first session, these nerves you feel right now... savor them.

Once we play together and the particular dynamic we uniquely create is revealed, *you* will never have this same suspense, mystery and heightened sensitivity ever again. There will always be mystery and suspense before a scene. But the distinction the first time has, compared any time to follow, is that with any given play partner, your first moments are full of the unknown. This person here before you is, for all purposes, a stranger. You cannot be quite sure of what they are capable and how far they could go.

Once you've finished that first encounter, no matter how good your *Top* is, this enervating mystery is gone. It's replaced by a certain familiarity and the first sprouts of trust. The irrational prickling spark of doubt about your safety has now been eradicated. Even though safety is your objective, and you've done all you could do to verify this, you wouldn't be human if, faced with the hard surfaces of their spanking arsenal, you didn't at least worry a bit... or a lot! Everyone has that moment of asking himself, "What am I getting myself into?" And it's that very doubt that infuses this first encounter with electricity. It puts you irrevocably in the moment and heightens your every sense. Any experienced spanko will validate the exquisite nature of this instant. It will never be quite like this again with *this* partner... it will be other ways, all kinds of great ways that come from the knowing you share with one another... but *this* particular moment will never come again. So embrace it! Be afraid... be very afraid. And savor it. You'll be very glad you didn't let it pass you by.

But, back to our scene. You arrive at your Principal's "office" and fidget nervously as a dozen opposing thoughts collide in your mind. If you're lucky, you'll be so nervous you'll think you might jump out of your skin. Finally, you enter. He stares down at you with a humorless glower. Wow! It's really happening. The joy of being the *Bottom* is that you don't have to figure out what do. You will be summarily notified. "Come in... Sit down... Wait here... Go over there..." and similar barks will situate you from moment to moment. If it's your bent, you can always refuse or do something contrary just so he knows he's not the boss. You will undoubtedly soon find out you are mistaken, but it will definitely stir the pot... if you can deal with the consequences. Otherwise, you could be wise to do as you're told. Regardless of what temperament you decide to display, all roads lead to Rome and you're *going* to find yourself on the other side of the business end of stinging hand, paddle, strap or cane before too long. It's your *Top's* job to be paying attention to your breathing, the tone of your voice, the tension in your muscles... especially the gluteus maximus! He will be pushing you and then taking a breath to note your reactions to see how his actions have affected you, thus cuing him as to how to orchestrate his next maneuver. Discipline play is a dance. Both of you have to be sensitive to the other. In time you'll move into a rhythm. Nature will take its course.

As a *Top* the lesson is learning the fine line between *monitoring* your partner: watching and evaluating—in short, thinking—and the *intuition* that emerges as you flow into the exchange of action/reaction. There's no substitute for experience, and the more you play with a given person, the more second nature

these instincts become. It's also true that the more you play in general, the more you develop the concurrent instincts that guide you with any partner in this game.

The challenge of the *Bottom* is to relax, especially physically; just being in his body. Turning his mind off, following his authority figure's lead and simply *feeling*. That's what drove to you seek this experience, but your mind will fight to resist the pain. Usually, at a certain point, you'll simply give up fighting and just let it happen as it does. That's the point at which most *Bottoms* go into a kind of altered state and what was once pain is now something else. It may not happen on your first attempt at play, but if you truly love being spanked, you will be called back to it again and again, and you will one day know this feeling.

The descriptions here are very general. You may not find yourself fitting in to the ones presented so far. Later on we'll take a look at different playing styles. But now I think it's time to start exploring some of the nuts and bolts of spanking.

- MARKS -

Since we all have to abide within the laws of nature, no spanking manual would be complete without acknowledging and addressing the issue of bruises and marks. These can and do occur even when people are experienced and careful. You need to do some preliminary thinking about where you stand with respect to possible physiological after effects of a spanking, especially if you are on the receiving end. This is where things get very real.

If you're in a vanilla relationship and you crave long, severe spankings, and if you choose to keep your mate out of the loop regarding your spanking liaisons, you may not be able to come home from a session with your rear end all black and blue. Many people find those post-spanking "decorations" a sheer delight. It allows them to relive their experience for days after. Even if you are one such pain monkey, you must temper your penchant with practicality.

At least one spanking partner needs to be responsible for the marks policy. This is to say, the *Bottom* needs to be very honest with himself, and if telltale bruises will create problems in his primary relationship they should be avoided. The one

caveat might be that this spankee could possibly arrange his corporal session on a date when wifey is out of town, allowing for a long enough interval that his hind quarters will return to their normal, pristine state by the time she gets back. If not, then he needs to be responsible for alerting his Top to be attentive and avoid marking him. There are suggestions for mitigating bruises further in this chapter but nothing is foolproof. At some point in an intense, severe corporal scene, a choice must often be made: Should the spanker back off and risk giving his pain-loving partner a spanking that may not push her threshold as far as she'd like, in deference to avoid causing bruises, or has this spankee made the determination that she is willing to do whatever compensating she needs to afterwards in order to receive the intense spanking she craves?

You need to discuss this *before* you start your scene. In the heat of the moment all card-carrying masochistic Bottoms are likely to want to throw caution to the wind and push their limits to the max. Since they will be in an altered state, to a greater or lesser degree, by the time they reach the point where this determination must be made, Bottoms can't be counted on to choose responsibly in the moment. Bottoms, you need to assess your personal lifestyle and perceive the repercussions of your actions in advance. Is it worth it to jeopardize your primary relationship just because you crave ratcheting up your session from a level 8 to a level 10? Is it worth showing your spouse that kind of disrespect? Especially if you're lucky enough to have a vanilla spouse who allows you a "Don't ask, Don't tell" policy regarding this little "hobby" of yours. The emotional and physiological drive to get a spanking are often extremely compelling. Make no mistake. After you've scratched your itch, reality *will* come seeping back in and you *will* have to deal with its consequences. Consider them thoughtfully *before* the fact. And set some rules. For your spanking partner, yes, but mainly for yourself and your own well-being.

If you go too far too fast you could raise blisters and welts that will very soon cause skin to break and bleed. If you continue aggressively beyond this point, there could be scarring. Moreover, if you're a beginner at topping it's likely your aim has not been perfected. You don't know exactly where your strokes will land. You have no accurate sense of the degree of impact you're imparting. You haven't the experience to know how many times you can strike an area with a particular implement, with what intensity and frequency, before you veer into dangerous territory. Another consideration is that each pair of pristine buttocks are unique. If you haven't played with this set of bare cheeks before, no matter how experienced you are, this must be a fact finding mission. Proceed slowly

and pay attention. Take your cues as to how and when to escalate from how the skin reacts. And don't be hasty. It can take five or ten minutes (sometimes a longer) to see the actual effects of your handiwork.

- TO MARK OR NOT TO MARK -

Anti-Marks:

Let's say you weigh in on the no-marks side. How can you have fun and still avoid the trace evidence? The following are some practical suggestions that have proven effective in many instances. If you're a Top, always remember that you still need to be vigilant. As I said before, there's no such thing as foolproof.

1. Nothing does more to avoid bruising than a good warm-up. If you know you're going to be going at it for an extended period, you have plenty of time to include this. If everyone concerned agrees that this is ultimately going to be a vigorous spanking, start first with a hand spanking. If you're OTK (Over the Knee) fans, then start in that position. I generally do because it's more personal. It's a good way to establish your connection with your partner at the outset. But really, any position is fine. Just start slowly.
2. I suggest starting over the underwear. A few spanks at a moderate intensity with gradual increasing force and pace. Peek underneath periodically and see if the surface area reddens and, if so, how long it stays red. On sensitive tushies, I have seen the impression of my hand show up almost from the start; usually not till his bottom is bared but sometimes even over his knickers. This clearly indicates that I have to proceed with caution, as this person is likely to mark more easily. In this case you lighten your swat and/or lessen the number. When their hiney gets a uniform pinkness, lower the boom! Roll down those undies. I like to peel them down slowly to add dread and suspense.
3. Once bare, spank around the mound of each cheek so that you create a uniform pinkening of the whole target zone. Then build up a "base" from there by gradually spanking harder and faster, adding more swats per bouts of spanking. Start with one, two or three on each cheek. Then wait, or give your partner a soothing pat, or caresses, in between bouts. Then double it,

wait, and go again. Follow that with a flurry of lighter spanks (8 to 10, either back and forth, or 5 on one cheek then 5 on the other) being sure to cover the whole target area with spanks. As the pinkness brightens toward red (some never do) or seems to stay pink longer, you're getting close to the end of stage one. It becomes a matter of judgment as to when to escalate from here. Learn to sense your partner's level of tension or relaxation, their breathing, and of course whether they start to kick and scream. (If you know your partner likes to kick and act up, feel free to enjoy it and even egg them on with more spanks. Otherwise, de-escalate.) Now move on to a light paddle or strap. Since you can't really smack a behind at full force with a full swing when doing OTK, using a small paddle will be less impactful than if you stand them up or bend them over and whack them. Several whallops with stinging implements, after using only your hand, will recalibrate your partner's threshold, so when you embark on the serious punishment they're ready to go right along with you. Now it's up to you where you take things from here. Always proceed with caution. Deliver a small number of swats with paddle or strap and wait a minute to see if any telltail signs start to rise up. Men have thicker skin than women and most don't mark very easily. But I have met some big, swarthy types that have surprised me. Never assume, and don't get cocky.

4. Once things get going, and the derriere gets tender and you feel the blood coming to surface (you'll recognize this by a temporary hardening of surface skin) it can be helpful to go the kitchen and get a bowl of ice cubes. Ice does several things. Contracting the blood vessels with something cold can delay bruising for a surprisingly long time. You should repeat the application many times after segments of hard strapping, paddling or caning. With caning, you can even rescue a welted mis-stroke by putting pressure on it with an ice cube for 15 or 20 seconds every so often. It doesn't always work but it has rescued some iffy situations more times than I can count. Ice also distracts your spankee's mind from the soreness and stinging sensations of the spanking momentarily, tricking the brain, resetting the pain threshold, and often allowing the recipient to endure longer than they might have otherwise. Ice works wonders.

5. Here's a trick imparted to me by one of my former clients: when the target area looks pretty played out, try soaking a pair of "tighty whities" (jockey shorts) in water and putting them on your bad boy. (For the ladies, use a pair of cotton "Granny panties".) You can also use a spray bottle to

soak the under garment while on the body. Of course you'll have to have an extra pair of these on hand for your spank-mate to leave in, or request him/her to bring a spare (unless your guy doesn't mind "going commando" on the way home, in which case you can drench him in what he wore over there). The wetness of the fabric will convey the sting while still adding a layer of protection. This is especially good for caning and paddling.

6. If you spank using the "arcing" method it will make a nice crisp stinging sound, but will have a lesser impact than if you spank in a straight downward stroke. It's less likely to mark and may also be perfect for a Bottom who likes the drama more than she likes the pain. In this arcing method you use a flat palm and start by aiming for the lowest part of the buttocks, just above the thigh, swinging your hand in an arc moving upward toward the bottom of the cheek. You make contact with the very bottom of the cheek at the middle of the arc'd swing and continue up and back around and away from the buttocks.

7. If you spank with a cupped hand, it will make a louder more forceful sound, but it's actually less harsh than a hard, flat downward spank. The stroke also has a different sensation with a cupped hand than with a flat hand, so a hand spanking, which can become very repetitious, can be varied by alternating the cupped technique with the standard flat-handed technique.

8. Here is a *cheat* which comes in especially handy toward the end of a spanking, when the butt is getting pretty worn out... and maybe even approaching the point of marking. There is a way to really sting a naughty bottom without having to hit it very hard. Just moisten it. Drip water over it. Or you can just use an ice cube. Body heat will do the melting and you'll have a nice wet target zone. Then proceed to "dry it off" by applying a flurry of brisk spanks with your hand or a very light paddle. It will definitely get your bad boy's attention! You can make a grown man squeal and squirm merely by whacking his rear with your hands if the surface is wet, but since you needn't swat very hard to make it sting, you don't have to worry about bruising.

As with any technique, if you've never tried these things, experiment judiciously, checking the incremental results. You'll get better at gauging your methods with observation and practice.

Pro Marks:

There's far less to talk about here. If marks are desired, it's essentially a matter of playing till they show up, one way or the other.

If a Bottom is not possessed of a high pain threshold, however, and still would like to have some black and blue marks to savor the next day, here are a few ideas:

1. Use a hard blunt implement. A wooden hairbrush, especially those made of oak or other hard woods, can inflict bruises. This is best accomplished by foregoing a warm-up. But, even after a warm-up, if you swat the same spot again and again with the hairbrush, it's more likely to leave a mark. Thick dense wooden English school paddles (the kind that are about 1.5" to 2" wide and about 12" to 18" long) are good bets for leaving marks, also.
2. Bend your spankee over as far as possible. The more the skin and muscle on the buttocks are stretched the harder the impact, and the higher the likelihood you can bruise someone. One such posture is to order her to bend over and grab her ankles. Not everyone is limber enough for this but it puts your naughty miscreant in a very vulnerable state. Failing this, put them over a high stool or a spanking bench if you have one. Using the hard, wooden implements mentioned above will usually leave marks in these positions.
3. Use a cane. Canes are notoriously likely to leave welts. Even a cautious caning can stripe a derriere if not wielded by an adept and experienced spanker. If you cane your partner "cold" (right at the beginning with no warm-up) and use forceful strokes, it's highly likely you will welt his behind.

If your partner enjoys and encourages marks, it doesn't take a lot of imagination to make them happen. Just keep on playing. As the surface gets more tender, more blood rises and marks are inevitable on most people. However, I have played with a few "leather butts" as we used to call them. People who, no matter what you do to them, the blush on their cheeks miraculously vanishes within minutes and they never seem to bruise. It's rare you'll run into this type. If you do, feel free to spank away to you and your partner's heart's content, but as I will continue to remind you, pay attention and be responsible.

- AFTER-CARE -

Sometimes dominant partners can forget that even though their naughty brat was totally gung-ho for the stern correction they came for, an intense punishment can be quite draining. Many Bottoms are fine just pulling their pants up and getting back to business as usual... and, in truth, would feel awkward if you made a fuss over them. But others need a period of time to decompress. The emotional drive that attracts most spanking lovers to the scene is so compelling that few stop to regard the aftermath before they jump in. Neglecting this can set you up for a lot of awkwardness later on, especially if you've met your play partner via social networking venues.

Of course you will be good little Tops and Bottoms and do your pre-spank powwows, getting to know each other's preferences before you play. But, even if you do, you are still, at first, virtual strangers. Serious spankos get so pre-occupied with their strong need to get to the spanking itself, it can push most everything else out of their minds. Then, when the scene is done, they find themselves standing there with a stranger. That awkwardness can lead to fumbles and unnatural behaviors that can be alienating, and if you don't plan for this, you could risk polluting a potentially promising spanking relationship. For these reasons, talking at least a little bit about the post-spanking time period is especially important.

The spanking is done. You've just had a very intimate experience with someone. Whether you're virtual strangers or not, when it's over the tone shifts considerably and often abruptly. While even the person topping can find the shift awkward, the Bottom is particularly vulnerable. Not only may they have been hollered at, bossed around, and had their will subjugated (all consensually, of course) but their body goes through an intense series of changes during a spanking. Heart rate increases, skin flushes, muscles go through various levels of tension and release, breathing fluctuates... sometimes people even hold their breath. Our bodies have a separate intelligence that operates beneath our conscious awareness. If that were not the case, you'd have to keep telling your heart to beat and your lungs to receive and expel air.

Since most of physical activity is unconscious, we can dismiss certain profound states and transitions as practically non-existent. But our minds record everything and respond to it whether we know it or not. The event that the

spankee has just undergone shouldn't be casually dismissed afterwards, and the Bottom may be in no mental condition – endorphins do alter one's faculties temporarily – to know what she needs. Someone must be responsible for transitioning out of the scene appropriately.

There you are with a human being. They are raw and spent, with all sorts of chemical changes having been induced inside them physically. They don't know exactly what they're feeling. Probably lots of things. Exhaustion, slight euphoria, embarrassment. Who knows? Are you just going to send them on their way with a slap on the rear? I hope not. We all have different personalities. A warm hug and caring caress may comfort one and make someone else horribly uncomfortable. If you haven't talked about it, you're left groping for the right thing to do, and your cluelessness will usually end up feeling off-putting, even for you.

If your Bottom has scene'd before they can answer your questions about the post-spanking period. Just your inquiring about it beforehand, showing an interest in it, will go a long way toward making people want to play with you. It shows that you care about them, not just about getting them over your knee. You'll have a very eager and enthusiastic Bottom if you're thorough and make them feel safe. Hardly anyone ever bothers to talk about what happens once the spanking is over. If nothing else, this will make you look like a more competent player.

If you're dealing with a novice, and if spanking is really in her blood, the actual spanking may have become such a fixation that she'd never considered the after period. Ask her to think about how she might like things to go after the dust settles. She may not know right away. Make sure she takes the time to consider it and tell you what she finds. People who are on the shy side, or those who are not very verbal may not be able to put it into words. You can also agree to sort it out in real time after the spanking. If you have at least pondered the question beforehand, it will be far less awkward to navigate the waters when the moment comes.

We can't generalize about how you should handle things directly following the spanking's end. If you've never played, here are some questions a Top can pose to their Bottom. It will also help you Tops think about how you yourself transition back to "reality".

1. Do you prefer that the spanking be concluded in character? e.g., "I

think you've learned your lesson. I'm leaving the room. Go stand in the corner, count to 30 and then put your clothes on and come into the other room." Some people need to transition privately. Some also need to separate their real selves from the person they are in the scene. This tactic allows for a physical delineation between the two.

2. Do you want your Top to stay in character with you and show compassion afterwards? e.g., sit with you. Talk softly or calmly and explain how they regret having had to show you such harsh measures but it was for your own good... that they care about you, want to know you understand and are okay.

3. Do you need to be physically held and reassured for a few moments? If so, do you want verbal reassurances or do you need silence to process internally?

4. Do you just want to talk about the spanking for a few moments, perhaps even ask questions, check in with your Top, or even ask how you did? If so, would you like to do this immediately afterwards, or would you rather get dressed and go sit in another room or go out for coffee, or find some other more neutral location?

5. If you like verbal reassurance afterwards, do you have any buzz words or phrases that help with this? If so, what are they?

6. Does a post-spanking pampering make you feel totally awkward? Would you rather just hop off your governess' lap, pull your pants up and crack jokes and shift back to your old self? You can still talk about your spanking later, in the living room or over coffee, but maybe you'd like to be able to create a little distance from it before you do so?

Aftercare is particularly important for you Tops to stay aware of. At the very least, it's the polite thing to do. On a deeper level, you presumably value the fact that another person trusts you enough to participate, thus allowing you to fulfill this strong desire you have. They need to know that. Over and above the social aspect, be sure you take responsibility for respecting and taking care of your Bottom physically. As you are winding the session down, sense his breathing, skin temperature, muscle tension. Perhaps temper your final strokes with some calm dialogue or caress or rub his fanny in between bouts, if appropriate. I say "if appropriate" because you may be doing a punishment wherein you culminate

with your most severe flurry of strokes (with paddle, cane, hairbrush) to leave your Bottom thoroughly, cathartically spent. Soft maternal caresses are out of place here. In such an example, however, you especially must pay attention to the physiological state of your partner at the end. The more intense the punishment, the deeper the altered state. You don't expect him to hop off the stool or bench or chair into his trousers and rush into a gab session with you – although you may occasionally meet someone who can do this. That's why you need to ask those pesky questions first.

Sometimes a few moments of silence, being quiet together, is what's needed. Perhaps announce that he's taken his punishment and now you want him to lie there until you give permission to get up. This relieves him of the need to make decisions at a time when he may be a little bit "stoned". He doesn't have to wonder what he ought to do next. Should he say something, do something... be social? When what he may need is simply to catch his breath, begin to sense his surroundings again and orient himself. Maybe he's a little dizzy or weak. It's a good idea to go over these specific possible outcomes in your talk about aftercare *before* you session. He may have never considered how he may feel following the spanking. Bringing this up ahead of time prepares both of you for a smooth transition from Top and Bottom to your real-time selves again.

If he does happen to get up right away, ask if he'd like a glass of water... or maybe to take a quick shower. Lots of people sweat during a hard corporal session. You may come up with others yourself. The point is, if you can address these questions beforehand everyone feels more comfortable and natural when it's over. And whether you believe it or not, how people feel when they leave a spanking is as important a memory as the spanking itself. It can sometimes be the difference between whether they want to come back or not.

- WHAT TO DO IF A SCENE GOES WRONG -

First Aid:

This may sound like overkill but you should always have a first aid kit on hand, especially if you're a beginner. Anyone can land a mis-stroke and, though rare to be drawing blood unless it's well-into the spanking and the bottom is engorged to the near-bruising point, anything's possible. You should have bandages and antiseptic cream or spray, sterile gauze or cotton pads (to apply

Witch Hazel, hydrogen peroxide, or if you have real masochist, rubbing alcohol. Ouch!), You'll rarely need it, but you should keep these things on hand. Another item I strongly recommend is one of the many products used to treat poison ivy or other minor skin irritations, such as *Cortisone-10*. A crafty client of mine figured out that its blood-vessel-contracting properties made it rather amazing at rapidly disappearing the reddening aftermath of a bare bottomed spanking. Sometimes you can even watch the color fade from the cheeks before your very eyes. There are generic brands of this cream that will save you a few bucks and work just as well as the major brands.

A Bad Scene:

This kind of thing is rare if you have taken the time to get to know your play partner and clearly establish boundaries and expectations. But, even then, no one's a mind reader and words are subject to interpretation. The most common reason for a scene going bad is a downright insensitive partner. For reasons that should be obvious, it's likelier that this would be the person topping. Assuming you are not guilty of this, keep in mind that anyone can make a mistake.

If the dominant partner seemed like the world's greatest guy but turns out to be a jerk, you should politely express that what you're experiencing is not what you were looking for, or it's just not working for you, and graciously take your leave as soon as possible. As I said before, when you play with someone for the first time you should take some preliminary safety precautions. Arrange for a safe call, leave word with someone where you are, or even bring someone with you. This applies to dominants and subs alike, unless perhaps you're an ex-Navy Seal or a black belt in Kung Fu. Most people are decent folks, but whether you are on your home turf or not, you don't know what a stranger is capable of. An ounce of prevention...

Let's say you both have the best of intentions, things seem to be going great, and in the middle of the scene, *Bonnie Bottom* freaks out. The onus will be on the *Top* to care for her. Remain calm, stop the scene, and gently get your partner's attention. Determine what their state is. Novices have been known to have unprecipitated panic attacks as a result of being so over-stimulated by sensation, being in unfamiliar territory, or even getting exactly what they have waited for their whole lives. Lying them down, a cold compress, a warm cup of tea, reassuring words... any of these can work wonders. Oftentimes he/she may even rebound, ready to jump right back in. True concern goes a long way to build trust.

Some people have given rise, unexpectedly, to profoundly tumultuous emotions as a result of a spanking experience. Pain is an intense stimulus and effects people on many levels at once. Sometimes people are thrown back into a forgotten past experience, or feel emotions they've hidden or repressed for a very long time. This can be cathartic and freeing for some, and disturbing and exhausting to others. So guess what we do here? Communicate.

Calm the person down with a relaxed, reassuring manner. Remind them to breathe! When they settle down a bit, ask questions. Just use your common sense. "How are you now? Are you okay? What's going on? Can I get you a glass of water? Do you want to lie down? Can you talk to me about it?" Etc., etc. Let them know they're taken care of. Forget the scene. Pay attention and do whatever your partner needs most. Maybe he/she just wants to get dressed and go home; to get back to the comfort of familiar territory. Maybe he/she would like you to leave for a while, or completely. Offer these options also, making sure you let them know that it's not because you think they did anything wrong or that you don't want to play with them. Ask them if you can give them a call later to check up on them. Just be a considerate friend.

It's not complicated. Basic human decency is a good rule of thumb if anything ever goes wrong. Put yourself in your partner's shoes and, while you may have different inclinations of how you want to be treated, it will at least remind you that compassion and consideration will always lead you in the right direction.

Nuts and Bolts
Now we play!

CHAPTER 6

Tools and Toys

We've had a broad overview of spanking, spankers, and some options for finding ways to spank or get spanked. By now, I'm sure you're champing at the bit for some of the actual "gory details". But first....

Pop quiz: what's the credo of proper spanking play? Don't cheat and go rifling back to earlier chapters, just ask yourself what's your main responsibility here? As Hippocrates put it, "First do no harm." Answer: *Safe, sane and consensual play*. That's always Square One. It not only applies to making sure you know who you're playing with and have had a thorough meeting of the minds about what each of you wants and needs, it's also very much about knowing the tools of your "sport" and how to use them properly. If you don't know what you've got in your hands, you can absolutely do some damage... and not the fun kind. So we'll look at the various implements common to the domestic side of kink and learn to respect their capacities for impact and effect.

While we will consider both the giving and receiving preferences when it comes to implements, I can only really speak in terms of wielding them. However, I do take great pains (not literally, I'm a big chicken myself!) to watch my partner's responses vigilantly and continuously, and there is almost always a debriefing afterwards. So I do have a very good sense of the intensity and effect of my implements.

Even though people always have a way of coming up with creative alternatives, as you will probably do now and then, here is a list of commonly used spanking implements: the bare hand, wooden hairbrush, wooden spoon, spatula, fly swatter, ping pong paddle, yard stick, ruler, wooden paddles of various shapes, sizes and thicknesses, leather paddles, leather straps, belts, razor strop (a heavy leather strap that your great grandfather's barber used to sharpen his straight razor. Very nostalgic, and very sting-y!) There are also leather paddles but the fetish crowd seems more fond of them than the spankos. I almost forgot to mention the riding crop, the leather tawse, single- or multi-tailed whips (again, usually preferred by BDSMers, not spankers) and last but by no means least

(drum roll please) the cane. Let's get familiar with them and learn to wield them safely.

IMPLEMENTS

The Cane

I'm going to start with the cane for many reasons, the first of which being that it has gotten a bad rap and many people have an irrational fear of it simply by reputation. Does it sting like a sonofabitch? Yes, it does. Can it leave welts? Just about any implement improperly used can leave bruises and marks, so, sure, welts have been known to happen. The main reason not to discount it out of hand is that any person who's been subjected to it will tell you there is no sensation quite like it, and true enthusiasts consider it's particular brand of sting exquisite. That is surely why, among the initiated, the term for dosing out cane strokes became known as "the best", for example, "6 of *the best*". *Best* as in most effective and *best* as in unparalleled effect.

A nice, flexible natural rattan cane, if properly applied, will affect you uniquely. A cane strike is crisp and fast. Unlike a paddle or strap, with the cane you feel virtually nothing for the first half-second. Then, and suddenly, is the recognition of a sharp and searing sting that really gets your attention. For an instant you think it's over, but then that sharp heat seems to jump and take a ride up your spine until you could swear you can feel it in your eyebrows. This all lasts about a second or two, though it seems longer. Just when you want the pain to end, it does. And then, oddly, you miss it. Until the next stroke.

You will find that you are either a cane person or you're not. At least that's what I've found people to believe. In preliminary session interviews with clients, I would usually hear a very adamant, "I don't want you to use the cane." Or, the opposing side: "I want a good caning"...or "...and then I want you finish me off with a dozen strokes of the cane." Some people request no canes because they fear it will leave marks that will last longer than a few days. Some eschew it

because they have the notion that they could never bear up under it. Both assumptions are, while maybe not untrue, not necessarily the case. I have frequently recommended that someone permit me to include between one and three cane strokes during the scene so they can at least know what they're dealing with. None have ever passed out cold, many have been surprised at how much less daunted they were by it than imagined, and a few realized that they have been depriving themselves of a distinct pleasure. If you haven't figured it out yet, the cane is my favorite tool and I encourage you to at least sample it. But *always* make sure whoever is applying it knows what they're doing.

What does that mean? Well, the cane is probably one of the main implements with which you want your administrator to have very good aim. This is true with all of them, but if you experience a mis-aimed stroke that "wraps" around the outside of your thigh, you are likely to see stars. This is also true of a whip, but the difference with the cane is that, well, let's face it, canes are (usually) made of wood, i.e., they're harder. This *can* and probably will leave a mark, especially if delivered full force. So choose your henchman wisely. We shall discuss deployment in a moment.

- CANE TYPES -

With the advent of the internet, BDSM has come far out of its shadowy past over the years. Fifteen-plus years ago when I first began playing, you were hard-pressed to even find implements. I'm told that people dabbling in these games back in old pioneering days had to resort to dodgy advertisements in the back of girly magazines, or hope their grandpa had brought back a curious souvenir from Singapore during the war.

If you live in a major city there is going to be a glossy storefront somewhere boasting of kinky *objects d'art*. I have found the vendors of BDSM stores who are true appreciators of this pursuit to be helpful and sensitive to tentative but earnest shoppers, so if you're worried they are going to shout out the contents of your shopping basket as they ring you up at the register, you can relax. If you leave with goodies, they'll usually be in a plain bag or wrapper. Sometimes you have to request this, as big cities also have clientele who are not secretive about their interests and a packaging logo *is* after all free advertising for the shopkeeper. The good thing about shops is that you can inspect the

merchandise... and you can ask questions of people who know about what they're selling you. I'll offer some names of places I know of personally later. Most of them also have websites.

Ah, yes, websites. There are millions of them dedicated to kink and spanking interests and many are purveyors of implements. If you really want to hedge your bets when making your selections, it's worthwhile to join a chat site like Max Fisch, where you can go on the forums and ask for suggestions of implement makers from people who know them first hand. One tidbit I'll throw out here: there are some implement makers who specialize in the aesthetics where you can, for example, buy canes (and most other implements) that are ornate and beautiful and will work fine for a while, but eventually will weaken or break. If you're not a heavy player, this will probably not be problematic, so if you like pretty canes, go for it. If you really use your canes you'll want to go for something plain and simple that is made out of good material. Utilitarian canes aren't attractive but if you can find the right supplier, you will have ones that last a decade or more even with regular and energetic use. With proper care, even the more delicate, aesthetic canes can last a year or two; often longer. These are all choices you get to make. It doesn't hurt to try different ones, just to see how it goes. You're going to want a variety of canes regardless. Each one has a different kind of sting and intensity. Two good sites to check out are www.canes4pain.com – if the aesthetics are priority. You'll find a wide variety of very pretty canes. For purely practical tools www.cane-iac.com has an impressively large selection. They also carry some of the more decorative varieties, as well as paddles and straps. I haven't encountered too many places to procure martinets and this site has them, too.

In all good conscience, I have to mention canes made of synthetic materials. My personal preference is for natural woods, and most traditional discipline fans are also so inclined. But you can find canes made of acrylic or fiberglass. They're far denser than wood and they don't breathe. This is probably why they have a very vicious sting. They can often be very flexible and “whip-y” and comfortable to wield, so many people like them for that reason. You'll have to find out for yourself if they work for you and your “victims”. I recommend informing him/her before you start that you have them and might want to use them and get the green light from them first. Maybe offer your Bottom a few sample strokes also to make the determination. You might want to include one such item in your arsenal just for variety's sake. I have two. I rarely use them. I'm a bit of a cane snob.

Variety? Why must I have a variety? Why not just one good sturdy cane? Sure... there's nothing wrong with that. But different canes do have different effects. The thinner canes have a hotter sting and the thicker ones linger longer. It all boils down to physics. Thin, short canes make good warm-up tools and as your naughty brat becomes habituated to those you will likely want to up the ante and use longer ones. We don't want our strokes to lose their motivational effect, do we?

Also, you might find that you or your partner have a preference for one or the other and you need to sample the different sensations in order find out. A new partner may have other tastes. Fortunately, canes are cheap, especially plainer more utilitarian models. If you want something decorative, then you *will* pay for the details. You will likely not get a better stroke or more impressive impact in the bargain, but if you enjoy it more because it's pretty (and sometimes I do!) then treat yourself. But, in addition to the looks and the quality of the material, there is also the way it feels in your hand. Some canes are made to be especially well-balanced and comfortable to wield. This could also allow for better accuracy. So you see, there are many considerations when choosing this implement. Most are personal preferences, but when in doubt, go for the practical attributes... and the reputation of the purveyor and cane maker, if you can determine that.

- APPLICATION -

You will develop your own delivery style as you practice, but if you're a novice you should *always* start off gently until you perfect your aim. When using the cane, you want to shoot for what I call the "target area" or the "sweet spot". This is the fleshy area of the buttocks starting from the crease above the thigh to approximately 2 to 3 inches below the base of the spine. You never want to strike someone upon their spine. Firstly, it will hurt like a mother, but primarily because it could inflict physical harm. You have lots of precious little nerves wrapped up under there. You could damage or rupture a disk. You could even crack a bone. The actual "rear end" (or any euphemism you'd like to supply) is composed of fat and muscle and, while you can inflict a good deal of pain, you can't do any real harm when administering a stinging blow upon it. You also want to be extremely careful not land any blows on your partner's lower back. You could hit a kidney and that could really do some damage, too. So if you're a

beginner, position yourself close your Bottom and practice with short swings, winding up higher and higher, and stepping back further and further as your coordination and accuracy improve. Obviously, the wider your swing the more that bugger will sting!

When caning someone, I like to bend him over something that puts him about waist height to my body. But caning someone upright or supine are also fine choices. The thing about bending them over is that the muscle and skin of your naughty boy are stretched taught and the impact is many times more intense in this position. It's also the classic caning pose, which you'll undoubtedly notice if you peruse the web for spanking nostalgia or videos.

Once you've perfected your aim, try this method: Using the aforementioned bent-over position, stand a couple feet away from your target and place the cane on the target zone (fleshy area of the buttocks), then do a few practice arcs to introduce your brain to the swing you're planning. When taking this measurement you should also position your body about a foot or so toward the top of your partner's torso. This will tend to assure that when the stroke lands, the cane will end up smack upon the cheeks. If you stand parallel to the buttocks you're more likely to wrap the cane tip and hit their outer hip... Ouch and double ouch! (This is not the kind of "ouch" to which we aspire.) If you want to stand on the same line with the person's derriere you will have to stand even further away from them to keep the tip from wrapping. You can try this stance, too, just make sure you know where your stroke will land. It will be harder to gauge accurately from that far away, but many adopt this position successfully.

Make a few slow practice swings. Then try one for real, but not full force. Watch your partner's reaction. If there's not much of one you know you can try the next one a little harder. As long as you're being accurate, you can escalate harder, or bring down your blows faster, as you so choose. I would suggest starting with sets of three, or a maximum of six in a row, letting your recipient catch a few breaths, and then resume. If it's the first time you two have played with the cane, you should set up a trial session where you can practice and then check in with him or her for feedback. This will help you hone your skill and accuracy as well as finding their limits.

The Hairbrush

Ah, the hairbrush! The hairbrush is a must in every sincere spanko's arsenal. It's the most nostalgic, evocative item used in domestic discipline, probably because the only way to wield it properly is over the knee. A good thing too, because most authentic wooden hairbrushes are dense and thick and they pack a mean sting. If you wield with a wide, standing swing, it tends to not only sting hard, but it can bruise.

Using a hairbrush is rather self-explanatory: you pull your naughty victim over your lap, raise your arm high, aim for the center of his round little cheek and let'er rip! Oh, it does make such a lovely, crisp sound. Start low on the buttocks where there tends to be a bit more padding if you want to avoid marks. You can deliver the spanks at a slow and measured rhythm, alternating cheeks. On a *cold* (unwarmed-up) bottom, any good smack will hurt. Slow and steady works well to start. With a liberal hand warm-up, however, you can start out more energetically.

If you're not concerned about marks, you can make a brat squirm if you persist in striking the same spot over and over, three, four, six times in a row. Then do the same on the other side. Keep that going for a while and you'll hear very earnest entreaties for forgiveness and leniency. If you want to include the hairbrush in the warm-up portion, just use a lighter touch. It will still sting, but it won't mark most people.

One sneaky, evil little trick you can use the hairbrush for is this: after you've put your overgrown juvenile delinquent through several bouts of punishment and his cheeks show the signs of wear, he has probably habituated to even very hard strokes from all your implements and every sensation is kind of blending together. Get out your hairbrush (this works especially well with the ones that have an oval or round shape) and strike hard at the very bottom of the cheek, inside and toward the "butt crack," just above the thigh. Not only is that little sweet spot *very* tender and vulnerable, but it will give you maximum sting and swatting here almost never leaves a mark. It will reset his tolerance again and often leave a very nice lingering soreness when you learn how to do it just right. But always be careful when trying a new trick. Start conservatively and watch his reaction. If it's one of shocked surprise you're doing it right. If it's a bloodcurdling scream, then you probably should back off and find out later in the re-cap exactly how it came across.

Wooden Paddles

There are too many kinds of wooden paddles to count. I'll name several and just remind you to try out any new implement cautiously until you perfect your aim and know it's effect. The best way become an expert at Topping, and I can't say this enough, is to have someone swat you at least once with everything you play with. It won't kill you, and it will engender a healthy respect for the formidable tools within your grasp. Even though I hate pain, my mentor insisted that I do this and it has served me exceedingly well.

Wooden spoons are a very nostalgic tool. They sting, but don't inflict any great degree of pain. It's a good warm-up toy and they make a lovely, loud smacking sound. If you apply them on a wet bottom you can increase their sting to a surprising degree.

There are many small, light paddles that work great for OTK. They shouldn't be too long or thick and you can find round ones that are just about the size of a butt cheek. A Japanese rice paddle is perfect. This shape tends to spread the impact across the entire cheek, instead of concentrating it on a small area. It sends a message but it can be tolerated better than, say, a school paddle, which is long and thick and only about an inch or two wide. School paddles are hard to swing OTK and are quite likely to leave marks. The round paddles are great for all occasions: standing up, bent over a stool, over the bed, OTK,

Another common type is the fraternity paddle. The thick ones, the ones that simulate real frat paddles, are brutal and will often mark. They are too heavy to swing OTK. They also land with more of a thud than a sting. There are people who like them so you may want to check them out. The other kind, the ones with the same shape but are not as heavy and thick, make a very startling impact on a bare bottom. The impact is stinging and it hits the entire buttocks at once. It's real attention-getter. Maybe that's why you'd frequently see them hanging in many a principal's office back in the day.

Square paddles usually have a heavier feel. Like the one mentioned above, the impact effects a large surface area at once. It's sting will feel like it's reverberating across the whole torso sometimes. Keep in mind that the thicker

the wood, the more it will land with a thud rather than a sting. Both hurt a lot, but some people think that thuddy implements just feel like they're being browbeaten. They have no subtlety.

Beginners appreciate leather paddles. You can find supple ones that are more like wide straps. You can also find paddles made of leather that are stiff and dense. They may be made of several layers of leather glued together, or they may have a wood or metal plate inside. So don't let their looks and feel fool you. They can really hurt. But leather has much less of a sting than wood. There are many craftsmen who offer etched leather paddles, or ones with woven lacing and other decorative details. You'll pay well for these frills so make sure the purveyor has a reputation for quality and durability. Toys can be expensive and you'll want to play with them for years to come, so don't fall for just another pretty face.

One of my favorite implements is the good old yard stick. The kind you can buy for about two bucks at any hardware store. They break eventually but who cares? They're cheap. And they do sting ...and make a fantastically biting sound. If you land them square in center of the target zone you generally won't leave a mark with them either. And they are so reminiscent of those good days of yore. Very institutional.

Another fun category is the *dual usage items*. This is where you can be very creative. The most famous of these is the ping pong paddle. I think you get my drift. There's the fly swatter, the bedroom slipper, the good old belt (of which I'll say more later). I had a kinky friend who shopped at hardware stores. The tools he bought there were not the ones in my father's tool box, that's for sure! And the nice thing about the dual purpose toys is that vanilla people have no idea what you're planning to do with them. Let your imagination run wild. Just be careful.

The Strap

The most commonly used strap is a simple leather belt. This should be supple

and made of real leather. Synthetic materials can mark and even cut. You can double it over and use it OTK. But if you want its full impact, bend your naughty girl over the bed or a stool. You *must* first get your bearings. The distance you stand from your brat depends on the length of the belt and the height of whatever they are resting on, so you will have to take several very light practice swings. If you position your bad boy level with your waist or higher it's easier to find that sweet spot, that perfect swing. Stand far enough, remember, so that when the end of the belt lands it will strike the fleshy part of the behind. You don't want it to wrap around to the outer hip or outer thigh. Another good strapping position is to put a thick pillow over a chair seat and have your miscreant lie with her belly over the pillowed chair seat. In this position you have them face one direction for a few sets of strokes, then reverse them, so that you are not landing the tip of your blows always on the same cheek. If you are right handed, you tend to "wear out" the right cheek, and vice versa when spanking from a standing position. Most people are not coordinated enough to spank with both hands, or aim accurately when moving to the opposite side of the person. So the chair pose allows you re-position your spankee to divide your spanks more equitably among both cheeks.

You will find all sorts of straps. Thick, thin, single-thickness, double-thickness, attached to all different kinds of handles. The impact depends a lot on the quality and thickness of the leather, as well as your own accuracy and skill. The denser ones will hurt every bit as much as a paddle. You can stand aside your bent over partner and swing across with it like a belt. You can straddle them and raise it high, coming down on one cheek and then the other. This works well in chair position, or if you put your partner over a foot stool. You can stand behind them and alternate cheeks also. Make very certain to practice this if you haven't tried it so your aim is true. Remember, you *don't* want to land a blow on the lower back or the spine! Just right down the middle of the butt cheek, that sweet spot. Boy, that really hurts.

As far as making distinctions between the affect of straps, just use your common sense. Long thin ones will sting. Thicker ones will have a harder smack and might be thuddy. Double-thick straps, two strips of leather on top of each other, bound by a handle, are usually a real attention-getter.

The Tawse

A tawse is a long leather strap that is split up the middle up to about the midpoint of its length. Tawses are made in various thicknesses and types of leather and can have differing numbers of “tails” (the number of splits). The tawse has been more commonly used in the United Kingdom. If you’re lucky, you may even find yourself an antique, Scottish Lochgelly tawse. I received one as a gift and it remains one of the most dreaded instruments in my collection.

There are many websites devoted to the history and uses of the Lochgelly tawse, some even have videos. I highly recommend you Google Lochgelly tawses and see what goodies you can find. The tawse is much more formidable than it looks, but that also depends on the density of the leather. The antique tawses are particularly supple and dense. Decades of usage, coupled with the oil from skins of bottoms of naughty schoolboys, stroke after stroke, really seems to break in an implement supremely well! If you can get your hands on an old Lochgelly it will make a treasured member of your arsenal, I promise. I’m always surprised at how this delicate strip of leather can make a grown man see stars. Many purveyors sell modern versions of this jewel. They can be very effective as well. As always, wield it with care until you get used to it. *Experientia docet!*

The Martinet

The martinet is a rather archaic device consisting of a multitude of thin leather strips, or tails, bound by a (usually) wooden handle. The type of leather and the length of the leather strips can vary, as can their number. This will determine the severity of its effect. So will the way you use it. As always, practice first. Martinets can be extremely painful. They can also be used to sensually caress, before, during and/or after the punishment. www.cane-iac.com has a generous selection. There are surely other sources, but I find them less common than purveyors of most of the other implements. I discovered this particular website only recently and was delighted to note that they provide another item that I have always had difficulty locating. Let’s look at that one next.

Birch Boughs

Birching is a very old-fashioned and nostalgic form of domestic discipline. It harkens back to the times when Pappa used to go out in the backyard and cut himself a nice long “switch”, or branch, off the birch tree to tan bratty Billy’s hide for getting caught sneaking into Grandpa’s sour mash. There is a very loyal contingent who crave a good birching, and they are stalwart folks indeed, for birching really hurts. Usually the boughs are dried first and then soaked in water about twenty minutes before use. (I’m sure Pa didn’t bother with such formalities). They are known to scratch and sting and often leave evidence of their use on a punished behind, so if you are someone who must avoid marks, this would be a risky bet for you. If you don’t soak the birch branch clusters—and sometimes even when you do—you’ll find that they start to “explode” as you wield them. It’s messy but kind of cool. The smaller offshoots and branches will break on impact and tend to fly all over the room. In every birching I have conducted this has been the case. Personally, I have never gotten more than one or two usages out of them. The clusters that I found on cane-iac.com appeared as if they would last a good bit longer. You can also use willow boughs. They are thinner and might sting more. I’ve never found or used them, so I can’t tell you if they leave marks.

The above mentioned instruments are the most common you’ll find, but as I said, people have known to employ great resourcefulness and find clever occupations for everyday household items and the wares on display at your local hardware and sporting goods stores. I’m sure you have a vivid imagination, too, and I encourage you to use it. Carefully. Always carefully.

- CLEANING YOUR IMPLEMENTS -

It is very important that you keep your implements clean, especially if you play with multiple partners. If you’re in a spanking relationship and you play exclusively with one person, this may be less important, since the main reason for cleaning after use is the spread of disease. In spanking play, even if you’re careful, there can always be an accidental breaking of the skin, in which, drops

of blood, however tiny, can get on your equipment, which introduces a risk of STDs. No matter how small the risk, no risk is acceptable. Even if there is no blood, *per se*, skin carries all kinds of bacteria, most of it benign, but you wouldn't want to share a stranger's bath towel or tooth brush, and, likewise, I'm sure your play partners would not want to do the equivalent if you use your implements on a variety of other people.

Bleach is the best way I know to sanitize instruments. Soak them in a bleach and water solution (consult the directions on the cleaning agent's bottle) for at least 30 minutes. Or wipe them with a bleach solution and let them sit for the same amount of time, then wipe or rinse with clean water. Regarding canes, or any wooden implement that has a natural surface and is not polyurethaned, conditioning is a must. Get some kind of wood conditioner, like lemon oil or similar, and wipe the surface area after you clean, rinse and dry your object. Then let it sit or stand somewhere to absorb.

Utilitarian canes (as opposed to the decorative types) are usually in their natural state (i.e., will usually not be laminated or varnished) and should be oiled. Some people recommend that you oil your canes by putting 3 to 6 inches of oil in a bucket and standing your canes up in it overnight, allowing the oil to absorb all the way throughout. You can also just apply a thick layer of oil to them and leave this to soak in for several hours. You can also try soaking your canes in water, using the bucket method, or just fill the bathtub a few inches and leave them soaking for half an hour or so. I've heard that many spankers like to do this immediately preceding a spanking session. They say it makes the canes denser (translation: stingy-er) and more supple. No matter what you do, eventually, if canes get a lot of use, most of them break. That's another reason to keep several on hand.

Leather implements may dry out if you use bleach to disinfect them so you will need to condition them afterward. I don't know of any cleaning agents that will disinfect leather without drying it out.

CHAPTER 7

Handling Your Implements

People who talk about spanking commonly use the term in a generalized way. Spanking not only refers to bending a naughty boy or girl over your knee and smacking his/her bare bottom with your hand. When people talk about spankings they frequently also assume the use of belts, paddles, straps and the like, even though they may sometimes break these down into their own specific designations, like *strappings*, *canings*, *birchings*, *paddlings* and the like... Spanking can mean any of this and more.

Some information in this chapter may duplicate things mentioned previously. But for convenience in using this book as a reference source, there should be a designated chapter about spanking technique and implement usage. I will just go down the list and mention the essential aspects of using each.

Note: You can find pictures of most of these items on the cane-iac.com website.

Canes

The first thing to keep in mind is that canes *sting* like a mother! And you don't really have to try very hard to accomplish this. For that reason, use them with the respect they have earned. Their reputation precedes them for a reason.

Canes are supple and flexible. They move as you swing them. It takes some practice to handle them with accuracy, and accuracy is extremely important when playing with canes for the reason just stated: they sting like a mother! If your aim is off you can wrap them over the more delicate skin of the outer thigh, lower back, and (not as dangerous) upper thigh. So learn to aim well and practice by swinging canes slowly with shorter strokes at first until you become more accurate.

The classic material for canes is rattan. Most experienced cane users do prefer it. You'll also find bamboo canes, fiberglass canes, rubber canes, and probably other types that I've never heard of. Synthetic canes are denser and usually meaner. They are also more likely to welt.

Beginners should start with a cane of medium thickness. Thin ones have a meaner bite and thick ones are dense and can welt. As explained earlier, it's good to stand six to ten inches above the line of the buttocks (i.e., in the direction of the spankee's head). This distance will lessen the chances that tip will fall beyond the butt cheek and hit the outer thigh. Once your aim improves you can stand wherever works best for you (and the particular cane you're using at the time.)

Beginners should also opt for shorter rather than longer canes. You will find them available in a variety of lengths. Most commonly (but not limited to) from about 18 inches to 31 inches. The shorter ones will be less "whippy" and tremble less while swinging, thus supporting better accuracy. Medium thickness canes will also jiggle less in motion than thinner ones.

The classical cane stroke operates like this:

- Stand beside your partner a bit above his buttocks.
- Stand feet apart. Many ladies enjoy putting their free hand on their hip, to add an air of foreboding.
- Cane in hand, elbow slightly bent raise your arm out away from your body. Experienced spankers may even raise it high above their head. Beginners should start with only shoulder height.
- Swing with a sharp, quick arc targeting the center fleshy portion of the buttocks and following through as if imagining swinging straight through the person's buttocks and into the floor.

That's a basic cane stroke. But as I cautioned, beginners should start by swinging with the cane only a couple feet from its target; increasing the arc wider and wider as accuracy is achieved. Then and only then should you lay on your fullest, hardest strokes. With practice you can learn to vary where it lands and even deliver lovely cross-hatching stroke marks (if your partner in a fan of being marked, that is). You can also play with *flicking* the cane (short, snappy

strokes from a nearer distance). These are less punishing but they can still get your brat's attention. They also make a nice change of pace, to keep your spankee from habituating to your normal cane strokes too soon during a prolonged caning session.

You will develop some techniques of your own as you improve. Also, remember, you're wielding a pointy object. Make sure to pay attention to your surroundings... and any other living creatures in the general vicinity of your swing. Including yourself! I have accidentally lashed myself with my cane more times than I'd like to admit!

Wooden Paddles

Paddles come in all shapes and sizes. Small paddles are excellent for OTK (over the knee) usage. They're wielded much like spanking someone with a hairbrush. Obviously, paddles can leave bruises if you use thick ones, or if they're used with great force.

With small paddles, whether round or square, you swing with essentially the same "arcing" technique as described for hand spankings in a previous chapter. Begin underneath the derriere and swing up toward the bottom of the butt cheek, continuing upward and around back toward you in small half-circles. Your intention is to smack the very bottom, only the lower portion of the cheek. If done rapid fire, this will usually not mark but become quite painful as the blows increase.

With paddles that are square or oblong and are a foot or more in length, you should use them from a standing position. It doesn't take a genius to figure out how. The paddle surface is large and so is the target. Aim for the fleshy center of the buttocks, wind up and swing! The force of your blow should depend on what your partner can handle. The variety comes into play when you factor in how quickly you land your blows. Rapid swats are painful but you can numb your recipient with a lot of machine gun walloping. So don't overuse this tactic.

Administering hard swats with long intervals in between can be even more

torturous, especially if you announce how many they'll be receiving beforehand. (At least a dozen to effect proper dread). You can strike hard and wait as long as 30 seconds or so between each stroke. This leaves your partner in a state of heightened dread and suspense. It slows down time and makes the padding seem to take forever. This can be as fatiguing as the swats themselves. Sometimes punishment is more than pain. It's drama!

Heavy, long but thin (about 1 ½ inches wide) paddles, like the kind used in English schoolrooms of long ago, are brutal. They tend to bruise the flesh fairly easily, so you might want to mete these blows out slowly and in very small number, giving you time to watch and see if blotches start to develop, which may cause you to modify your agenda. School paddles are thuddy, not stinging. They send a hard, heavy shockwave up the spin. I never administer more than six whacks in a 20-minute period. And I usually start with 3. Oftentimes, based on the reaction, I don't go beyond that. So pay attention. A couple strokes of this school paddle can be good to reset your partner's threshold after having used all your straps, tawses and canes. The sensation contrasts so much to the others that when you go back them, it's almost like starting fresh.

Wide paddles with minimum thickness of the wood sting with a force. Again, the swing is obvious. Cock your arm back, take aim and swing for the mid-buttcheek. You can deliver six to fifteen strokes at a steady pace without a bruise. But you should always watch at the outset so you don't go too heavy too soon and risk marking.

The square-shaped, heavy paddles are also thuddy and can bruise. I like to use the ones that are about the size of a single butt cheek when OTK. You can't swing with full force in that position so it's less likely to bruise. But once you get them warmed up you can deliver some hearty wallops with this paddle. Try swinging to land the center of the paddle directly upon the butt crack. This tends to be real tooth rattler! Just make sure you know how hard a blow your partner can handle. Thick paddles wielded with great force can really make you see stars. Too many blows can easily start to break skin and draw blood. Especially on top of a well-caned bottom.

The Hairbrush

The hairbrush is virtually a small paddle with bristles, and most of the tips for using a paddle will apply to a hairbrush spanking as well. You can wield a hairbrush from a standing position, as with any paddle, but as a traditionalist, I will only spank with the hairbrush when I have some naughty rascal over my knee. Another and purely practical reason for my preference is that you cannot swing it full-force when OTK, so the sheer weight of it is less likely to act like a small bludgeon. You have much better control of its force and of your aim from close up. You can create a lot of variation with a hairbrush OTK. It's perfect for the "arcing" method of swatting. And since you're so up close and personal it's much easier to land your strokes exactly where you choose. I often use a hairbrush to pepper the entire surface of the buttocks fully and evenly, thus making for a thorough warm-up.

I won't enumerate any further, as you can extrapolate any methods you'd like to try from the above mentioned uses of the paddle.

Straps

This is a catch-all designation for any variety of leather (or facsimile) strip long enough to swing at a bare ass. There are subtle modifications in technique depending on how long or thick it is, as well as of what, and how, it is made.

In some scenarios, you may opt for convenience or nostalgia's sake, to use a belt. Perhaps even the belt you're wearing. Or the belt your unfortunate miscreant is wearing. It's very traditional... and very effective. The thing about a belt is that it's long. If you're not practiced at swinging it, it's hard to control your aim. There is a high likelihood that it will wrap. As we now know, that's not a good thing.

Well, wait a minute... Let me say something now about wrapping a cane (or a belt) around the outer thigh. In your adventures, you just may encounter some serious pain sluts (a more colorful term for *masochist*). Lots of spankees are attracted to extreme pain. People such as these may not be as averse to your wrapping strokes as are the general spanking public. This is another thing to talk

about *before* you session, if someone drops a clue that he might be one of these stalwart types.

Now back to business: If you're a novice, I strongly recommend doubling the belt in half. It not only stings nicely but it makes a good, crisp noise. The auditory aspect of spankings can be as thrilling as the sensations and accoutrements are. A doubled strap is generally a more manageable length to wield OTK. If you want to start practicing for harsher strappings, have your partner stand with hands against the wall, and then stepping backward a few feet from the wall, so her bottom is presented properly. You can also bend her over a desk, or a spanking bench.

In the beginning, choke up on the strap so that you're swinging a short length, say, about a foot. Swing a close distance from your target (between one and two feet). Start with a light swing. Once your aim proves accurate and you're landing it on the center part of the derriere, you can increase the swing further and further, harder and harder. If your accuracy starts waning, slow down. Make your aim right again from that point until the strokes land properly. Eventually, your hand eye coordination will start coming together and you'll be hitting your mark every time.

Swinging a belt or strap is much like swinging a cane. You'll raise your arm high and arc down, around, and parallel to the floor, onto your partners tender hiney. If the belt is long, you might even want to hold the business end of it in your other hand, raise it overhead, take aim and let go of the tip as you lose your swing. This may go a long way toward supporting your aim... and I've found that it has saved me from particularly enthusiastic swings coming around and hitting me in the eye!

More manageable for the beginner are the many straps available with the leather strip bound to a handle. The strip is generally shorter and easier to control. The handle-grip makes controlling strokes easier as well. It's not a bad idea to start with this kind until you find your feet. You can progress to longer ones as you improve. You'll find a broad selection on the internet, some of which are beautifully crafted and aesthetically impressive, if such things are important to you. You can find plenty of perfectly fine utilitarian straps that also get the job done.

Straps made of synthetic leather usually don't have the density to sting as much as real leather. They never develop the same suppleness either. Leather objects

will soften with use, as you've probably noticed with that favorite old belt you've had for years. This suppleness makes it a more effective "weapon". You're aim will also benefit from your leather straps when they're broken in.

Rubber and latex straps are *very* painful. Some of them shockingly so. In general, they should be used after a good warm-up has been given. They are excellent when you've been spanking for a good while and your partner's rear is starting to harden, or he's habituated to the implements you've used on him thus far.

A razor strop is a long, wide piece thick leather, sometimes with a handle, sometimes without. If your hands are large you should have no problem with this one. It's easier for small-handed people to swing strops with handles attached. Because of their wideness, they will strike a larger surface area and this really hurts. To administer this you will use a wide, horizontal swing, standing a healthy distance from your spankee's bottom. Take several light, practice swings first to gauge your distances. Start with a shallow swing till you perfect your aim. Given the laws of physics, a full force swing with a strop not only has the sting of the wide strip of leather but also the power behind a swinging a long object. It packs a mean wallop and should be used after your partner has a good warm-up.

You can find rubber and latex strops. These should be handled with care. They are far meaner and heavier than leather and they carry the additional formidable nature already inherent to the strop.

The Tawse

The traditional tawse is also a formidable implement. It is a long thin strap that is slit up the middle (usually about halfway up its length), creating two tails, and, if made of high quality leather, it really, really hurts. You can also find tawses that are considerably wider with several slits, and, therefore, several tails. These wider versions can often be quite painful as well. The wider tawses, are obviously, easier to wield. You're swinging a wider object at your target... just

as it's easier to hit a golf ball with a cricket bat than a golf club. For that reason, you might want to start with a multi-tailed tawse.

Some traditionalists I've known, like to use the following technique for a two-pronged tawse. Let's say you're right-handed. Rest the tip of the strap over your right shoulder. Wind up by raising your elbow. Take aim, then let your arm come down, snapping it at the elbow, as your tawse arcs swiftly round to the targeted bare bottom. This is for the more advanced player. Make sure you perfect your aim before trying this stroke.

In general, you wield a tawse much like any strap. And if you're new, it's good to practice slowly and from a short distance, gradually moving further away until you can get a good, sharp snap in your swing.

The Martinet

A martinet is reminiscent of a *cat'o'nine tails*, an implement often depicted in judicial punishment scenes; the kind we've seen in many swashbuckling tales of yore. The "cat", as it's affectionately known, usually consists of long leather laces or tails (they need not be nine in number, but traditionally they were). Sometimes each lace was split in two or bound at the end to two thinner laces. This way each lace was transformed into a mini double-tail whip. Cats are wicked. They are also used more in fetish play than in spanking.

Some martinets consist of a cluster of bound, knotted chords. The most common type uses leather strips that are approximately ¼-inch in width. These laces are bound together by a long handle (often wooden). The laces can be anywhere from six inches to a foot in length, on average. Obviously the degree of pain inflicted depends upon the materials used (and how hard you swing it!). If the strips are a dense leather, its blows are harsher. And vice versa. Because of the multi-tailed configuration, many fans of erotic spanking like to use them to tease and caress their partner before, or between, bouts of whipping.

You can swat with a full arm swing, like a strap or cane. It's easier to aim because of the long, stiff handle. Shorter tailed martinets hurt less than longer-

tailed ones, and are easy to aim. As with any implement, you should practice conservatively at first, with shallow swings. Aim from further away as you get more accurate. When you do, you can arc it from overhead, or swing in a horizontal arc parallel to the floor. This can vary from swinging at waist level to swinging from shoulder height. Because of the long handle, you can deliver a sting by snapping your wrist, flicking the tails hard and fast.

Martinets are versatile in their application. In the 18th Century when martinets were a common disciplinary tool in France, they were often administered to the calves. This was usually done in the case of children, so they would not be required to disrobe for their punishment. I've never done this but you may want to (cautiously) give this a try – on consenting adults, of course. Not children! Shorter-tailed implements would be more appropriate for calf whipping as they would be easier to aim, as well as being less torturous. When swinging a long-tailed martinet as a calf-whipper, one would have to stand so far away that accuracy is unlikely, unless perhaps you're a sniper.

For some fine examples of current day martinets, check the website www.cane-iac.com

CHAPTER 8

Making the Scene

This is a book about spanking, not erotica. It would be remiss to deny, however, that, for many people, spanking play includes a substantial erotic component and there's nothing wrong with that. It's just not the focus of this book. In a later chapter there will be some mention of erotic spanking play, as no handbook on spanking would be complete without acknowledging it. Since I have no expertise in that domain, however, I will not be including any detailed examples of it in this chapter. There are surely much more comprehensive sources on this topic than myself. I will leave you to their wisdom.

Earlier we looked at some general examples of how to approach a scene. Here we can explore it more thoroughly. As mentioned, there are a myriad of preferences when it comes to spanking play. I've encountered quite a variety of tastes, and I'm sure there are more that I could never imagine. You should feel free to invent your own concoctions, either after you've sampled the basics and then crave something more novel or adventurous, or right from the start. I'll discuss the ones that I deem appropriate for general consumption, and I'll start with the simplest and work up to some of the more psychologically complex examples.

(Note: Most of the time spanking scenes are played between two partners, but nothing says you can't punish several naughty brats at once, or be reprimanded by several authority figures. The more the merrier, I say. But you will find your own style.)

- A SPANKING GOOD TIME -

This is a contemporary version of the player who enjoys your basic, old-fashioned, garden variety spanking role play. A version that depicts a more *formal* kind of play, enjoyed by the player I call *The Traditionalist* will be addressed later.

The enthusiast herein is not looking for a “transcendent experience,” or a deeply profound connection to another human being. Just a high-spirited jaunt that ends up with one person or the other going home with a red, sore behind. Someone adopts the role of the authority figure, the other is the culprit. A popular form for this involves *ageplay*, whereby the culprit plays the role of a naughty child or teenager, but often the wrongdoer is his own (adult) age... and sometimes even his real self.

We’ll build a scene portraying the average role playing dynamic. If nothing else, it’s a place for beginners to start. If you’ve never played or are self-conscious about the ideas you’ve come up with, maybe this will jump start your imagination.

One more suggestion. While there is nothing wrong with chatting with your partner immediately prior to your scene, to agree on your story and your characters, choose your safe word if you use one, and set your limits, you could be cheating yourselves out of some additional jollies. When you handle the preliminaries a day or two before you plan to meet, or even set things up on the phone right before you get together, you can come into the place where you’ll be playing “in character”. The spankee gets to stand outside his Top’s door with heightened anticipation and dread, knowing when it opens his Teacher, Principal, Mother, Governess, or court appointed punisher will be taking matters swiftly in hand. If you think the old *fight or flight instinct* won’t kick in just because you know this is a contrived relationship I know a whole lot of people who will disabuse you of this notion. It adds an extra layer of tension when you jump right into your scene this way. It also alleviates the weirdness or artificiality many people feel when they’ve been having a lovely pre-session chat with their partner, and suddenly the time comes to awkwardly switch and “become” two different characters. It feels fake. When you come as your character you just hit the ground running. Try it sometime.

Okay... Let’s mock up a little spanking drama, shall we...

We will say that you’re Becka, (or Ben if you’re male) a wise-ass teenager working in a music store, who is about to be caught stealing some DVDs. The store manager, Jane, has called Becka into her office. (If you’d rather put yourself in Jane’s shoes, go right ahead.)

You (Becka) casually enter Jane’s office. You assume yourself to be a stealthy thief and getting caught is the last thing on your mind. Jane is at her desk, calm

and businesslike, as always. You plop in the chair across from her desk. (*If you don't have an office-like arrangement, you can change it to something like this: Jane has asked to meet in the breakroom where they sit at the lunch table. Or Jane has asked Becka to stop by her apartment after work.*)

You distractedly pick at your manicure waiting for Jane to get to the point so you can leave and go flirt with the cute new guy. Jane says nothing. She just waits until you notice the silence and look up at her quizzically. Jane then makes eye contact with you and holds it for a long moment. Long enough for you to realize that this meeting is not about anything good. You feel the back of your neck getting hot. You crinkle your brow. Jane continues to stare. Finally, Jane smiles.

“What?!” you blurt.

Jane rises, walks slowly around the desk (or table) and stands over you now. “You think you’re pretty clever, don’t you?”

“What? Why?”

“I mean you’re a smart girl, and you’re used to having everything all figured out, and being one step ahead of most people. So you think you’re pretty clever.”

“No. I, uh, I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

“Becka, you’re one of my best people. You catch on fast and always keep your section in order. I’m really disappointed in you. I can’t believe you’d pull something like this.”

“Jane, please, I don’t know what you’re – .”

“I know you stole those DVDs, yesterday.”

“What? No. I.... Not me... I wouldn’t steal anything.”

“So it wasn’t you?”

“No.”

“Because you’d never lie about a thing like that?”

“I wouldn’t, Jane.”

Jane nods, smiles, and you sigh, thinking you’re off the hook. Jane walks around her desk. Your foot starts tapping nervously. Suddenly, Jane closes the office door and sits back in her chair. She folds her hands on her desk and now her tone grows hard and her voice drops an octave.

“We have security cameras here.” Jane waits. You know that, at a time like this, you have nothing to gain by being the first person to break the silence. You’re now turning three shades of red. “I have you on camera, stealing those DVDs!” she waits. You gulp.

“Becka, I gave you this job as a favor to your father. I don’t think he’d be very happy if I told him about this.” Now you really start to squirm. “I don’t think you want that.” That cocky attitude of yours starts to tremble. “I don’t want to fire you, Becka, but—”

“Please, Jane! Okay, you caught me. Please don’t tell my dad. I did it. Don’t fire me, please! My dad will kill me.”

“Honestly, Becka, it would be a huge hassle for me to train someone to do your job right now, so I don’t want to fire you. But there’s going to have be some kind of disciplinary action.”

“Jane,” you say earnestly, “I’ll take extra shifts. I’ll sort your files for you. I’ll do anything. Just don’t tell my dad and don’t fire me!”

“That’s not going to teach you anything. You need to be taken down a few pegs, young lady. You’re too smart for your own good!” You look at her wondering what else she could do to you. “If you expect me to keep you on and don’t want me to tell your parents, then I’m going to punish you here and now and you’ll just have to agree to whatever it is I decide is right and appropriate. That’s the deal.”

“Okay.” Then her words sink in. “What do you mean, whatever you think is appropriate? What are you going to do to me?”

“I’m not going to negotiate with you, Becka. It’s nothing untoward, my idea for you. But it *is* something that will surely make a lasting impression on you. I think you need that right now... It’s that, or I pick up the phone can call your

parents.”

“No! No, don’t do that. I agree. Whatever you want. Whatever you say.” You think, how bad can it be compared to what your father would do? He would definitely ground you until you were a hundred years old.

Jane now gets up and locks the office door. You hear the *click* and now you’re worried. She moves to you and stands over your chair. “Get up!” she barks. You obey reflexively. She sits in the chair. The next thing you know, she’s grabbed your forearm and has jerked you over her lap... and pulled up your skirt! She taps you a few times on your behind. She rolls up her sleeve.

“Wait! You can’t do this! I’m too old for a spanking!”

“If you’re going to act like a child, I’m going to treat you like one!” She raises her arm high and lands a half dozen swats on your behind, one cheek and then the other! *Smack-smack-smack-smack!* Wow! Your pride is stinging almost as much as your flesh. You thank god for the small protection of your panties. As you feel her weight shift again, you reach your arm around to shield yourself. “Get your hand out of the way or I’m going to double the amount of spanks you’re going to get today!” Quickly you obey. You kick and squirm as she spanks each cheek, slowly and rhythmically...one, two, three, four, five, six... all the way to twenty. You never thought twenty was such a large number before. Jane is a lot stronger than she looks.

“Oww! Please! I’m sorry!” you yelp.

“Oh, you *will* be! I hope you’re proud of yourself!” snipes Jane.

“This is SO embarrassing!”

“Good!” and she lays on a dozen more, one cheek and then the other. When it stops, you’re relieved, but then you really feel a hot sting spread over your backside. And suddenly, here it comes again. Twelve more. You squirm now and try to avoid her strokes. She gives you one sharp swat on your upper thigh and you see stars! “See that! I know how to make you behave. So take what’s coming to you like you agreed to do, or I’m going to make things even harder on you.” You settle down and grimace as she starts spanking each cheek, two strokes at a time. And then three strokes on each cheek. *One-two-three! One-two-three!* For a full minute! Will it ever end? Finally, she stops.

“That’s it...? We’re done now, right?”

“You’re not getting off so easy, my dear. We’re just getting started. I haven’t even pulled your panties down yet.” And now she does. Now your bottom has a nice pink glow to it, so she begins the real punishment... on the bare. Thirty swats! It starts out slow and measured, but it speeds up halfway through until the spanks come fast, like a machine gun. After a seeming eternity, it stops. Harsh! Surely, that’s the end of it.

“Stand up,” she commands. Phew! You think: Ahh. Finally!. You made it. It wasn’t *that* bad. Better than anything your dad would come with. You stand. She stands. And then she bends you over her desk, lifts your skirt up again, grabs a ruler. Next thing you know, you’re feeling its wood *smack* across your bare fanny. It’s not as harsh as her hand, but it stings like crazy, and it seems like she will never stop. “I’m going to spank your ass till you can’t sit down for week! At least then you’ll have a constant reminder of what can happen to a girl who’s too smart for her own good!” The flurry of swats suddenly stop. “Now, go stand in the corner over there!” She points to the far side of the room. You feel very foolish but you don’t dare refuse.

There you are, with your skirt’s bottom tucked into the waistband so your bare, sore cheeks are exposed. Your panties dangle around your ankles, and your nose is pressed into the wall. Jane moves in close. She holds something small in her hand. You see her place a quarter against the wall. “Put your nose on the quarter!”

“What?” you ponder?

“I want your nose pressed against that coin! If it falls, I’m going to give you 30 swats with big paddle!”

“Jesus in a jumpsuit!” you mutter to yourself.

“What’s that?”

“Nothing!” and you press your nose on the quarter as hard as you can. Boy, this is not how you imagined your day was going to end!

You can hear Jane rusting in her desk drawer. You fear it could be that big paddle. You hold your breath and try not to move. Your nose is going a little bit

numb.

“Turn around,” Jane barks at last. You do, catching the quarter in your hand. She holds her hand out. You look back, perplexed. She wiggles her fingers and lasers you with a glare. Twenty thoughts race across your mind at once. Finally, you get it. And you hand her the quarter.

“Sorry, Jane, I’m trying. I just... this is... You have no idea how embarrass—”

Jane turns up the radio... loud. “It’s going to get a little noisy in here.”

She points to the chair with one hand. In the other she holds a leather strap. “Get over the chair.” You don’t like the looks of that strap, but the look in her eye is even scarier. You trudge slowly, because those panties dangling at your ankles don’t allow for speed. Gingerly, you kneel. You place your belly over the seat of the chair. It feels disorienting. Your head dangles low and you don’t know quite what to do with your legs and arms. But soon all that is gone from your mind. *Whap! Whap! Whap!* That strap lands hard on your exposed rear end.

“Oww-oooh-oww!” you squeek.

“It’s seems like fun when you come with clever ideas, doesn’t it? Not so much fun when you have to pay the piper!” *Whap-whap-whap!*

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry. I won’t do it again!”

“Everybody makes promises when they’re bent over, getting their bottom tanned! Your words mean nothing to me right now, Becka. Actions speak louder than words. You’re going to have to earn your privileges – and my trust – all over again now.” And she gives you another dozen with the strap.

“Ouch! Jane! Please, stop! I’m not a baby! I’ll be going to college in two years. This is humiliating.”

“Oh, you think you’re embarrassed now? If I ever catch you doing anything like this again, I’m going to call the rest of the staff in here and spank your ass red in front of everyone. How would you like that, Missy? Maybe I should do that right now.”

“No, please! I’ll be good. I’ll be good.”

“You’ll do what I say?”

“Yes! Yes!” you vow.

“Okay, Stand up.”

Your head is spinning, but you stagger to your feet, relieved you’ve survived this painful indignity. But then she grabs you by the arm and positions you behind the chair. She puts one of your hands on the top left of the chair back, your other hand on the top right. “Back up three feet!” she barks. You comply. Now you’re bent in half with your behind presented quite vulnerably in the air. Jane walks beside you and you see that she has a paddle in her hand, thin but wide. Where the hell did that come from! Before you have time to ponder this, your butt is stinging with heat! *Smack-crack-whack!* Six slow, steady whallops with the paddle. Your feet start to dance. “Hold still for these next six, or I’ll make it twelve!”

It takes every bit of will and concentration for you to keep from moving, but your fear of extra swats trumps the searing sting on your cheeks and you hold the position for six more searing smacks. A feeling of huge accomplishment washes over you. And relief.

“Stand up.” You do as you’re told. Jane spins you around and looks you square in the eyes for a long moment. You don’t dare speak. “Go back and stand in the corner.” Happy to have a choice that doesn’t involve harsh stinging whallops to your now tender bare bottom, you scurry as fast you can to the corner.

“Put your nose it that corner again and keep it there. Now listen to me. I’m going to leave you there for five minutes, alone. While I’m gone I want you to do some serious thinking about what you did. When I come back, I want to hear from you. If what you have to say convinces me that you’ve learned a lesson here, then we might be able to bring this unpleasant incident to an end. However, if I feel like you’re just blowing smoke up my ass and parroting back what I said to you, just to get this over with, I’m bending you over again and spanking you till I can see tears!. Do you understand me?”

“Yes! Yes! I understand!”

“And I better find you right there where I left you, with your nose pressed into that corner. If I walk in and catch you wandering around or talking on your

cellphone or doing anything other than pushing your nose to the wall, I'm going to start all over again from square one! I've got all the time in the world... and some very wicked toys I haven't even used yet! Do you understand?"

"Yes, Ma'am."

Jane leaves. Your ass smarts. You rub it. It's hot. It feels a little hard in tender places. You turn your head. You want to get out of that corner. You feel like a five year old idiot. But you don't dare move. Five minutes seems to take forever. You hear the click of Jane's high heels on the linoleum outside and you press your nose against that wall! You remember the store has security cameras. Oh, no! Did she see you take your nose off the wall? You tense, and panic. But then the footsteps pass by and fade away. Phew! You wait. Sweat beads up on the back of your neck. Your nose hurts. You don't dare breathe. ...then finally, the door opens. You're afraid to turn around. The door shuts. You hear Jane's dry voice: "Turn around," That's exactly what you do. And then you take a breath.

"Take a seat in the chair." You walk over and sit down. Oww! Your butt is very sore. You can't find a comfortable position. Jane smiles. "What do you have to say for yourself?"

"It was wrong and stupid of me to steal the DVDs. You're right, I was just being a smart ass. Trying to see if I could get away with it. It was immature, and even if I didn't think it was wrong, I never considered what could happen if I got caught. Boy, I sure do now! I will never, ever, *ever* do anything stupid like that again and I know I can't expect you to trust me but I promise I'll show you. I'll do better from now on."

"Well, it really sounds like you mean that."

"I do. I really do," you insist, because it's true. And you are so relieved that this is finally going to end. You hope.

"Stand up." You stand up.

"Can I pull my pants up?" you ask. Jane ignores your question. Her lips curl upward. It's a smile. It even seems rather warm. She extends her hand. You look at it. She nods. You walk slowly to her. She nods again. You take her hand. She squeezes it and smiles wider. You feel even more relief. When

abruptly you feel her jerk your arm forward and you stumble back over her lap!

“But... You said I – ”

“I believe you *have* learned a lesson today, but just to make sure, I’m going to give you one last dose of spanks over my knee... with my hairbrush.” You tense. Your tongue gets caught in your throat. Reflexively your arm starts to reach for your bare buttocks, but you catch yourself. “Let’s see... I’ll give you ...oh... let’s say eight strokes...”

“Oh, jeez.” Your heart freezes. Then you realize you are in no position to negotiate. “Yes, Ma’am,” you sigh. “Whatever you think.”

“If you hold still and take your last strokes well I will let you pull up your panties and be done with it.” You grit your teeth and you brace yourself.

“Unclench your bottom! Relax those cheeks now!” You’re filled with tension and dread. She asks the impossible. And then you remember her threat. You certainly don’t want her to start all over from square one, so you take a deep breath and force your trembling bare cheeks to relax.

Eight fast, searing swats! Right cheek, left cheek! Right cheek, left cheek...! And finally the room falls silent. Your bottom burns. There’s a faint throbbing in your ears. She taps your bare fanny gently and gives it a soft caress. Then you feel her pull your panties back up over your stinging rear end. Your skirt comes down over them.

“You can get up now,” she declares.

You find yourself wondering exactly how to move. You teeter to your feet a bit dazed. She waits for you to get your bearings then she looks squarely into your eyes.

“You deserved that, Becka. I’m sorry I had to be so hard on you, but I had to make sure you took me seriously. You accepted your punishment very well and as far as I’m concerned, you and I are square. We wipe the slate and I expect the best from you from now on. Deal?”

“Deal,” you say, still embarrassed. She hands you a bottle of water. You guzzle it down. You didn’t realize how thirsty you were.

“Are you okay to go back to work?”

You rub your sore buttocks. Blushing you say, “Yeah... I’m okay.”

“Alright, then. Enough said.” And she leaves you to collect yourself until you’re ready to go back out onto the sales floor and get back to business.

There you have a broad example of how a standard domestic role play session might be structured. Authority is established. Infractions are confronted. Punishment is meted out in gradually escalating bouts. When things seem close to a conclusion but the Top is not sure if his Bottom has taken her limit, he can offer a choice between wrapping things up or continuing by giving his Bottom a chance to exhibit compliance (to end things) or show defiance (to continue a bit longer). Even after my spankee has indicated she’s had all she cares to endure, I still like to finish things up with a few “last licks”, just to remind her who is in charge. I do believe that a final OTK spanking serves to re-establish the personal connection at the end. It’s nice to bring things full circle and feel that human connection after your Bottom has just been put through a rough and painful punishment.

Spanking the Masochist

Now we shall look at the enthusiast who likes spanking for spanking's sake. In this case there need be no context. No premise. No roles to be played. You are you and they are they. It's not a drama. It's a kinesthetic episode where the body is the only focus. For this person, if you are perceptive and skilled, time will disappear and they will become, for a while, nothing but a bunch of nerve endings. Not all such participants will drop in to the deep well of sensation that many seek and find in this. But all such players seem to actually find pain itself the delicious goal.

For some I've seen, the pain is literally a joy and a delight. One gentleman paying his first visit to me was over my spanking bench and I was certain I had brought him to tears. When we were done he confided that he had actually been laughing. Laughing out of pure joy. He said that it's was so rare for him to find someone who understood how to administer the kind of punishment he loved and needed. He was so happy that he couldn't contain himself. I quipped that it was a good thing he did *not* admit his laughter during the spanking or I'd have really given him a thrashing. Do you know what he did then? He burst into laughter. And so did I.

Now let's take an in depth look at another kind of masochist. The person for whom pain is transcendental. Topping for this kind of spanking is rather an art and a science. You must have true regard for your partner because you will need to pay close attention every step of the way. Watch every reaction. Sense her mental and emotional state. Take readings on breathing and muscle tension. Know how to tell when the skin of the buttocks is getting tender and how to use that to modify sensation. You need to understand when to change implements, how to create the rise and fall of sensation and how to reset his threshold, time and time again, so you can keep the dance going, building suspense and tension like a good mystery movie, until you bring her to that cathartic point where her

mind gives up she just rides the waves of emotion and sensation to the end of the journey.

Topping this scene is not for the beginner. I don't recommend you try it even after familiarizing yourself with the following illustration if you've never done it before. What you might do, if you're attracted to being the control partner in this manner of play, is to do several test runs where you ask for feedback along the way. Or, if you have someone you want to play with long term and they like this type of scene, you might start out practicing with them, in short intervals (15 to 30 minutes) and then sit down and exchange feedback. You may find that your take on what your submissive partner was going through is vastly different than what was really happening to him internally. If it had kept going, you may have gone off on a misguided tangent that is very disorienting or discomfiting for your partner. The problem with that is that most Bottoms – especially the true masochist – will usually not be able stop you. It's not in their nature. They will submit and endure it and then, perhaps, dread their next encounter with you. Or just never play with you again. Another choice is to find a safe, sane spanking or BDSM meet-up group in your area and watch more experienced people play. Watch attentively. Talk to them afterwards, too, if you can. Try to understand this deep and complex mindset.

To start things off, most people of this ilk prefer to be supported on a bed or table, or a spanking horse, something that keeps them in a comfortably supported position for the entire duration. Moving them now and again will interrupt the physical and emotional journey they are in the process of dropping deeper and deeper into. Some people will ask to be restrained because even though they crave the pain, they can't trust themselves to hold still for it and tying them down takes away any option of escape, freeing the mind from even considering it.

- THE SCENE -

As with every encounter, there are innumerable approaches. Decide what suits you and your partner. The receiver of the spanking is about to endure a very physically (and usually emotionally) intense experience. He deserves special attention and all decisions should ultimately lean toward his expressed preferences. This can help free his mind to relax into sensation.

First, determine if your partner wants to be naked, or they prefer to be partially dressed with their butt exposed. For our purposes, we'll put the submissive over a nice sturdy, well-padded spanking bench that bends him over, leaving his bare bottom at the most opportune position and height for spanking. If this is a no-context scene, you can just announce that it's time to begin. If your Bottom likes to be given some general justification for his punishment, you can start by telling him that it's time to address the reason he was "sent here". Enumerate his infractions if need be and firmly direct him to the appropriate location. You should have discussed these details in your fact finding conversation before you met. Just proceed according to those parameters.

You may or may not talk for a bit, to get him acclimated to his surroundings (unless, of course, you meet at his home) and the two of you can start making a connection. Even if you know each other very well, this guy is about to go through something intense and may want to ease into it. Get the thoughts of the day out of his head and such. You especially, need to be awake and present. Remember to pay attention to your partner's physical state even now. Notice his breathing, posture, tempo. Okay... Either you've taken time to acclimate or you haven't, but now it's time to get the ball rolling. Take the reins from the beginning.

Your Bottom will be taking his cues from you. He'll be a little on edge, so relieve him of unnecessary choices. Take him to the spanking place and take charge. Remove the appropriate amount of his clothing, according to what you've already decided. Now you might start with OTK to make a physical connection, if appropriate. Otherwise, just get him sturdily supported on a bed or bench or the like. Your confidence lets his subconscious know that he can focus all his concern on his soon to be stinging ass, and not on whether you know what you're doing or not. (Please make sure you know what you're doing!) If it's a purely kinesthetic beating you can probably just talk normally with him. Ask if he's comfortable, or if he needs anything before you start. If you're doing role play then you will have to take readings off him and sense if he's cleared for take-off.

Music can be a nice touch, both for your Bottom and for you. For some people music feels like an intrusion on their senses. You should make sure to find out in your preliminary pow-wow what his preference would be. At last, it's Go Time. You tap him on the ass a half dozen times. This calibrates his brain for the sharp swats that are soon to come. Unless otherwise specified beforehand, you're

going to bring your Bottom up gradually to a heightened kinesthetic state, then vary the intensity up and down while also raising the threshold in progressive stages.

You take your position, aim and land your first 10 or 15 hand spans square in the soft middle of his cheeks, slow... evenly paced... and hard enough to get the blood flowing. You touch or rub his cheeks lightly, then spank them some more. Continue warming him up with your hand gradually, varying your technique. You alternate with slow steady spans on one cheek then the other, with two or three swats on each cheek again and again. You're noting how much he tenses when you're smacking him... how relaxed he is between bouts of spans. You bend down to his ear.

"I can't wait to get your bottom ready for my strap. I'm really going to enjoy feeling the snap of the leather over your red cheeks." His face flushes! You know you've hit a hot button, so you go on to describe this further in pictures, sounds and feelings. You make a mental note that a few well-timed whispers might excite him and help up his endurance as he gets more and more sore from your implements.

(Note: Make sure in advance that your Bottom enjoys being spoken to during the scene. If not, you will introduce self-consciousness and disconnect him from his experience.)

You continue to escalate, spanking harder and faster. You start slow and even, back and forth. Left cheek, right cheek. Then start adding multiple swats per cheek. Then back and forth, all the while speeding up, until you're a spanking machine gun, ending hard and fast. Your internal radar feels him getting closer to his tolerance level as you escalate. So for a moment, you slow it down. You spank then rub his behind between swats, for half a minute. Then you speed up again, gradually, steadily. You can see the tension growing in his muscles. You almost hear him saying to himself, "I don't know how much more I can take." And you give him just *a little bit* more. Your experience has given you an intuition of exactly how far to push those nerve endings, before you abruptly stop, seeing his body loosen and breathe. You stroke his behind. Wait a minute till the sensation fades. Now you deliver 30 or 40 hard spans. Then walk away.

When you come back, you have a thin, light, round paddle. The round surface is just the size of his butt cheek. The wood isn't very dense so it's got more sound

than fury. It's lightness makes it really sting. You swing from your wrist, not your full arm, and alternate five on each cheek. The sound fills the room and it fills his head.

(Note: Don't underestimate the effect of sound in the scene. The brain reacts to it on a different level than it does with physical sensation. Sound is emotionally evocative. Each implement rings in the air differently. Even the sound of your footfalls affects your Bottom more than you know.)

You bring him along with your paddle, varying frequency, degree of impact, and intervals between bouts of paddle swats. His cheeks are really getting red! You squeeze them a little. They're warm, but only the surface capillaries are getting engorged with blood so you know you have plenty of latitude to continue. You've built up his threshold and he's getting habituated to your paddle now. So, to "cleanse his palate" you take out your trusty Scottish leather tawse and lay on three sharp strokes. He lurches reflexively. Yes, that really stings! Now you can go back to the paddle for a few more minutes and he'll really feel it again. You continue this way, varying the number, frequency and intensity of blows; you mix up alternating cheeks with your swats and smacking one cheek a number of times, and then the other. You change implements to keep him from habituating and to avoid too much wear on certain spots so you don't break the skin. You give him intervals of a minute or more to recover, and then you start again. Gradually you build his threshold as you see him tolerate longer and longer bouts; harder and harder swats. When you reach a crescendo, you stop. Or maybe you take an especially harsh implement, like a cane or a tawse, and deliver 3 to 6 searing blows. Then stop for a minute or more. When you resume, start gradually. It's much too jarring to crash right in at the heightened intensity you were using at the end of the last segment.

After a good long while – it could take 20 – 30 minutes; it could take longer – your job is to pay attention – you sense your partner is drifting deeply into his own private head space. It's time to kick things up a notch. You take out a wide, wooden handled leather strap and raise your arm high. Landing several blows, you feel his body receive these without resistance. He's starting to move into a *kinesthetic trance*. This is a state when the mind has loosened its grip and your sub is surrendering into his body more and more, allowing sensation to rule. This is what you both have been building toward.

Now you watch carefully. His muscle tension, his breath, the temperature of his

skin. And you alternate between your implements—leather, then wood; a crop, then a belt – varying number of strokes, tempo, hard or soft swats, length of rest between bouts. The intensity rises and drops a bit, rises even higher, then drops. Every time you're pushing his limits, taking him further. Whenever you see him riding a wave of quasi-serenity through what you're doing, you introduce an implement that contrasts sharply with the previous one. You've sampled all your toys and you know what each one feels like. You know just exactly what's needed.

You wipe the sweat from his face and see that he's somewhere else right now, so you keep silent. Now you can feel his bare bottom is hot, and rather hard. You know it's at this point that your strokes could start bruising him. He actually loves the reminders of his spankings that bruises give, and encourages them when his wife is out of town, but today, you know you have to return him to her in the condition in which you found him, so you take the side of caution now. You know your Bottom loves nothing more than the exquisite slice of the cane when his senses have been driven to their peak and you also realize that if you're going to cane him, you have to do it before he gets any sorer. You take out a thin rattan cane and lay it softly across his cheeks, then you let your arm arc upward, high, then back to softly touch that target spot... getting your bearings. Now you're ready. You raise it high and *snap it* down fast. That satisfying *whoosh!* fills the air. You know your aim is true, so you land three fast strokes. You can almost feel the endorphins surge into his bloodstream. It happened too quickly for him to tense against your swing. Three thin lines rise up on his cheeks, and then fade. But just to be on the safe side you stop. You leave the room. You return with a bowl of ice cubes. He tenses at the coldness when you wipe the first one across his cheek, but then he relishes its cooling effect on his burning behind. After a good icing, you take your hand, or a very light wooden paddle or spoon and smack the remaining moisture away. You don't have to smack very hard at all when those rosy cheeks are wet, but, damn, that really smarts!

You're approaching the peak now. Time to bring things to a crescendo. You select three curved handled rattan canes of varying thickness and hang them nearby. Choose one and stand beside your partner, about a foot above his hiney, and lay on 6 or 8 fast cane strokes, angling them so they criss-cross, to avoid landing on the same spot repeatedly. You apply another dose of ice. Your aim is good, so you move from your Bottom's left side to his right and you alternate strokes so the cane tip doesn't land on the same cheek over and over again. Then you grab the thicker cane and take your original position. You deliver 10

full-on strokes at a steady, rhythmic pace. Then more ice. You spank the ice water off his red, sore cheeks like you did before.

You can feel them getting hard and reaching that precarious point where a blow too hard or an implement too sharp could break the skin. You find a wide wooden paddle and give him five or ten schoolroom whacks, dispersing the impact across his whole behind and helping to minimize the chance of cane welts. The sensation, dense and flat, is the total opposite of your cane strokes. It resets his threshold. Now you take your final cane and start slow. Three strokes. He barely tenses now. Then you speed up gradually. Snap... snap... snap! Until your strokes are coming in flurries, cross hatching thin red lines on his ass. The cane snaps *zing* in the air! With no warning, you stop. And let the smorgasbord of sensations dance around your sub's nervous system.

You taper him down with your hand and alternate with some light straps and paddles, starting with heavier swats and lightening them as you progress, stopping for a few minutes in between to allow him to, again, start sensing the room, the temperature, ambient sounds inside and outside, your footsteps, etc. Finally, you take your round headed hairbrush and take aim at the tender spot at the bottom of his bottom... right next to the crease, and smack each cheek right there, hard, as you slowly alternate. It only takes about three or four of these to light up the nerve endings. The intense, concentrated sting is a real wake up call. And a good place to stop.

You let your partner rest there as he listens to you walk about, putting your implements away. Finally you approach, bend down and stroke his hair. "How're you doing?" you ask quietly. He smiles. "Take your time, okay? When you're ready you can get up, move around a little. Jump in the shower if you like. I left clean towels for you in the bathroom... Then we can chill in the living room for a while, yeah?" He doesn't answer but you've let him know that you have everything all taken care of. You give his ass one last light slap and leave the room. In a few moments you hear him closing the bathroom door.

When he comes out, dressed now, you offer him a seat on your nice soft couch and a glass of wine or tea. After a hard corporal session a Bottom will be more than a little spacey, and sometimes he doesn't fully realize it. You keep monitoring him as you have a nice chat. It's a good idea to wait until you're sure he's returned to a stable mental and physical state... that his equilibrium has returned and he has his wits about him before you send him out the door to fend

with reality again. It's nice if you can make a plan to talk about your session and exchange feedback at some later point. Your sub may not be in the best state of mind to do so right after the fact.

These little mock-ups provided are meant not to be taken literally, but to offer ideas and insights, and a safe progression of activities that you can build upon. As always, take what's useful, and hopefully you'll be entertained by the rest.

The Traditionalist

This type of player is a subset of the very first example we looked at. His/her scenes involve the same clear cut dynamic – authority figure vs. naughty or guilty perpetrator. The distinction between the earlier example and these people is that they adhere to certain routines, rituals and terminology; usually that which evokes an earlier time and zeitgeist. Even if you aren't this kind of stickler, perhaps you'll find certain elements in this illustration that you'll enjoy incorporating into your more contemporary and free-form style of gameplay.

The traditional scene doesn't have to involve anything more specific than: you've been naughty and you know you need to be punished. So if you're not comfortable with detailed premises and complicated dialogue, it's fine. Your Top will take control and put you into the appropriate posture(s) and apply whatever punishment she deems necessary. The distinction between the contemporary OTK enthusiast and the traditionalist is procedural. These people are fond of formality of form and ritual. I divide this type of player into two categories, but often they like to engage in both types of play. One is *Domestic* and the other is *Institutional*.

When dishing out *Domestic Discipline* spanking play you serve the kind that's just like Mom used to make, if Mom were a stern June Cleaver type from the 1950s. And it doesn't have to involve "Mom". Or "Dad". The authority figure could be a strict aunt, your older sister, cousin, your best friend's mother, the pretty neighbor lady whose lawn you mow weekly. The point is, these scenes involve familial relationships of some kind and take place in or around someone's home.

Institutional discipline is conducted in some real or mocked-up (you guessed it) institutional environment. It could be a fictional academy or boarding school, summer camp, reform school, or church. If you prefer to play the adult

perpetrator, you could set your comeuppance in the boss's office (or your office, if you want to do a role reversal where you are taken to task by your secretary), a prison, a convention, even the doctor's or therapist's office. Just to name a few. (One example of a hybrid of these two forms might be the errant husband sent by his wife [*Domestic*] to the office [*Institutional*] of a Disciplinary Consultant whose job it is to implement punishment on behalf of a related third party.)

Wardrobe is usually an integral component for the traditionalist, and of course it will be apropos of the selected setting and time period. Many players enjoy nostalgia play, incorporating such things as girdles and seamed stockings under their "mother's" dress (or sans dress), a single strand of pearls worn on top of a thin cashmere button down sweater, a ruffled apron worn over a shirtwaist dress, etc. The structure of activities for both these types is essentially the same. Either one can involve the guilty party receiving a lecture and a scolding, even being confronted with a list of grievances... or having to arrive with said list in hand. It's the same sequence of being confronted with his wrongs and informed there will be some unpleasant and painful consequences. Then, after a bit of suspense and dread are introduced, the punishment ensues.

The traditionalist's penchant is located not so much in the *what* of things, but the *how*. For this type of player, also referred to as a *purist*, it's all in the presentation. These folks are sticklers for their terminology, the order of events, exact rituals for applying the use of various implements – the order of implements used, the counting out of strokes, even the number of strokes per bout have rituals attached. So does placing their naughty perpetrator properly into position(s), which are sometimes reminiscent of postures they were taught in childhood and sometimes self-created, but once their Bottom has been taught these positions, woe be unto him if he deviates from them!

But rather than nit-pick and labor over the particular details in which purists love luxuriating, let's just depict a version of this category of play. You'll get the jist and if you're attracted to it, you'll be able to trundle off and invent your own permutation(s).

- THE SCENE -

For the purposes of our illustration, we'll say that you and your partner have

decided you will be using the ever-popular boarding school environment for your confrontation. (Institutional) Feel free to identify with whomever you choose. We'll name them as follows: Mrs. Helen Dearing, the serious-minded school headmistress, and Connor McCourt, the delinquent boy in question. (You'll probably be playing out your scenario in someone's home or a hotel room, so just designate an area to serve as a waiting room, and another spot for the office (just to create some dramatic tension as your guilty party waits to be summoned before his judge, jury and executioner.)

Connor sits, fidgeting on a bench or a chair in the waiting area for several minutes; long enough for him to grow impatient – and long enough, surely, to bring out the worst of his bratty traits. Finally, in walks Mrs. Dearing, her hair as tightly bound as her demeanor. She wears a simple black skirt and starched white blouse. A pair of plain black high-heeled pumps enhanced her shapely legs. The glance Connor steals at them does not go unrecorded by Mrs. Dearing's attention; even though he thinks he's obscured it with his most innocent expression. The one that has served him well in many other such confrontations.

“Connor McCourt?” He flinches reflexively and snaps to attention. Her tone is dry and dispassionate. She seems to be immune to his practiced sincerity. When she turns and strides down the hall, he rises and follows. The click of her heels fill his head as it echoes on the hard floor.

She opens the door to a room. It might be an office. Or it could be the designated Discipline Room, as boarding schools would be accustomed to regularly subjecting their students to certain corrective measures. We'll say that in this particular room there are two chairs, a few stools of varying heights, a hassock, and a desk. Mrs. Dearing points to a low stool, one a very young child might use. Connor scowls at this apparent insult so Mrs. Dearing calmly approaches, grabs him by the ear, and painfully marches him to it inching him down. She wants him there (a) to make him feel silly and a bit humiliated and (b) so that he is forced to look up to her, taking away any feeling of superiority or authority he may imagine himself to retain. He watches her stride toward a yardstick leaning against the desk. She clasps it.

“The janitor caught you and your little friends drilling a hole in the broom closet adjacent to the girls' locker room.” She hands him a pen and a notebook. “Your punishment will start with *the writing of lines*. Please write ‘I will respect

school property' one hundred times.”

“But...!” For a moment, Connor considers denying the indictment. Tap, tap, tap... the long wooden stick she holds makes him think better of it. He grumbles inaudibly. She raps him smartly on the back of his head.

“What was that?” she barks. He looks confused. “I’d like to hear your answer in proper English, please.”

“I, uh, I don’t remember doing that,” he reluctantly hisses.

She grabs his ear and pulls him up. With a foot’s distance between them, eye to eye, she stares austere at him. “That is not the proper protocol you’ve learned when addressing your elders, Master McCourt! And I think you know that.” She gives his ear a sharp tug.

He grimaces. “Oww! Yes, Ma’am!” he yelps. “But *line writing* is for babies. I shouldn’t have to do that. Can’t I just have detention?”

“Well, you’ve been caught red-handed. There is a security camera in that closet.” (I find the security camera ploy convenient to swiftly refute most any denial. However, you may not even feel the need to verify guilt. It can be sufficient to skip any debate after the crime is announced and hand down punishment... because you say so.) “Let’s bypass the negotiations. We both know that you and your comrades were not only up to more of your salacious mischief. But this time you vandalized school property in the process. You are in serious trouble, Master McCourt. Do you know that?” He can see her face flushing with anger.

“Uh-huh.” Then quickly rectifying, “I mean, Yes! Yes, Ma’am!”

“This is not the first time I’ve had to speak with you about pranks and mischief, is it?”

“No, Ma’am,” he grumbles.

“And since you are so averse to *writing lines*, we’ll take another course,” she smiles. Most satisfied, Connor smiles as well.

“Given your mature age and such,” she says with a sly smile, “I had already planned that you’d be getting *a good thrashing* today. Especially considering

that the two dozen minimum paddle strokes you got last time failed to provide adequate incentive. I *assigned* the writing to give you time to adjust to the idea, but it's not necessary."

Connor proffers his most earnest expression. "I'm sorry, Mrs. Dearing. The boys and I, we were daring each other. One thing lead to another. I got carried away. It won't happen again. I promise!" His big sad eyes have no affect on her.

"Since this is your third offense, the school charter gives me authority to prescribe whatever *correction* I choose to *administer*. Today, you won't have the luxury of the ten minute *warm-up* over your *knickers*." She goes to her desk chair and removes the cushion, placing it over the high stool. "Unbuckle your belt and hand it to me." Connor doesn't dare disobey. "Now unzip and drop your trousers." Hesitant, he clearly sees the steel in her eyes. His fingers tremble as he finally gets his zipper down and the pants fall at his ankles. "Now bend over this stool and grab onto the legs." He obeys. "I'm going to tell you what you're in store for, just so you can fret over it while I go get out my cane." The very word makes him tense up. He hears the *click-click* of her high heels on the hardwood floor.

"I'm going to give you *six of the best, on the bare* to start with." These words do not help relax him one bit. *Click-click, click-click*. She returns and stands beside him. "I want you to *count out each stroke* loud and clear, do you hear me?"

"I'm really sorry this time, Ma'am, "he offers hoarsely. "I promise I'll never –"

"If you make an error in your counting," she snaps, unmoved by his plea, "we will start back at one. And by the way, Master McCourt?"

"Ma'am?"

"Do you have any inkling of how many boys I hear promising me the moon *after* they've been caught doing the very thing they've been warned against?"

"No, Ma'am."

"It's easy to promise things. I have no sympathy for your promise."

"I see that now, Ma'am."

“Very good,” she says. “Now *present your bottom* properly.”

Connor knows only too well what this means. He puts his feet together, straightens his legs, and arches his back to raise his rear end as high as he can. Mrs. Dearing, her left hand on her hip raises the cane high and expertly snaps it down with full force in the center of Connor’s *bare bottom*. *THWACK!*

“One! Ma’am” squeals Connor. Out of the corner of his grimacing eye he sees her square her stance again. *THWACK-THWACK!* The next two swift swats land dead center half an inch apart. “Two, three, Ma’am!” he groans, pain searing into his temples.

“Don’t you dare *lower those cheeks* again or I’ll add six more strokes. *Present that bottom!*”

Even though he can’t bare the thought of his vulnerable hindparts stretching upward toward her cane, he obeys, fearing worse if he refuses. Her left hand goes back on her hip as she raises her right arm high. He hears the high-pitched *WHOOSH!* of the cane as it slices the air, and the sharp *THWACK!* as it lands, *stinging* all the way up his spine. Somehow, he wills himself to hold still. “Four, Ma’am.” he chokes out. She rubs her hand across his behind, feeling the *welts* rising. He flinches. *THWACK! THWACK!* “Five, six Ma’am!” he grunts. “Thank you, Ma’am.” With every ounce of will, he resists the urge to rub his stinging *bumm*.

“Now march yourself into that corner, right now!” His head is spinning from holding the bent over position, but he wobbles upright and shuffles to the corner. “That’s right, put your nose in that corner.” He obeys. She can see the back of his neck turning all shades of red. “Feeling a bit foolish, are we, Master Connor?”

“A little. Yes, Ma’am.”

“Good! Do you think you’re too old to be put over my knee?” she shouts.

“I, well, I... please, Mrs. Dearing. That’s so embarrassing!”

“You’ve been behaving like a two-year-old, Connor! I believe that if a boy *insists on acting like a child, he should be treated like one.*”

“Yes, Ma’am. I’m sorry, Ma’am.”

“Oh, you *will* be, when I get through with you! I’m going to spank you so hard you won’t be able to sit down for a week!” Connor’s pretty sure this is going to be a lot worse than two dozen paddle strokes he’d gotten last time.

She grabs his arm and bends him over the desktop, making him grab one corner with one hand and the other corner with the other. She takes a wide paddle out of a drawer. This one resembles the one used on the older boys when they pledged the nearby fraternity houses. He’d never seen one used at his school before.

She crosses the room and stands beside him. “*Unclench those cheeks!*” she shouts. There is not a relaxed bone in his body but he somehow manages to unclench his buttocks. “If you clench them again, I’m going to spray them with water and paddle full force on your *wet bottom!*” Connor is well aware of the amplitude of sting affected by a paddle on wet skin.

She stands next to him, her feet wide apart. With her arm high that paddle comes soaring down, smacking his *red behind* one, two, three, four, five, six strokes! “You’re clenching! Where is my water bottle?”

“Please, Ma’am. *Mercy*. Please!” he says through tears now. “I tried so hard, but I lost it for a second. Please *have mercy.*”

“Very well... I could see you were trying. Now *raise those cheeks!*” With the utmost dread, he wills himself to *assume the position*. Six more whacks to go. He grits his teeth. ... and here they come. One! Two! Three... every one stinging worse than its predecessor. Four! Five! And then a long pause. The throbbing stops as he’s about to catch his breath. Then the final stroke smacks down, the hardest of all!

“Thank you, Ma’am,” he chokes.

“Come over here.” Connor swiftly obeys. “Put your hands against the wall... Good. Now take three steps backward.” He now stands with his torso leaning forward and his rear sticking out. He knows what’s next. “*Present those cheeks!*” He arches and raises his *bottom*. She takes the hard, narrow, thick wooden school paddle off the wall and walks to him. Standing at his side, she hooks an arm under his waist, so he can’t twist away from her swats. She raises the dense wood high and smacks him hard. Six strokes before he can even react. When she lets go, the pain of those six thuds starts to radiate up his spine!

His legs almost buckle.

“That hurts doesn’t it!”

“Yes, Ma’am. A lot.”

“Good. I hope you’ll remember that! Now come over to this chair.” When he does so, she puts his right hand on right spindle of the chair back, his left hand on the left. He grips them for dear life.

“Take a step backward.” He does. “Legs together! Now *up on your toes!*” Connor has heard stories of *corporal punishment* being *delivered* in such a stance. The difficulty of holding position makes the swat seem to hurt ten times more. His muscles tense and he rises up on his toes. He holds his breath in anticipation.

“Now... bend your left knee so your left foot comes off the ground.” She taps his left knee with the yardstick “Bend it at 90-degree angle.” Now he’s standing on his toes with one foot in the air. He clutches the chair spindles for all he’s worth!

“I’m going to get my tawse and give you one dozen swats.” He flushes at the very idea. “You will *hold position* for the entire time! If you do not move, your punishment will be over. If you flinch, if you wiggle, if your right heel lowers, if you let your left foot touch the ground, I am going to *birch you* for five minutes straight! Did you hear me?”

“Birch – ?! Oh! Y-yes, Ma’am. I’ll hold still. I promise!”

“Repeat my instructions so you’re clear on the rules.” He stutteringly does as she demands. His right leg is already starting to cramp, but he takes a deep breath and holds position.

Mrs. Dearing flings the tawse lightly backward, so it rests on her shoulder. She raises her elbow and slams the strap sharply across his bare cheeks. He chokes back his breath, but he doesn’t move. She *lays on* three more strokes and then walks slowly around him, knowing that the pain is making him weak and flushed. His *bare behind* is *blistered with welts* now. She can see in his eyes that he’s taken about as much as a boy can stand, and by his eager compliance to her orders, she knows that she’s put the fear of God into him.

Now, she takes her place beside him. She steps back three feet and *delivers* Connor's final six stinging lashes. Tears stream from his eyes but he doesn't dare make a sound. Mrs. Dearing grins to herself. "Stand down, Master McCourt." He lowers his wobbly legs and sucks in a gasp of air. "I believe you've had enough for one day, don't you?"

"Oh, yes, Ma'am. Thank you, Ma'am."

"Don't you think you owe me something, first?"

"Owe...?" He thinks very hard. Connor does not want to get this wrong. At last, it comes to him. "Right. Yes, Ma'am. I'm really sorry for disregarding school property and for my rudeness. For peeping at the girls when they're were in their private place. I swear I will be good from now on. You'll see."

He says it with such desperation she decides he's *learned his lesson*. Or at the very least, he's learned that school punishment can overshadow the amusement any clever prank can provide, and that can be sufficient deterrent for most boys.

"You may get dressed now," she says as she walks to the door. He bends to grab his underpants.

"Oh, and Master McCourt?" He snaps to attention, letting his knickers plummet again. "I trust I will have your full cooperation from now onward?"

"Absolutely, Ma'am. Whatever you say." Taking no chances, he dresses with lightning speed.

She walks to the door, then turns. "Good. Then you'll set about *writing those 100 lines* now, won't you?" Disgruntled, he suppresses a scowl. "Yes, Ma'am," he groans. She opens the door and, as he takes out his notebook, she turns back once more.

"Master McCourt?" Connor's head snaps up. "If I have to see you in here a fourth time this semester, you will consider *the correction I administered* today to be but a series of *love taps* compared to what you'll receive then. Do we understand each other?"

"Oh, yes, Ma'am. You won't be seeing me in this room ever again!" And he really, truly means it. For now.

This little narrative presents a good deal of the terminology, forms and rituals composing a traditional spanking scene. Note such things as being forced to *unclench* one's cheeks, thereby not being allowed to steel yourself against the spanker's implement (practically impossible when you're under the gun) and being forced into awkward stances that will make the pain of strokes harder to handle. Such things often arise from traditions that are as much a hundred years old. If you're intrigued by the evocative nature of such rituals and forms you can find many books and internet articles and blogs that can add to your repertoire. And if you're a good web detective, there are websites with lots of corporal discipline nostalgia... in case you'd like to collect a wardrobe to enhance the affect. I especially enjoy the old sketches and illustrations from the 1930s – 1950s. I'm sure you'll have fun finding your favorite treats.

CHAPTER 9

Games People Play

Many spanking enthusiasts like to meld their discipline play into their real lives, especially if they're in a romantic relationship. It can also be done with platonic partners when structured clearly. Even spankos who each have their own non-spanko spouses can pull it off. It's easier, of course, when spouses have their significant other's blessing, but I've seen people manage it even when they don't. This makes things much more complicated, but as long as strict rules and boundaries are established and followed, many people are able to keep both their spanking world and their vanilla, married world separate and healthy.

One such example of this is creating a *discipline contract* that is to be set forth, agreed upon and then signed, either by the submissive partner or both spanking partners. Another option is simply *a list of rules* crafted by the parties involved as a guiding structure. There are as many ways of arranging this, as there are personalities, so you get to make it up as you like it. Here are some common manifestations.

The Discipline Contract

This one can be fun and useful for partners who play regularly and are ready to take things to a new level. Top and Bottom get together and brainstorm a list of do's and don'ts that the Bottom will then have to adhere to. They can do this in various ways. Some possibilities are:

- The Top can simply mandate the rules
- Both can put forth ideas and, together; they hash out an acceptable manifesto of accountability.
- A third party can mediate and decide what's fair, balanced and realistic for the participants.
- There can be merely a mutual decision that the Top has permission to demand things of the Bottom due to his/her role as overall authority, and the Bottom must either comply or be punished. Certain exclusions may be stipulated at the outset, given that real-life necessities for each person need to be given consideration. Once the partners commit to the rules or parameters, the consequences are pre-determined. Some possibilities:
 - The Demerit system: an appropriate number of points are assigned to the failure to comply. There can be a different point score for each of the various categories, if desired, or just one point or demerit for each failure to execute a task or follow an order. Then, at the outset, the Bottom is given a certain cumulative demerit score which, when reached, will result in (a) a pre-determined punishment, (b) each various incremental punishment for higher and higher scores, (c) or there can be a punishment for each "crime" and the Bottom can have the choice to accrue infractions and a monthly "punishment day" is designated, at which time all her punishments will be administered in succession.
 - The Rules system: a list of rules is created. If the Bottom fails to follow any rule they will be punished, either immediately, or at a

convenient moment. There's no score-keeping, just actions and consequences. Rewards can be structured into any game for good behavior, either something pleasurable is awarded or he/she can earn a "coupon" that exempts him/her from a future punishment, or the right to a lesser one. (E.g., *50%-off coupon*: Upon redeeming it, the bearer will get half the strokes prescribed by his contract. He can even save this, the way that people save the *hidden immunity idol* on the TV show *Survivor*, and pull it out when it may do the most good.)

- The Weekly or Daily system: this is some variation of the previous systems, but it is renewed after short intervals. This works for people who get bored easily and need novelty to keep their attention stimulated. It can even be agreed that the Top can change the game spontaneously, at whatever interval he chooses, as long as he clearly announces it and gives his partner a short grace period to make any necessary practical adjustments.

These are just a few simple game structures. As I said, there are as many as there are people who play them. Tailor yours to your own preferences and circumstances. Here's an example of one of the most popular varieties:

- WIFEY KNOWS BEST -

Ladies, if you have ever wondered if there is a way to get your damn husband to stop doing all those annoying things that drive you out of your mind – or just get him to pitch in around the house in a helpful, and not disruptive, manner – you will adore this game. If your husband or live-in boyfriend is already predisposed to spanking activities you've got it made already. But you'd be surprised how many men who have not been so inclined thus far will find the idea titillating if it's presented as a game, rather than out of some pent up resentment that is just a little too close to reality for comfort. Since this is a book about spanking, we'll assume that anyone reading it is likely to be in—or seeking to be in—a spanking relationship, and we'll approach from that angle. This story is a condensed version of something that happened to a real married couple I know.

- MR. AND MRS. JONES -

John and Mary Jones are a couple I met in a very exclusive private spanking club I once belonged to, years ago, and they have since taken to playing on their own. Nowadays Mary and John each have jobs outside the home. Mary was fed up with John's sloppiness and self-absorption, which ultimately always leaves her with all of the household responsibilities. She's had it up to here, and decides to do something about! Here's the drama Mary devises to resolve things:

One day, John comes home and she puts her foot down. She tells John that she has made a list of all the things that must get done on a regular basis, such as taking out the trash, sorting the mail, doing the laundry, picking up after John's sloppiness, doing dishes, paying bills, cleaning the house, and so on. She lets him look it over and then says that he must select half the items on this list as his responsibility. She will handle the rest. John looks at her with a jaundiced eye and heads for the kitchen, so Mary goes to her desk and pulls out a shiny new, thick wooden paddle. Meeting John in the kitchen she announces that she's done with working full-time only to come home to be his scullery maid. From now on, he will do his share of the chores, and when he fails to do so, he will be punished.

John eyes the large paddle and gives Mary a cheeky grin, sure now that she's flirting with him. Mary shrewdly goes along with this. Hooking her finger in his waistband she drags him to the bedroom. She smiles as she unzips his fly. He gladly complies as she bends him over the bed and pulls down his trousers and then his briefs, baring his butt cheeks. She slides next to him on the bed, then straddles him and sits on his back, pinning him motionless. Mary wallops him heartily until his bare bottom is beet red and he's begging for mercy. Face down, out of the corner of his eye, John can see a flash of light. Mary jumps off the bed and *ZAP!* Another flash of light. When John stands up and gets his bearings, Mary shows him that she's just emailed to herself the two photos she's just taken with her cellphone of John's red, soundly punished rear end – a close-up of his crimson cheeks, and another, from a distance, of him bent over, exposing the identifying characteristics of their bedroom. Mary tells John that unless he takes her new rules seriously she's going to show the pictures to certain friends and associates of John, knowing that this would mortify him. Now he's got incentive.

John was slow to fall into the routine Mary laid down, but when he balked, Mary never wavered in delivering swift, sound punishment. Consistency is everything in discipline. It certainly got John in line. Now, whenever Mary makes a request of John, most of which are quite reasonable – though sometimes she’ll throw in a few zingers just because she can!—he makes sure to attend to them in a timely manner. After a few weeks of her “blackmail” incentive, his backside had gotten very tired of the sting of her paddle several times a day. When John broke the rules Mary’s spankings hurt a lot more than when they did their little discipline play scenes. And he didn’t dare risk balking when it came time to take his punishment. But if you really pressed him, he’d have to admit that Mary is much happier with John, which has made him a lot happier in the long run, too. And, honestly, John enjoys (or at least he enjoys *not enjoying*) Mary’s discipline much more now because it’s *real*. As a matter of fact, now that he’s fallen into the routine and is not being punished quite as much as when this new system first began, every now and again, John does something wrong on purpose, just for the fun of it.

So you see, gals, if you’ve got a spanko on your hands, you are really in the catbird seat. They may object a bit at first and even if they don’t, “boys will be boys” and they will invariably test you. But if you stick to your guns, you really can get almost anything you want out of your guy. Yes, it can be a bit of a nuisance to have to take time out, march him into the bedroom and paddle his behind, but everyone I know who has employed a similar habit has affirmed that it has reaped dividends that neither party originally imagined, not the least of which being a renewed spark in the bedroom!

Gentlemen, if your wife has turned a cold shoulder to your requests that she at least try spanking you, let her read about John and Mary. Maybe she’ll find inspiration when she realizes what she might stand to gain! But, be careful what you wish for; you might get it and once she gets a taste of how she can get her way with you, life may never be the same again.

- LIFESTYLE -

The previous examples are *lifestyle* games. Some people like to incorporate their affinity for D/D (dominance and discipline) into their real life. In most cases, this is confined to their personal, at-home world. Few people are so unabashed as to expose their predilections publicly. Sometimes one partner prefers to always take the dominant role and the other the submissive. Sometimes they like to *switch*. But they invariably want their discipline play be more “real”... to take it to the next level and put something at stake so that they are continually accountable to one another.

The Bottom is accountable for certain designated behavior or tasks. The Top is equally responsible for seeing to it that when the Bottom breaks his/her agreements, there is consistent application of the agreed upon punishment. Many couples use this not only as fantasy but also as a support to break bad or lazy habits, or to encourage more productive practices in a disorganized or unfocused partner (consensually, of course).

Some couples even take it to the point where the submissive partner is required (and is excited to be made) to ask permission for certain explicit acts and is punished for forgetting protocol. This can manifest in broad, general ways or become as pervasive as the creation of elaborate lists of demands and punishments. In BDSM relationships, sometimes the submissive partner is required to ask permission for every autonomous act. This extreme is more suited to a “Mistress (or Master) and slave” dynamic and is usually not employed in the spanking lifestyle contract. Also keep in mind that, while some of this may sound a bit harsh to you, the people who engage in it find it very exciting. It adds a special edge to the daily routine. And it sure keeps people on their toes.

We give these arrangements the designation *lifestyle* because the gameplay is not random and sporadic. It is structured and planned. It is an integrated part of the couple’s routine. Couples need not be cohabitating, nor do they even need to have a romantic or sexual relationship. All that’s required are two consenting adults. The form it takes is up to the creativity of the individuals.

- RANDOM GAMES -

Random games are non-lifestyle play. Usually, they’re a one-off event played by

scene partners. It can be as simple as basic role play scenarios. Some players do have favorite games and like to repeat them, either with a variety of partners, if they crave novelty, or with a significant other. Some examples of random games are listed below, but you're clever enough to come up with your own.

Spanked for smoking

One person chides and spanks the other for being caught smoking (tobacco, perhaps, or it could pertain to those naughty illegal homemade cigarettes!) It could be a fantasy, which is dramatized, or, possibly, the guilty party really wants or needs to quit smoking and the scenarios provide real consequences.

Getting a speeding ticket

Again, this is much more meaningful if applied to real life situations. Anything one partner has done that is both socially wrong and also detrimental to their well-being makes a good reason to impose a special kind of punishment.

Report card spanking

In this game, one partner alone, or both in collaboration, create a "report card" for the Bottom. (There can also be dual reports where each partner grades the other. When the Top earns demerits, instead of getting punished, the Bottom is given a "coupon" that reduces a future punishment for the Bottom when they get "bad grades. The "subjects" to be graded are established at the outset with both parties' agreement. It can be similar to John and Mary Jones' story, where a list of chores is designated. In this case, one partner will not give demerits, he will give his partner a final grade at periodic intervals that both agree to. He might create a *points system* for evaluating the list items during the "semester," or just make a general assessment at the end of it. Any way that works is fine. Before starting, both parties agree to what the punishment(s) and/or rewards will be. This can always be revised in the beginning of each period, but should be adhered to once the time frame has started. Some people find this game very motivating. They enjoy seeing written acknowledgment of their actions. There's also fertile ground here for mischief and flirtation.

Threats

In this game the dominant partner holds out a threat, either some potentially embarrassing consequence, or the promise of a particular type of punishment she knows her Bottom severely dislikes. Whenever Tommy Top is displeased with

Barbie Bottom he says, “If you do that again, I’m going to do X.” He is, of course, free to decide not to follow through, especially if Barbie seems especially sorry or persuasive. He can tell Barbie that he’ll give her the benefit of the doubt *this time*, but next time she’ll have to pay the piper, and then some! They can play off the drama and suspense of *if* or *when* the threat will be acted upon. There can be *bargaining*. Tommy can offer Barbie the choice to opt out of the threatened consequence, but she must come up with an equally heinous alternative, or accept his newly invented alternative punishment, sight unseen. Maybe she/he’ll offer the Bottom an alternative much the equivalent of *staying after school*, e.g., washing his/her car or (if a romantic relationship) pampering him/her extra well with sexual favors! Many couples find the suspense and tension part of things to be as exciting and enjoyable as getting to the ultimate consequence.

Subtle threats

This is more of a teasing or embarrassment game. One party *threatens* the other with, for example, telling a store clerk, or a waitress in a restaurant (probably one they will never visit again!) something along the lines of, “See this man? I’m the boss of him. He has to do what I say or he gets a spanking when we get home.” One fun variation is for Tina Top to grab a pair of panties in the department store and tell Bobby Bottom that she’s going to tell the cashier that they are for him. When he balks, she can say, “Then tomorrow you have to plan a romantic dinner for me.” Or, “Then you have to clean the garage by the end of the weekend.” Or she can just do embarrassing things because it’s fun to scare the bejesus out of Bobby, and teach him that if he doesn’t submit to her appointed spankings at home without making a fuss, she will continue tormenting him when and *where* he least expects it!

Flashcard spanking

This can be a very practical game. It can literally be for someone who has to study for a college test or a real estate certification. Or you can use it to teach your Bottom the Official Rules of your lifestyle arrangement. Or... you can just create cards for the explicit purpose of a game that ends in spansks... the only variable is how many! Flash cards are made and the Bottom is responsible for getting the correct answers to the questions on them. Punishment is delivered for each wrong answer. Or points are accumulated and graded, and the punishment is applied afterward. The severity can be commensurate with the score or it can just be chosen randomly at the Top’s discretion.

Prisoner spanking

This is essentially role playing but it's one with more latitude than appointment spanking play. There are infinite variations on this one. The Hostage, The Interrogated Spy, The Kidnap Victim, The Fraternity Prank... The perpetrator can either tie the victim to a bed or procure some kind of blackmail incentive that renders them permissive of having to be spanked. Make up your reasons for the spanking. Key to this one is isolation. The victim is taken someplace where "no one can save them". A sexy variation of this could be meeting your partner in a bar and pretending to be strangers. One partner lures the other home, or to a hotel room, and springs the ambush on him/her. This often entails other, more flirtatious kinds of coercion beside corporal punishment. (*Wink, wink.*)

There are as many games as there are mischievous, creative minds to think of them. If you get tired of one, make up another. If you come up with any good ones, share with a friend or post it on a blog. Better yet, start an online Game Blog for everyone to participate in. Start a Game Night with likeminded friends where everyone takes turns hosting and the only price of admission is for everyone to bring a new game or a new twist on an old game.

CHAPTER 10

Pushing Limits

You may have heard people talking about having their *limits pushed*. Or maybe, when meeting a potential spanking partner they ask if you *know your limits*, and do you want to try and push them? What does this mean?

It's pretty self-explanatory. Everyone has a particular threshold for pain, or a threshold range. This tends to vary from one day to the next even in the same person, but every individual will be able to tolerate a fairly quantifiable degree and duration of pain. If you are a stone cold beginner, you will have to experiment to find out where you fall on that continuum.

I purport that there are two types of players with regard to this: the recreational player and the person for whom spanking is simply *in their blood*. The former may or may not have a high tolerance, but spanking scenes are more about psychodrama and the dramatic tension created from the relationship between partners. The pain is not the most important focus, and for some may be somewhat of a byproduct to the games of control.

The diehard spanko on the other hand is pre-occupied with thoughts of spanking much of the time and the spanking itself is the true highlight of play. These are the folks most inclined to play with pushing limits. They want to be taken beyond what they find tolerable, to a minor or major degree, usually because it is evidence that—even though their scenes are pre-negotiated—in the moment of enactment, they are not in control. Some Bottoms want their limits pushed because they want to see what they are indeed capable of. Some feel a sense of accomplishment or pride in being able to take a spanking that is outside of their acknowledged limits. Others, as we have examined in a previous chapter, are classic masochists and, for them, the pain is everything.

It's exciting for a Top to have a partner who likes pushing limits. A skillful dominant knows how to bring his partner to the brink of *breaking*, tapering off, and then building to progressively higher and higher thresholds. Such a session can be thrilling for a masochistic Bottom. An erotically submissive person takes great pride in knowing that he can take whatever his Top can dish out. As long

as this is respectfully and consensually executed, and that no harm is inflicted it can be a deeply intimate and satisfying shared experience.

- HOW FAR IS TOO FAR? -

When engaging in limit-pushing, it might be good to work with a *safety word* at first. This takes care of the Top as much as the Bottom. If your Bottom is armed with a safe word, you will be able to engage freely without second guessing yourself. If the two of you have never played before, or not very often, you may find it hard to tell the difference between appropriate indications that the pain is registering and true distress. The last thing your Bottom wants is to have you pull the plug prematurely. As long as you don't hear that code word you can trust that your partner is okay with what they are experiencing, even when they kick and squeal. Even when they ask you to stop. In the beginning stages of a spanking partnership, the post-game recap is possibly more important than the preliminary negotiations. This will help you tell how accurate your readings were during the session, and serve to reinforce your correct ones.

If, as a Bottom, you find yourself with someone who ignores your preferences, never feel that because you're supposed to be in the submissive role that you cannot speak up for yourself. Spanking play is a voluntary activity that people participate in because they enjoy it. If you're not enjoying it then it's abuse and you must stop it immediately. Or at least ask your partner if they realize they've exceeded the agreed upon parameters.

- A MATTER OF DEGREES -

When you play with pushing someone's limits it's always an experiment. I've spanked a lot of bare bottoms, many of them a multiple of times. I can validate empirically that, even within the same person, limits can fluctuate widely. What a person can handle one day, they cannot even take the half of the next. Any number of variables can influence this. If someone is on medication, it can affect their tolerance. If they've been ill. If they're under emotional stress. If they haven't had a spanking for a very long time their tolerance will decrease... just to name a few possibilities. So simply because you may know your partner

is a bad ass don't assume you know what his nerve endings can handle on a given day. If you are a responsible Top, vigilance is your duty. Pay attention. Hone your instincts. Do no harm.

It's always a matter of degrees. Tolerance expands. As long as the intensity is ratcheted up gradually, incrementally, a skillful Top can take his partner farther than she'd imagined she could go. This is exhilarating to a serious Bottom.

Pushing limits can be a matter of watching your partner start twitching or squirming excessively and, at that point, just adding a couple extra strokes before you let up. His brain will get the message that when a tolerance point is reached he can bear up just a little further, thus stretching the membrane that much more. If you do this incrementally, he will surrender more and more, knowing that you never take things to an abusive point. Once this happens the spanking becomes a profound sensory event.

If you're in a scene where you maintain a personal and verbal interaction with your partner, a different approach might be to bring your Bottom to the brink and make mental note of each breaking point. Note certain indications of tension in her body. Note when her breathing quickens, slows, or when she holds her breath. Is she able to hold still throughout a certain type of spanking bout (or with a certain implement) but twitches and squirms during another variation? Is she quiet and stoic for the most part, but when you do things in a particular way – or a certain order – does she moan or twitch? Playing with limits, which is a form of *Edge Play*, is an exciting game. It wakes you up. Brings you into the present. Always remember, every session, every moment with your partner is new. Always. Every time. Never believe you know their patterns and then start operating on auto-pilot. Never stop paying attention.

Limits can be expanded by using implements in a progressive manner. If you're experienced, you know the effect of each of your implements. You can arrange a session by simply using them in the order of intensity and taking your partner to the edge with each one, then taking a break. When you resume, you start with the next implement. You finish with a variety of canes. Or even single-tails if you're versed in that skill. Whatever your partner considers the most formidable to be. You still have to pay attention and temper your choices. Never forget your target is a living, breathing, *feeling*, and perpetually changing creature.

The better you know one another and/or the more experience you have giving and receiving spankings the better able you are to take prudently those liberties

that are an integral component of pushing limits. The calibrations and determinations required for pushing limits should be a living, flexible, and gradual process, factoring everyone's sensibilities into the mix. Get to know your own and learn to pick up on those of others and, no matter which side of the equation you're on, people will know that they're in good hands with you.

CHAPTER 11

Getting Your Significant Other Involved

Let's say you're a lifelong spanko. It's in your blood. You grew up being mesmerized by old movies where Roman slaves were publicly flogged, rewinding those scenes *ad infinitum*. You deliberately got in trouble because you knew your babysitter believed a good spanking was an effective remedy. When you were old enough, you found your way to the nearest spanking club or professional provider and finally got to know the feeling of a severely stinging hand, strap or paddle on your bare behind... and you never looked back. Spanking became a part of your life. Now you're married, or seriously involved with someone. Maybe when you do enjoy the occasional spanking, you have to do so secretly, because you're too embarrassed or fearful to share this part of yourself with your significant other. But you can't help feeling that for a number reasons, it would be so much better if you could be doing this with the person that you love. How do you even begin to broach it?

Sometimes it can be as simple as mustering the courage to simply bring it up. You could be lucky enough to be with someone who's easy going and open-minded and would regard this as something new and interesting. Could it be that your apprehensions exist more in your mind than in theirs? You will have to suss that out as best you can. But at least ask yourself the question. For all you know, they might be game to at least give it a try. Sometimes just sharing with your loved one how turned on you get by getting (or giving) a spanking is adequate incentive for at least a healthy curiosity. And once they see how it stirs your amorous impulses, you're off and running. It does happen.

However, if the personal experiences of the people I've met over the past thirty odd years is any indication, this is not the typical situation. Of course, when I embarked on this journey, the culture was much more repressed and judgmental of these activities. Nowadays we hear comedians cracking jokes about spankings. It's often featured prominently in movies and TV shows. It's a far more conducive climate to talk about this subject now than ever before. But, unfortunately, many people are still shocked by it. And others are simply not interested. Don't use this an excuse to give up out of hand. If you're in a loving,

accepting relationship anything's possible. Only you can assess the risk, and decide if your proclivity means enough for you to risk exposing yourself to your loved one in this way.

Obviously, it's safer and less complicated to keep this kind of thing compartmentalized and do it secretly, either by seeing a professional or meeting people via personal ads or finding likeminded social groups that have a confidentiality agreement. The safest means, of course, is going to a professional spanker. She has no romantic designs on you and will usually not allow any sexplay. It is no threat on your marriage, as the lines are clearly drawn.

Some people have no inclination to be spanked by their relationship partner at all. They like to keep spanking separate from their personal lives and don't even like the idea of having their spouse see them in that context. If this is you, you've eliminated one complication, or maybe traded it for the complication of keeping secrets. Remember, if you do go the professional route, always do your due diligence, and research anyone you plan to see. Most reputable providers are known on spanking chat boards, and these days there are websites that post warnings about the bad apples. Reach out to online friends and ask if they've heard of the person you're considering. If this Spanker won't spend time on the phone with you answering questions and helping you feel comfortable, she may not be worth your time and money. Going to a professional mainly pertains to men. As will be discussed in a later chapter, there are very few male professional spankers.

If you've ruminated upon all of the above and still have a strong desire to enjoy spanking with your spouse or boy/girlfriend, it's hard to know what kind of reception you'll get. There are those as described above who are open to a new adventure. We all hope this describes your loved one. But what if it doesn't? What then? There are many ways, but I can't give you any guarantees that it's going to end up the way you want it to, no matter how you approach it. I can only offer suggestions that I've discovered by listening to people talk about their attempts at this.

The most obvious method is just to sit your partner down and admit your penchant in a neutral and logical way, presenting it sanely with no apparent attachment to what they may choose to do about it. I say no *apparent* attachment because you will certainly feel invested in their agreeing to join you in your

pursuits. Just don't let them feel pressure or you'll kill the whole thing before you get out of the gate. Maybe you can find a way to use humor to introduce the topic, but make sure you don't go so far as to ridicule spanking or present it as some kind of joke. That's not the way to entice someone. Coming right out with it is the shortest route to the, er, bottom line. Either she is willing to have a dialogue about it, or she views it as unacceptable to one degree or the other. If you put it out there plainly, you'll find out pretty damn quick.

If you'd like to try and ease your way into a conversation, you might look for a video that happens to have a scene in it with some spanking play. Recently, I saw a pretty good *film noir* thriller called *The Killer Inside Me* where spanking played a substantial part in the story in a very sexy (but very dark) way. Some people could find this a turn on, but others might associate negative connotations. Think about this when you're selecting your medium. Don't just take my (or anyone's) recommendations without checking it out first.

I also remember an episode of the old TV series, *Ally McBeal*, (try iTunes or Hulu.com) that includes spanking in one of the plotlines in a comedic way. The episode is called "*Ally McBeal: the Musical, Almost*". An old movie with Rosie O'Donnell and Dan Aykroyd, titled *Exit to Eden* takes place on an S&M resort. These things are becoming more and more common and you might find better examples appropriate for your tastes. If you try this, it can open the door to conversation, just to test the waters. Should it look like the door is wide open, take the next step. It's always good to proceed slowly, and back off if you get a negative cue, leaving that door still cracked a bit for you to live to fight another day.

You could try to find some tasteful art that portrays spanking. There are many old-fashioned cartoons, and nostalgic photos and sketches on the internet; also books showing a collection of this type of art. It's quite evocative, often charming, and much of it is presented in a humorous way. I'm not advocating dishonesty but if you feel it helpful you can consider pretending that you found such a book or someone gave it to you as a gag gift. If you can introduce a neutral example of spanking, you get to see your spouse's instinctual reactions. That's at least an indication of whether you're going to be listened to, or ridiculed and dismissed out of hand.

If you make it past this first salvo, it's okay to confess to your partner how hard it is for you to talk about your interest with other people, and how concerned you

were to even mention it to him/her now, for fear of what they might think of you. But you just decided to trust that he/she knows who you really are and will hear this as something that's just another (playful) part of you... not the whole of you, and not even the biggest part. But something important enough for you to want to share with him/her. Moreover, you don't like keeping parts of you secret. Often you'll be met with respect and even curiosity when you admit that you just want to be open and honest, that's all. They are free to do as they like once you've shared. (Sure, you hope they'll at least give your passion a test drive, but any pressure will usually cut things to the quick, so be cool.)

Women have a bit of an advantage when it comes to these true confessions. While her partner may not be predisposed to spanking play intrinsically, most guys find a nice, round bare ass sexy and provocative. I have not met one red-blooded straight man who wasn't at least willing to give his partner a good swat or two as part of their foreplay. In the U.S., and probably many other cultures, our view of gender roles don't exactly revere the portrayal of a grown man who wants to be spanked like a naughty child. This prejudice is not that uncommon and you have to factor in this possibility. But if your relationship is stable and you've shown your mate that you're all man in other ways, there may be some receptivity. And never rule out the possibility that your girlfriend finds the idea of being able to whack your butt (if you give her a good reason, and I'm sure you can!) very appealing.

If you happen to have friends who are into spanking, this might be an opportunity for an opening. If your spouse already likes and respects these people, it may help your cause to arrange a social get together, and have your friends bring up the subject. You can even approach your wife later, after they've gone to talk about her reactions (if you sense she doesn't want to be put on the spot). Or you might all discuss things right then and there if it seems appropriate.

Whatever you do, however you manage to put this topic on the table, it's very important how you handle things from that point on. Stay open. Do not react emotionally and negatively at any point no matter what your partner says or does, even if they initially seem revolted. If they see that you have accepted this part of yourself, and that you are not acting shamed by it, even if they have a negative reflexive response, when they think about it later, they will remember the person they love has just shared a very personal part of himself. What if, ladies, you learned at some later point that your boyfriend was married before

but he didn't tell you because he had a special needs child and was afraid you might think this a big complication? It was clear he wasn't ashamed of this, he just didn't want to talk about it with you until he knew the two of you had a possibility for a serious relationship. Would you think less of him? No, you would not. Learning your spouse has a fantasy life that diverts from yours a little bit is just discovering more about the person you love. If you're a decent human being, you're not going to judge him for withholding this from you. You're going to be able to see the sensitive nature of his confession, and have some understanding for him, whatever you choose to do about the revelation.

If you manage to have a conversation with your wife or hubby and they seem ambivalent, it could be because they have no desire to play spanking games with you or anyone. It could also be that they feel too self-conscious to try something new to them, but familiar to you, fearing they'll humiliate themselves or let you down. If it's the latter, you still have some hope.

You could first offer to try it out some evening and if they still feel silly about it, you'll end the scene... and maybe take them out to their favorite restaurant, your treat, for being such a good sport. Reward makes good incentive. Tell your partner you'll devote a nice long time giving them *your* full attention and doing their favorite sexual activities that evening! If they agree to indulge you, it's very important that you reward anything and everything they do with appreciation and praise. Making sure, of course, to school them first as to how to wield implements, if they're topping you. And do not try to push their limits if you're topping them. If they withdraw from anything, don't press it, and always make sure you let them know they can't make a mistake and anything they do will be fun for you... whether that's entirely true or not.

You, yourself, may even discover that his or her most enthusiastic efforts just don't ring your bell. Wait till later to confess that it's not working for you. In fact, wait till they do something that does work for you, so you can start with a positive comment. Then couch the negative in positive terms. E.g., "When you scold me maybe you could yell at me like you do when I don't clean the garage." Instead of saying, "Your scolding just doesn't seem convincing to me." If you get your spouse to take a stab at this, do yourself a favor and reward any little step they're willing to take.

It may not even be necessary to criticize, as they might not want to do a repeat performance. If your partner is not inherently interested but has made an effort

to please you, and you then criticize this effort, there is likely to be some resentment, if only because you allowed them to put themselves in such an embarrassing situation. If you want any hope of leaving the door open, even just a crack, make your partner feel good about what they did, whether it flipped all your switches or not.

If you still have an open and receptive ear, but he/she is hesitant, you can offer to bring someone else in to demonstrate further. It can be in several forms. Maybe there are spanking social groups in your area. Remember Shadow Lane, SCONY and other organizations have parties you might even travel to—make it an event! There he/she can watch experienced people playing and having their fun... at a safe distance. It may even be a turn-on for him/her. Maybe your partner will meet other novices with whom she can share concerns. If that's too public or impersonal, perhaps you know couples who play. Or maybe you know someone who can be your Top or Bottom, as the case may be, and you can invite them over to talk and, at some point, even if not the first time, your partner can watch while you play with that person.

Finally, gentlemen, (and maybe even some of you ladies) you might consider finding a professional “spankologist” who can see the two of you for a spanking “tutorial”. This is neutral ground. A person like this is skilled, and they will have the patience and grace to handle your situation. Many such ladies are happy to talk with your spouse on the phone beforehand and assuage their objections or concerns... or simply break the ice in a warm and friendly way.

She can also teach your partner how to use implements or mediate as you attempt to spank him or her, giving your partner an ally, someone who will be sensitive to their hesitancy and would be inclined to circumvent a problem that you might not see coming because of your own vested interest. This is a very practical method, as it has the best chance of keeping things objective and unemotional. It's also likely to have the least repercussions afterward. The trick is getting a vanilla partner to be receptive to (a) paying someone a fee and (b) doing something so intimate with a total stranger. I have done many such tutorial sessions with husbands and wives (or facsimiles thereof) and every time, the vanilla partner surprised themselves by how much fun they had! It's all in the atmosphere and the presentation.

I can conjure any number of ideas for jumping into the fray with your loved one, but ultimately, you are the one who knows them best. Your most likely shot is to pay attention and discern the things that are meaningful to him/her and honor

those things as much as you can. That way, when you are ready to open up and share this deep, important part of yourself, they will already feel loved and nurtured. If they care about you, how can they not want to do the same for you? Even if the most they can bring forth is respectful and non-judgmental listening. It's a beginning.

CHAPTER 12

Erotic Spankings

In a book about recreational spanking play I would be remiss to ignore the topic of erotic spanking. Since I did not engage in erotic spankings in my practice it's not my area of expertise and there are better resources if you want to delve more deeply into it. If you do, I suggest you just do a web search. I did. And a surprising number of books and blogs appeared. You'll have no trouble finding material.

- SPANKING SHMANKING – WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? -

What separates all other varieties of spanking games presented in this book with *erotic spanking*? That one's pretty obvious. It's sex, sex, and sex. The introduction of sexual activities changes the game. It breaches boundaries that are a matter of private rights and preferences. I have no judgments about consenting adults using spanking as foreplay and/or interjecting sensual acts into their spanking scenes. I just don't allow that in my sessions, since it crosses a rather precarious legal line. Well, that's one reason. The other is that I'm philosophically against it. Being a traditionalist myself, I think spankings are punishment, and sex is the opposite of punishment. I think we can all basically agree sex is pretty much a *reward!*

But if you are sexually attracted to your dom or sub and you both agree on the appropriateness of delving into that aspect of play, have at it. Many people find spanking a strong turn-on. Bottoms can become highly aroused by being spanked. Their Top may use erotic stimulation as a reward for taking a certain number of swats. Or they may use sexual stimulation to excite and arouse their Bottom, which usually enables them to take an even harder spanking.

Just as with traditional discipline scenes, there are endless permutations and possibilities for incorporating teasing, caressing and any other erotic acts into

your scene-play. As long as you're not breaking any trusts or crossing boundaries without consent, try this if you like. Just make sure you include *this* topic in your pre-session discussions. If you wait till you're in the moment, you could find yourself very turned on. If you impulsively act on that, you could wind up with a very pissed off partner. You might even ruin a potentially good spanking relationship.

This is all I'm gong to say on this subject, because it is not my particular milieu, and because any explicit elements and content – as well as any inferences and conclusions – should be obvious to all red-blooded adult enthusiasts. Use the other resources available to you to further inform yourselves. We're fortunate these days to live in a time where they are plentiful and easy to discreetly obtain. Enjoy yourselves!

So...

You Want to Be a Professional Spanker?

CHAPTER 13

Going Pro

You love spanking and you've been doing it for a considerable amount of time. You think you'd be a good Professional Disciplinarian. Where do you begin to explore this possibility? Personally, I did things the trial and error way. There weren't many people doing this when I first struck out on my own. I can share some of my experiences with you. Maybe I can save you some problems. But becoming a professional disciplinarian is no different than being a layman. It's a creative activity and some of it you just have to make up as you go along.

The first thing I'll say is that I've known several dominant men who tried to make a business out of it. None of them succeeded. It's not my style to discourage anyone from following their dreams. If this happens to be yours and you're determined to make a go of it, my advice is to be practical. Don't invest a lot of capital at first. Find the most economical venue you can and do some advertising. Go on chat sites and become known as a player in the know; someone skilled and trustworthy. Make the rounds at spanking and/or fetish parties. Do as much promotion as you can. Then see what it yields. You may get lucky. You may be one of the exceptions. But for the most part, women don't have a hard time finding people to play with for free. There might be a market for your services among the gay male community, if you're amenable, but I have no expertise there so I can't speak on it. What I have repeatedly observed is that men have a very hard time sustaining a business as a professional spanker. Maybe you can invent some compatible adjuncts that will allow you to earn your living at your favorite pastime. If you feel passionately about it, give it a try. Just be sure to screen prospective clients and keep yourself safe.

Having said that, most of my suggestions will be applicable to women and men alike, but I will be addressing the ladies here because that's what know.

My friend Ms. Marwood, a well-known professional in this industry, calls herself a *Spankologist*. I sometimes like to lovingly plagiarize her for that. *Spankology* can be a rewarding profession, but I have never met a pro domme

whose occupational road was without potholes. Ladies, if you like to spank, and your spankees tell you how great you are at it, don't assume that all you have to do is put up a website and you're off and running.

For starters, meditate on this: you are going to be dealing almost exclusively with men, bless their myopic little hearts. And not some broad-based, generic male clientele, but, very often, men who are seeking a fast, easy recreational experience. As with almost everything men do, a spanking session (whether you're willing to allow them to have a "release" in your presence or not) has some conscious or unconscious sexual component and that means you'll meet many impulsive types.

Whenever you're dealing with men and sex, boys will be boys. This is not to say they're going to run naked into your apartment with their dicks flapping in the breeze. What I'm saying is that this is, for many, an impulse purchase. They might get an urge to go get a good ass whoopin' when they wake up that morning, and give you a call to set up a session. But by lunchtime a friend may invite them to a party and suddenly you're the last thing on their mind. And since they don't know you, and have nothing personally invested in you, a lot of guys will blow you off and leave you hanging without a second thought. You ready yourself and your play space, and then you sit there, wasting your time, waiting for Godot. Even though the majority of people are decent, you'll meet more of the other less considerate types than you'd wish.

So there you sit at session time, all dressed up with no place to go. Maybe you even turned away other people eager for the chance to see you. People who might have shown up and paid you with no fuss at all. But our friend the creep doesn't care that he burned a bridge. He knows he can troll the internet and find a dozen other ladies who will book appointments with him. Chances are he'll do the same to them at some point, but we all have to take people at face value... until we learn how to be more discerning. This is just one of the negative aspects of being an professional spanker. Still interested?

Most of you readers are spanking enthusiasts and may idealize the life of a pro domme. I'll try to give you a fair picture of both sides of it. I'll share with you what I've learned about minimizing your exposure to the negative side, and offer tips and techniques I developed over time to help ensure your safety and promote a thriving practice. But no matter how much I offer you, you're dealing, for the most part, with impulse buying and there will always be people

throwing you curve balls. Treat people well. Be warm, friendly and real. But stay on your toes. You will meet some jerks. Hone your radar and learn how to recognize the signs. I'll do what I can to guide you, but it's no different from starting any new business. There will be pitfalls and there will be a learning curve before you settle into your own particular groove.

By the time I decided to do this as a profession it had already been part of my personal life for many years. I had established an extensive social network of spanking lovers. I'd been with a number of partners. I'd done some reading. There wasn't much available when I started out so I scoured the book stores and went to the few seminars and lectures I could find. I asked a lot of questions. It lead to some contacts in the industry and I aggressively pursued as many of them as would meet with me. This is something you should do as well. Do your due diligence. Learn everything you can.

My beginnings occurred well before the huge advantage that is yours now: The internet. Luckily a friend of mine knew a very famous dominatrix and she was kind enough to give me a generous amount of her time. Her advice was invaluable. When I finally gathered the gumption to test my mettle professionally, it was all on-the-job training. I made a lot of mistakes and learned a lot from them. You'll make them, too, but you have so many more advantages and resources than I did. Use them! I can't tell you exactly how to create a business as a spanking provider, but I can give you some practical steps culled from my own foibles. You can try them on and keep what fits.

- MENTEE OR TRAIL-BLAZER -

If you live in or near a major metropolitan area, you will likely find other purveyors of these services. If so, you may try contacting one (or all) of them to see what you can learn. Often they will have blogs or be frequent visitors to BDSM chat sites. At the very least, they should have their own website where you can find an email link. I occasionally would receive emails or calls on my answering service from women seeking advice. Women who wanted to take a step onto the professional side with their play. I always made it my habit to be

as helpful as I could, since, when I started, I was pretty clueless and there wasn't much guidance. Hopefully you will find at least a few people out there willing to give you a bit of their time. If you find them unreceptive, you can always offer to work for them in exchange for being able to observe sessions. You can also propose an apprenticeship, wherein they would teach you their skills and you would give them something of value, either money or your time.

Frequently, clients will request another woman in their sessions to “witness” their punishment. This you could certainly do, or do as a starting point, and later participate more actively as a second dominant. This is worth money to the pro domme and, unless she has some arrangement with other colleagues, will allow her to capitalize on your presence without splitting her fee. For the sacrifice of a bit of your time, you get to pick up some tricks and skills, learn how to handle clients, find out how she runs her business (which includes prospecting, advertising, managing expenses, upkeep and equipment, and more), and build your confidence. Keep in mind that what she shares with you is her decision. So you may need one mentor to teach you technique, and another to learn marketing tactics, etc.

I know several fetish mistresses who apprenticed for a year before going out on their own. By the time they left their mentor they were confident practicing dominatrices who had made a name for themselves. Usually they even cultivated some regular clients of their own, some of whom followed them to their new workplace. These ladies pretty much knew what they'd be up against—the good and the bad—when they hung up their shingle. The downside to this is that you'll work hard and someone else will reap the benefit of your labor for a period of time, and even as you grow and progress to earning a “tribute” for your work in her workspace, you'll be kicking back a percentage to your teacher. The upside is that when you come up against something you can't handle or you're in the middle of a session and have a question about something... or what you're doing with a person is just not working—and when you're new, these moments crop up all the time—you'll have someone around to guide you. I can't tell you how many times I would have given anything for that luxury.

Another choice you have is to go to work in one of the commercial establishments, or “dungeons”. The only thing about such venues is that you may have to be willing to participate in any manner of BDSM activity that comes down the pike. Some places have certain dommes who “specialize,” but most are in a rotation, assigned to the next client that comes in the door. The

caveat to this is that, generally, the way it works is that the customer is handed what is essentially a catalogue of dommes in which you are often encouraged to offer a spread of staged photos depicting yourself in action, and he will select his preference from the women who are available on any given shift. It can creep you out a little being shopped for like a piece of furniture, and selected based largely on how good your pictures look, but once you get the booking you take control and make it what you want it to be.

Like anything else in business, and in life, there are plusses and minuses to this arrangement. One I have just mentioned. Another is that you give the establishment a large percentage of your fee in exchange for their providing you a space. It can range from 25 to 50 percent. The advantage is that you benefit from their promotion, reputation and advertising, and that stuff costs a good chunk of change. Not to mention, they are paying the rent – not you. Another benefit is that you're not alone, which is safer. Most places have security or body guards for their girls.

Another downside is that you don't get much control over choosing your clients. Depending on the place, you may work with a lot of flakey, fly-by-night types. Transients, fringe dwellers, girls who are looking for a quick buck for a while, and then they move on. There are also women who are using this as a stepping stone, putting themselves through college, or earning a nest egg to go into business just like you are. You can choose to mind your own business, do your sessions, and make a lot of money. Or you may meet your next business partner, who knows? It depends on the place. If you go this route, research the local purveyors' reputation. Do the same due diligence you'd do when searching for any job.

Some girls who work at these places develop a following. This is something you can also do. But when you first start at one of these places, just know you may have to sit around while regular customers show up and request their favorite girls. At least until you earn your stripes. One way to combat this is to find a professional photographer who can bring out your best qualities. Have photos taken that are dynamic and create interest. Men are very visual. Use it to your advantage.

In some venues, they will have all the mistresses who are available come out and parade themselves for the client. I personally find both these situations insulting and had no interest in being looked over like a piece of ripe fruit. But there is

nothing intrinsically wrong with any of this. I'm just a bit of a prima donna. I wanted to have dominion over my fate. I wanted to be exclusive. I preferred to set things up in such a way that people had to work hard to get to see me, and I was the one picking and choosing them, not vice versa. I know this sounds more overtly appealing, but doing things this way is very time intensive. You have to figure out how to do all your own promotion. You have to know how to properly screen potential clients so you don't let some unsavory miscreant into your space. You will spend a lot of time talking on the phone with people personally if you are the one picking and choosing. And at first, it will be slow going. But like anything else, if you stick to your guns, you can make it work.

You are certainly free to hire a bodyguard. You can even hire an assistant or receptionist to front for you and screen all your inquiries. But then you have to find a capable person who will make the right choices. And she/he becomes a business expense. That doesn't matter if you plan to set up your practice to do high volume. If you have a venue where you can do five or more sessions a day, and you can really bring in enough clients to support that, then paying support staff is no problem. My one caveat to that is that, to do that, you need to be someone who can distance yourself from your clients. You cannot give of yourself emotionally to each person and do 5 or more sessions a day without burning out. You'll probably be fried within six months. If you can do a convincing job while you're basically phoning it in, then high volume, high profit is for you.

I can't work that way. I needed to talk on the phone with everyone who requested to meet with me. I needed to decide if he was someone I felt comfortable with; someone I was interested in spending time with. If not, I wouldn't see him. I knew the only way I could work was to pour all my energy and attention onto my client and I couldn't do that casually. It had to be with someone I could connect with, someone I liked. It was important to me that I provide people with the most engaging experience they could have. You can't do that and be detached. You can't phone that in. And you can't do high volume. It would bleed you dry.

That's one of the reasons I ended up creating my Boarding School, a retreat for spanking clients where I could see a classroom full of people all at once for a proscribed time period. They got the extra added attention of the fantasy environment and participating with other people, making their fantasy very real. But the trappings and setting provided a lot of the excitement, so it didn't all

have to come from me. You may want to consider something like this. But I recommend you first figure out what you're doing as a solo practitioner, a provider of one-on-one spanking sessions, before you opt to take on the added complications of group fantasy play.

If you're more the independent type, and you want to call your own shots – which also means carrying the bulk of the burden – if you don't want to indenture yourself to a mentor, to offer some ideas for how to do that, I'll share some things about how I made my start.

Once I made the decision to take on this challenge, the first thing I did was to get a few of the magazines and newspapers where people advertised in those days. Not to place an ad yet, but to *call* the ads and see how my future competitors were presenting themselves. I recommend you try this. It was a huge confidence builder. Other than the fact that today's advertisers position themselves on the internet rather than in print media, I doubt it's changed much. The vast preponderance of purveyors were a sad lot. Many of them could hardly speak English. Most of them were merely dispatchers for a stable of escorts who would profess proficiency in any fantasy you'd care to suggest, but mainly they expected to offer sex as the main attraction. It was pretty sleazy.

What I've just described wasn't even the worst part, as far as I was concerned. What had astonished me was that, after making a few dozen such calls, I didn't find one person who was personable, warm, or showed any real interest in me. There was no conversation, aside from getting to the point of the transaction. They asked nothing about me, except what credit card I wanted to use to reserve the appointment. If I took more than 8 minutes of their time they started to give me the brush off. And when I tried to find out what their providers offered I got virtually no information. I knew without ever seeing one client that I would do about a million times better at this than what was available out there. Having said that, things have changed a lot since then. There are just as many sleazebags. There are also more people of intelligence and quality in the business now. But that just means that you can glean some quality information when you call around. And if you're good at what you do, which means you offer a valuable, specialized service, you'll find a way to distinguish yourself. You'll usually find that, though there may be a lot of professional dommes to compete with, there are fewer true, competent “spankologists” than fetish mistresses. So you are already a part of a specialty niche.

The independent track is harder in many ways, but it was right for me. And I did figure out over the years how set myself apart. This mainly occurred by accident when my visitors started talking about their sessions with me to others in the spanking community. It just goes to show you, if you care about your clients and keep to a high standard, nature will eventually take its course. It's harder to establish a hearty client base if you live in less populated areas but it can be done if you're talented and people like you. If you don't really care to discriminate too much about who you see, if you're honestly just in this to make money (which many people are, and they, too, make a good living) you'll need to rely heavily on marketing and promotion, as you won't get as much (if any) word of mouth business. If you genuinely love to spank and really enjoy yourself while doing it, that will come through and word will get around. Target your advertising wisely, letting the world know how to find you, and the flow will build. In time, you'll be well on your way.

CHAPTER 14

Marketing

I knew from the start that I had much more to offer clients as a private, independent disciplinarian, and as a human being, than what I'd encountered in my investigations. Having a background as a writer it was easy to create ads that were smart enough to attract an upscale clientele. I started out slowly, just to see what type of people would come along. If a bunch of scary pervs showed up, I planned to seek other career options. But what I encountered was delightfully surprising. Because my ads were well-written, and because I splurged to place them in upscale venues, lo and behold, most of the inquirers I attracted were sane, sophisticated men. But, as mentioned, I had my share of wankers and nutters, too. It wasn't until I'd gotten a good deal more experienced that I figured out how to avoid most of the creeps. And when I stuck to my own rules, I was successful at that.

In the olden days, before the internet, we had to advertise in men's magazines and localized periodicals like Denver's *5280* or *New York Magazine* and the like. It was very expensive. Magazine ads would cost between \$60 – \$80 per line (back when that was *real* money) with a two-line minimum, so you really had to choose your words well! But those were the kinds of venues scoured by the savvy players who could put their money where their mouths were. My peers often advertised in the infamous *Screw Magazine*, which I scoffed at. But I was told by everyone that while it was a staple of the degenerate masses, even the elite referenced it. It was the paper of record for all things kinky, from the top to the dregs, and everybody gave it a glance. So I followed suit. It attracted some good prospects but along with those were a lot of flakes, tossers and time wasters. In all fairness, I will say that their staff were surprisingly smart, professional and very accommodating, and I really enjoyed working with them so I stuck it out. But the oddballs I had to wade through ultimately proved more than I had patience for, and I opted out eventually. However, I have to thank those annoying (and sometimes worrisome) dirtbags for providing a good education. I learned much of what has helped me construct my very effective screening process. One that has served to protect me over many years. Indeed, it was a colorful time back then, but thank goodness you have better options.

Years soon after that, I learned about another popular advertising venue: *Dominant Directory International* (a/k/a: DDI). It's still being published and, even though print media is no longer the premier resource for advertisers, *DDI* still has a loyal base of subscription holders who receive (and *save*) their issues. It's less immediate than internet advertising, but you do get a lot of bang for your buck. Each issue is circulated on newsstands, in certain bookstores, and other venues worldwide for three to four months before the next one comes out. So for (approximately) \$100 you can run a very nice ad. You can purchase a full page ad for somewhere around \$250 – \$300. That's a good deal for three to four month's exposure directly to your target audience. And remember, subscribers tend to save these artistically produced catalogues. I would occasionally get calls out of the blue from an ad that was four or five years old! The publishers are extremely accommodating, discreet professionals who are a pleasure to work with. It's worthwhile to look into this option.

- MODERN TECHNOLOGY -

Happily, you now have the worldwide web and the wild and wooly days of sources like *Screw* and the gentlemen's magazines are over. That is not to say you shouldn't try the more sophisticated of these sources like *Playboy* or *Penthouse*. I just never have used them and can't opine about them. One thing is clear, however, the internet is the place to be. Let's not kid ourselves, though, combing through internet links to find hints and tips for your spanking website can be confusing at best. That's why it's a good idea to join a site like www.maxfish.com and lurk on the chat threads to sort for the higher quality mistresses and spankers. When you figure out who the savvy players are, study their websites. Understand how they market themselves and try the ideas that you think might work well for you. You'll create your own original content of course, but you can certainly borrow from their experience.

You don't have to get studio photographs of yourself. At least not at first. I know plenty of upscale dommes who took their own pictures. Tastefully, of course. Later on, when you have the funds, you can invest in studio quality images. Or even in a web designer to stage your page. One thing to think about is whether you want to show yourself and, if so, how much you want to reveal. I never published photos of my face on the internet. Yes, I got many e-mail requests from gentlemen for a full photographic image. I never complied. I

never found anyone who was disappointed at my looks once they met me, and I said so. Bottom line, if the most important thing to a prospect was that their spanker look like a lingerie model they clearly had their priorities in the wrong place to get along with me! I suggested they keep looking, and once they got tired of wasting time and money on the little nymphets who didn't know one end of a paddle from the other, they could get back to me. If you stand by your values, the people who are right for you will find you.

I never lost a booking because I refused to provide full-disclosure photos. You need to present yourself tastefully and attractively, but I've never found one true spanko who cared more about superficialities than about finding a person who really knew how to orchestrate an authentic, engaging spanking scene. With enthusiasm and skill you'll set yourself apart from—and outlast – the hundreds of poseurs and opportunists hoping to make a fast buck at this.

Every major internet service provider offers a free webpage. You don't need anything more sophisticated than that to start out... and maybe you never will. Initially, you may not really know exactly how to market yourself. The free webpages are so simple to operate that you can modify them often, daily if you want to, in very short order. While there are no hard and fast rules, men are very visual, and if you want the most responses you will need to provide images. If you don't, no matter how alluring your text makes you seem, guys will invariably surf on to another page until something catches their eye.

If you don't have pictures of yourself or don't want to post any, you might consider hiring models to enact spanking vignettes. You can always take pictures of your implements, or use sketches or photos that provide generic representations of your subject matter. A photo of a straight-backed chair with a wooden hairbrush sitting on it could be sufficiently evocative. You'll get more interest, however, if you offer at least a glimpse of yourself. But that could be a silhouette. You can also pixelate your face, wear a wig, or angle your head so your features aren't identifiable. You can set your back toward the camera and wear a starched blouse and straight skirt with implements hanging on the wall. Or something as simple as a manicured hand slipping on black high heels with a threatening wooden hairbrush resting nearby can create sufficient allure. Make a visual statement.

I have found that adding *content* to your webpage is a good long range marketing tool. If you offer an extensive pictorial of your arsenal of implements,

and perhaps add a comment or two about some (or all) of them, it can really get those spankos' juices flowing! Blogs and stories are very popular as well. They don't need to be long and elaborate. These things won't drive people to your site, but they often draw viewers back over and over again. This tends to make your visitors feel like they know you. It can set you apart from the, literally, millions of others. And oftentimes, when the moment comes to book a session—if your site has become a favorite – you're the one who'll be on the tip of their minds.

If you're ambitious, you can change and rotate your content, but I feel that this degree of effort is more worthy of a *subscription site*, where you charge a small monthly fee and get people paying for the privilege of viewing the continually new things you have in store for them. You can replenish once a week or once a month, or whatever it takes to keep those subscriptions coming. This format can be very profitable and you may want to invest your time making this an adjunct to your live business. Subscription sites do require continual maintenance, but depending on your rates, you may only have to add new content every week or two to satisfy viewers.

You can also offer webcam services and charge by the session. Or sell webcam broadcasts on a download basis. Another example is a weekly or daily live webcam or weblog broadcast. You can either charge for this, or use it to draw people to your site. Your free content will whet their appetite for more. And for that, they have to buy a subscription. The more diversity you offer, the higher the subscription fee you can command.

Web content will help promote your live sessions, and vice versa. If you live far away from the maddening crowds, subscription sites can be key to developing and sustaining your live clientele. In less populated regions, there are obviously less prospects looking for you, but experienced enthusiasts will often seek out more select providers if they seem to offer something special. Figure out what incentives you can offer that are worth traveling for. Maybe you are an aficionado with the cane. Perhaps you're exotic. An English accent is always a crowd pleasure in the spanking world. If you attract the kind of guy who likes to find someone he clicks with and sticks with, this type of person will go out of his way to see you when he's in the area.

- USING NEW MEDIA -

Social Networking

Twitter did not exist when I was actively promoting my spanking services. I'm told by currently active professional ladies that *Tweeting* can make or break you these days. Kinksters are insatiable for yummy little snacks, and it's surprising what little it takes to amuse them. Many dommes just *tweet* throughout the day about where they are and what they're doing. Some write provocative little quips. You could recommend interesting blog articles or weblinks. Just about anything that puts you into people's attention during the day will work. If you are inventive, so much the better. Talk about something that happened in session. Tantalize. Don't directly hawk your wares. That doesn't work in this medium. Just dash off a short observation, tip, or bulletin that reminds your public to think of you.

You will have to aggressively network at first to get followers. Alert all your contacts about your *Twitter* account and get them to sign up and track you. Ask them to pass the word along so their friends can become followers too. Then remind them again in a few weeks to tell even more friends. Encourage them to reply to your *tweets*. Learn to use *Twitter* trends and interactive conventions (e.g., *hashtagging*) to make yourself a part of things. That helps garner followers as well.

You'll probably want to create a Facebook page and link it with your *Twitter* account and your website. It helps if you project a specific and consistent identity for yourself. Like any effective advertising, brand recognition rules. You want to appeal to the appropriate market for your talents. Social Networking is a discipline and you might as well get used to it. It really will stir up word of mouth and clients will come to you from out of the most unpredictable nooks and crannies.

Web advertising

There is a plethora of websites that include or promote BDSM-related advertising. Many of them offer free publicity by letting you post a profile if you become a member. Some have a specific section for dommes and most let you post a photo, all for free. Most all of them encourage link or banner exchanges, and this is worth doing. It can increase your web traffic and it costs nothing. You can create a designated page on your site just to list your reciprocal links.

There are also the web advertisers who charge a fee. I'm sure lots of them are effective. The only one I can personally endorse is the Eros Guide (www.eros.com) It's very well run and very well-known. They have excellent customer service for advertisers and the cost is very reasonable for a basic ad. They also offer upscale packages that purport to expand your presence nationwide, but I never tried this so I can't opine. If you're going for high volume, the general rule is the more you spend (in the right places) the more prospects you generate. As always, I recommend research. Go to the chatrooms you are now intimately familiar with (right?!) and ask people how they find their dommes.

- FOLLOW UP -

Your promotional efforts will generate lots of email inquiries. I recommend composing a form letter of introduction. Make it sound friendly and personable by mentioning some bits about yourself (some personal accomplishments, perhaps) so people know you're a person worth knowing. Delineate the parameters of your services, your contact protocol, and any specific skills of your trade that might distinguish you from the rank and file... (E.g., maybe you see people in a rustic country house... and you really do have a woodshed were naughty boys may get spanked!) People appreciate receiving timely responses and a cordially written form letter makes it effortless. You can invest more time in them during their phone interview screening.

I used to keep a list of all the email addresses from people who didn't book with me. About every six to eight weeks I'd send out a blind email to that whole grouping giving them one last chance to take action. I used the tactic of saying I was cleaning out my mailbox and wanted to touch base one final time before I deleted their name from my files. This little trope was surprisingly effective. It always garnered me several replies and often a booking that might have fallen through the cracks.

If you're the aggressive type, you can send holiday e-mails to your database. Perhaps you'd like to offer a holiday promotion of some sort. I never believed in "discounting" myself but lots of ladies do this during slack periods, or they offer extended sessions for the cost of their standard fee. We'll talk about fees later on.

- PROTOCOLS -

Giving credit where it's due, I have to reference my friend Ms. Marwood for her invaluable suggestions. This well-known *Spankologist* and I met at a private industry party many years ago. She saved me countless time and aggravation by sharing some tips she'd accrued after dealing with the plentiful annoyances that do happen in the course of doing business. I will share a few with you. Hopefully they will help you avoid having to make similar mistakes.

We've all wasted hours on the phone trying to sort out the time wasters from the earnestly interested. You'll get your share of wankers who will query you about the specific how's and what's of your sessions. Too many times this type of caller just wants you to provide entertainment while he pleasures himself on the other end of the line. These guys are far too common, and you sincere callers can thank them for all the times you've called a domme and she's snappishly rushed you off the phone when you don't jump to book an appointment.

How do you tell the self-serving creeps from the real McCoy? It's tricky. There are many people who truly want to have a session but are new to this process and have reservations. There are shy people for whom it's hard to share their needs and feelings. Sometimes it's taken weeks or months, even years, for them to finally work up the courage to make that call. You have to use your judgment because it's not highly likely you'll get him to take action quickly, in fact, some people take years, but when he does, this is someone who appreciates the person who didn't scare him off, and you could make a lifelong contact. You can afford to give him fifteen minutes of your time once in a blue moon. The shy one's usually don't talk much anyway. The ones you have to worry about are the guys who, as I said, try to keep you on the phone, asking too many questions. For this type, once you've addressed the necessities, be nice but take control and tell him that when he's ready to send a deposit and make an appointment, that's when you'll chat with him in great detail and design the perfect session for him. If he still wants to talk, offer to set up a phone consultation, for which you charge a fee for your time. That'll chase away the fakers.

Another useful technique that I learned from Ms. Marwood, was to create buffers. Make it a little harder for people to get in touch with you. That seems counter intuitive, but people seem to value things more if they have to work for them. The impulsive jerk-offs will not have the patience to abide your firewalls

and you will eliminate them almost entirely right off the bat. The serious players, especially the experienced ones, will likely be impressed that *you* place a high value on your time and your own safety and security.

A practical buffer is the professional voice mailbox service. For a very small monthly fee these companies will provide you with a voice mailbox that allows you to record an outgoing message of substantial length. This gives you the luxury of announcing exactly what you will and won't provide your customers, as well as firmly stating the protocols they must follow in order to contact you. The biggest advantage of this service is security. You don't have to publish your direct number in your advertising materials. Also, your prospects must leave *their* number and wait for *you* to contact them. This is the beginning of their training process! Once you've interviewed them and you know they're safe, you then can give them your home or office phone number.

Here are some pros and cons of this system.

Con: you may lose several good contacts because some folks won't leave their phone number on a voicemail service. Once you become established and have a great reputation this is less of a problem. But when you're just getting started this will make some people nervous. You can counter that by writing and recording a creative, compelling outgoing message that states your terms but also makes you sound intriguing. You might consider recording it in the character of a strict governess or teacher.

Pro: this system will weed out the idiots and wankers. The pranksters, pretenders and impulsive types will rarely bother with you. They want to reach a real person, live and in real time. They want a hit and run situation. And you don't. The people who leave their contact information are generally sane, discerning, and mature. They're the kind of people who can make an appointment for the next day or even the next week, and show up for it. They're the kind of people you can build long term relationships with. They're not people with an itch that needs to be scratched *right now...* and they don't much care who does the scratching. You have no idea if you will ever be safe with people like that.

With the voice mailbox service you can organize your time. You collect your messages at the appropriate intervals. Once or twice a day. Every other day. Whatever works for you. And then you plan your call back time. If you like, you can even state on your message what times and days you conduct callbacks.

This business is full of impulse buyers, even among the nicest of clients. If you try to run your life around their convenience and impulses you'll be a chicken with your head cut off. You need to set up structure and make rules. You make these rules for yourself. Boys will never follow rules. (That's why they have to be spanked regularly.) You make rules such as "I will not drop what I'm doing to accommodate an impulsive client's last minute session request." If you start doing this, people will know they can have it that way and they will make no attempt to respect your needs. In the long run, you can attract enough sane, orderly and interested people so as not to lament the occasional lost booking. And if you're worried that this screening method will turn people away, I can't tell you how many times I was told that someone was even *more* interested in seeing me because of how careful and discriminating I was. It made *them* feel safe.

Helpful Hint: I never met with anyone without knowing his real name. I could often tell a fake name left on my voicemail from a real one. If someone seemed super excited to get my call before I'd said more than "Hello, Martin (or Jack or Bill)" that was a tip off that he knew me because I would be the only one told to call him by this fake name.

With experience, you too will learn to be sensitive to red flags.

Some pro spankers go a step further than a phone screening and arrange to meet their visitors at a coffee shop or some other neutral spot beforehand, especially if they conduct their sessions in their homes. I have found that this is extremely time consuming, and not always effective. Everyone is on his best behavior *before* he gets what he wants from you. That is no foolproof guarantee that he will be as agreeable once you're behind closed doors.

A helpful way to minimize the chances of being stood up, a common glitch you'll want to guard against, is to require a deposit to reserve an appointment. I would require 50% of the total fee. At first, you may only be able to command a small amount, say \$50 or \$75, but any substantial amount (a) puts something at stake for them to want to show and (b) if they intend to show up, you can assure them, they have nothing to fear since they have to pay you that money, plus the remainder, anyway. You'll feel a lot better about gathering up the gumption to insist on this when someone leaves you waiting when you've already turned down two other eager beavers for that very time slot, and you end up with no session, wasted time and no money. Half a loaf is better than none. Even a

quarter loaf.

If you're a warm, honest, intelligent person, it comes across. I have rarely had any sincere player refuse to give me a deposit. I offered them the convenience of Paypal, which let them send deposits instantly. I never accepted checks. Even from people I knew. But, again, that's your call. If they didn't mind waiting longer to schedule their appointment, I would accept cash or a money order through the good old U.S. Postal Service. It might take as long as a week to reach me, but some folks don't want a paper trail and prefer this method. I would insist that, if cash is sent, they use Priority Mail with a Delivery Confirmation tracking receipt. I recommend to you that you obtain a post office box for just such occasions. You don't want to be giving strangers your home address.

When Paypal is used, be discreet, for your clients' sake. You can create an account name that is generic or one that is a complete diversion. No one wants to see "Miss Crankypants Spanking Services" appear on their credit card statement! Make sure to invent something inscrutable like "Horizon Consulting" or "GRB Consolidated Crafts," when registering on Paypal or other online payment handling services.

Generally speaking, it's the bad eggs who will flatly refuse a deposit, so you'll scare them off quickly. And if nice people balk, you might simply encourage them think it over and call again (or agree to give them a check-in call) so you can chat a bit more and they can get better acquainted with you, possibly raising their comfort level. This will require more of your time, but you can usually sense who's worth it and who's not. And of course you always have the option to operate on blind trust and hope your boys show up. Some people will.

One thing I found after giving people a generous amount of my time in phone interviews is that, if they were serious players but didn't book with me at first blush, once they sampled the other providers out there, a surprising number of them would come flooding back to me. They would encounter such superficial (and mercenary) attitudes by most of the people they contacted that my humanity ended up setting me apart, and often engendered long term loyalty. But you have to pick and choose your battles. I chose to limit my practice to a small number of sessions per week, so I could afford to be fussy in my ways. If you're high volume, you have to learn how to be nice and also cut to the chase. If you provide a great experience once you "catch" them, they'll be back whether you

“romance” them on the during the preliminaries or not.

CHAPTER 15

Screening and Safety

For those who can view being a professional spanker as a business, pure and simple, you may not care so much about developing a comprehensive screening process. Perhaps you are not interested so much in developing relationships, but simply playing the numbers game of driving as many clients to your door as possible. That's as viable a choice as any, as long as you intend to provide value to the people who pay you. For safety's sake, however, I would suggest that if you don't plan to screen, consider either working in partnership with another domme or hiring a security person who can be there in case of trouble. Many clients won't like the idea of another person being present, but you can keep their presence private while having them secretly monitoring things – either via a security camera, or Skype, using a baby monitor, or even just thin walls! Some clients don't mind another's presence if the security person is female. If you plan to book appointments with anyone and everyone who contacts you, I hope you will devise a way minimize the risk to your safety.

Having said that, my style was more relaxed and personal, so I wanted to know all I could about everyone I considered taking on. I was a real fussy budget in the screening department. But somehow my “boys” put up with it, and it resulted in a lot of long-lasting relationships. Since all I know is my way, and since my way turned out to be pretty successful, I'll tell you about it. Let's start with phone follow-up.

Once I started using the voice mailbox service to collect would-be clients, I would set time aside to return all those messages. Many people will leave information about their interests, some just a name and phone number.

Upon reaching the prospective client, I took control of the conversation. If they started asking all the questions, I'd interrupt and let them know up front that I wasn't even sure I was going to accept them; that I wanted to get acquainted first and make sure they were someone I felt comfortable with. That usually settled them and got their attention. I began by telling them a bit about myself personally, so they realized they were dealing with a smart, competent person

with a full life apart from this activity. Then I'd ask them to tell me a bit about themselves – where they're from, what some of their interests were, and most important, what they did for a living, because this is how you know whether or not they can likely pay your fee. If you charge \$350 an hour, and you're talking to an unemployed college student, you might want to imply that your fees are on the high end and ask if he can manage that without working for a living. Maybe he can, but being the friendly person that I am, I spent far too much time chatting with lovely people who, it turned out, couldn't afford my services. After your requisite number of life lessons, this becomes a poor use of your time.

The phone interview is the perfect place to hone your intuition. You will need it in your sessions, so why not practice here? Listen not only to what people say, but what they don't say. Don't get so wrapped in promoting yourself that you forget to get a read on them. This is not only a part of qualifying your right type of client, it's a part of staying safe. Always pay attention if you get a bad feeling about someone. If you decide to see them anyway, arrange to have someone waiting for a *safe call* from you, or have a friend with you. Eventually you'll get to know the difference between being a Nervous Nellie and picking up on the genuine red flags. Meanwhile, minimize your risks.

Spanking role play services and related activities is a luxury purchase. People want to go where they are made to feel welcome and understood. Be warm and helpful, but remember you're there to do business, just as they are. Stay focused and elicit the information you need in order to determine if they are qualified and also safe and suitable to become one of your clients.

Here are some general questions to get you started. As you gain experience you'll boil down what information you need from them and how to get it.

- How old are you? – Not always, but frequently, men in their 20s will be recreational curiosity seekers only. The odds are that mature men are more seriously seeking your services. You don't have to be rude to youngsters, but make sure they're employed and ask how soon they'd like to do a session. They'll often indicate this is an exploratory mission. Be charming but brief. If they try to keep you talking, you can nicely tell them you have many calls to return and will be glad to talk at length when it gets closer to the time they're ready to leave a deposit. Anything that requires someone to part with their money will reveal their level of intention.
- Where are you located? – If not local: do you plan a trip to my area in

the near future? If so, how soon? If they say six months from now, you keep the chat general and short and make a plan to talk further in a few months.

- Are you married? – I usually add, that I like to know this type of thing because a lot of married clients are worried about having marks or bruises and I want to make sure to respect their needs. Just so they know I'm being concerned for them, not nosy. It also means you have to take care when contacting them so you don't violate their privacy.

- I always try to find out as soon as I can what they do for a living. This is a good indication as to whether your fee is within their budget. The sooner you know this, the sooner you know if you're wasting everyone's time. It can also segue into a bit of good conversation. It's nice to chit-chat as you go down your list of queries. Get a sense of each other as people. Make a connection. You're more likely to engender trust.

- Are you in good physical health? – Or are there certain things you, the provider, need to keep in mind, such as someone's bad back or medication that might make them dizzy if they're put in a head-downward position. Be responsible. Safety first. They'll appreciate this.

- Were you spanked as a child?

- Have you ever seen a pro spanker before or been spanked by someone you know? If so, how was it for you? (This is your segue into finding out what kind of session they seek.)

- If they say yes to the above, you can lead into questions like this:

- How was that experience? Did you enjoy it? If they did, find out what worked well for them and take note of it. If they say no, ask them why not (so you can avoid these things) and find out what they would have wanted to be improved upon.

- If they have not been spanked before, ask them if they might describe any favorite spanking fantasies, so you can learn what it is they want. If they have none, try framing it this way: "If a genie appeared and granted your perfect spanking fantasy, what do you think it could look like?"

- If they are shy and uncomfortable stating things aloud to you, guide them with specific questions. e.g., Do you like to be your own age, or pretending you're a naughty little boy? How do you feel about being made to count strokes, about corner time, face slapping, mouth soaping...?
- Do you know what your pain tolerance is?
- Do you have any preference as to what implements are used?
- Are you concerned about avoiding any temporary bruising?

Be careful, as I said, of the people who want you describe your sessions to them in elaborate detail. Just tell them that people's interests are so varied that you don't really have any particular format, but that as soon as they're ready to schedule a date with you (which means sending that telltale deposit) you will have another phone chat and hammer out all the details for a session tailor made just for them.

You'll learn with experience how to short cut the interview process. Sometimes you'll meet a person that you just end up gabbing with about art or politics or pets or the like and it takes on a life of its own. Try to stay on purpose and get back to sussing out what you need to know to (a) give him the best session you can when you meet and (b) determine if your interests and skills are compatible enough for you to agree to work him or not.

- FEES -

If you are inclined toward establishing one consistent hourly rate for all sessions, it's not nearly as important to qualify each client ahead of time. Your fee is your fee, clean and simple. I found that, for me, different fantasies required more or less of my attention and/or emotional investment and I charged accordingly, so I would make sure to control the interview such that I found out the clients requirements before *quoting* any fees.

One pro domme I knew used to charged \$300/hour but she wouldn't see anyone for less than a two hour session, so the minimum investment was \$600. Another domme I knew would quote \$350/hour and \$600 for two hours as a tactic to encourage people to book longer sessions. What you can charge depends on the

market in your region, and I suggest you literally call around (or have a male friend do it) and find out.

Some services even state their fees right on their websites. If you feel that what you have to offer creates additional value for clients, e.g., a place to shower and change afterwards; or perhaps you offer them tea or a cocktail before or after; maybe you provide a home environment whereas your competition is more commercial... if you do go the extra mile, then you have every right to charge for it. The ultimate test will be if you attract business. If you find that you get plenty of responses to your advertising and relatively few bookings, then people are satisfied with what they can get at lower rates, and you might try adjusting your fees.

There is nothing wrong with giving yourself periodic “cost of living raises”, say once every year or two, also. Especially once you’ve established yourself and have a bunch of satisfied customers. Those guys are happy to pay your fee and won’t mind supporting you via a modest price hike at appropriate intervals.

Another factor: if you attract international clients, you often find they are comfortable with paying more than your standard fee, because the international currency exchange is such that, at some point, dollars are cheaper than their own currency. This is where your screening is very important. If they have one of those lovely exotic foreign accents always find out where they live and what they do. You’re not ripping them off. They may well expect to pay a similar fee abroad, so why shouldn’t you benefit from the market rate when you know you’ll be taking good care of them? Additionally, you can always throw out a higher quote and if you hear them go into cardiac arrest on the other end of the phone, graciously remark that if that amount is a hardship for them you’re happy to talk about it and see if something can be worked out that is acceptable for all concerned. Why miss out on meeting a nice person because of a few dollars here or there?

At The Boarding School I charged \$1500 – \$2000/day. People could book a 24-hour, 48-hour, or 72-hour stay. The “live-in” situation is great fun for spankos, as it supports them in making their fantasies feel more authentic. They are far more emotionally draining for the provider. Focusing your full attention on someone all day long, even though you may love what you do, is challenging. You have to maintain your persona and keep in control of one – and in some cases several – people. And let us not forget, “boys” can be a handful. You earn

your money. First of all, you have to feed your naughty residents and provide basic comforts like clean linens, and laundry and such for the longer stays. Usually you will have to employ staff. You can pay employees, or you can defer that additional investment by partnering up with other dommes and sharing the work.

There are many ways you can arrange fees. Some people charge for all but the most cursory of phone interviews. If someone wanted to discuss their needs at length they would have to book a phone consultation. I always gave away the first interview, which was at least half an hour, and often longer. If, after my very generous first interview, someone wanted more of my time to ask further questions and discuss session details, I would have them book a paid phone consultation. I charged between \$50 to \$100 for this. You can charge whatever you feel is appropriate. You don't have to charge anything, but if you encounter someone who gets in the habit of calling repeatedly and has never booked, you can find out quickly if they're serious by nicely saying that you've proven your good faith by this time and if he's not ready to give you a deposit for a session, you're glad to talk again, if he'd like to book a phone conference ...for which you charge \$XX.00. If he disappears never to be seen again, you've now seen his true colors and saved yourself future effort.

Fees are very much up to your own discretion. You can set things up however you wish. Some providers only offer non-negotiable hourly increments. Clients may book single hour sessions or multiple hour sessions at that hourly rate. Some providers offer half-hours, 45 minute sessions, 1 ½ hours. I don't believe in offering people too many options. Humans tend to overcomplicate things. Clients will often confuse themselves when given a lot to choose from. My best advice is that you offer hour-long sessions, and if, occasionally, someone asks if you'll do a half hour, or 1 ½ hours, do it. Sort out ahead of time what an appropriate fee for that should be.

My experience taught me that it costs just about the same time investment to do half an hour as to do an hour. I still have to stop whatever I'm doing an hour or two before the appointment. I still have to do my hair and make-up, set up the room and brush up on the details my client has shared with me about his fantasy. And since it's just not in my nature to short-change people, I would rarely give someone only half an hour when they booked it. I always would go 10 or 15 minutes overtime. So when I scheduled a half-hour, I would always charge about $\frac{2}{3}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ of my regular *hourly* fee. Not simply divide the fee in half.

Because of this, a lot of people would opt for the full one-hour instead. Which, in my opinion, serves everyone better anyway.

CHAPTER 16

Other Formats

- EXTENDED PLAY -

Earlier I mentioned The Boarding School, my faux “institution” of higher learning for unruly (adult) children. You may want to explore a similar option. You don’t even have to be limited to owning or renting a venue in order to create your own “school”... or “prison” or “Auntie’s boarding house”. You might find a small country cottage, or a remote resort with separate cabins. You can advertise special weekend school sessions and try it on a temporary basis. Just make good and sure you calculate all your needs and expenses, and factor in, realistically, the time you’ll have to invest. These fantasy settings are a lot of fun. They really are. But they are also a lot of work.

Of course, if you know being a spanker is for you and you’ve done your due diligence becoming able and successful to whatever degree serves your purposes, you might want to consider acquiring some property and running the type of operation mentioned above on a regular basis. My recommendation is that you partner with another industrious spanker. Or you really should already have a sizable following yourself. It can be very helpful if you can get yourself a backer so you have enough working capital to build your practice. (Maybe one of your clients would like to partner with you, and he can live out his fantasies!) The residential option is a specialty and a novelty. Keeping the desks (and beds) filled is a tricky business. I can’t offer you many hints other than the methods already outlined in marketing and making a name for yourself.

A residential venue still allows you the option to conduct hourly sessions as well. However, if your location is off the beaten path it may be difficult to promote a profitable per-session business. You’ll make your primary money doing sleepovers because your average booking will range from about \$1800 – \$3500 (for 24 hours) depending on how much one-on-one time is required. You can also promote day visits (10 or 12 hours) and charge up to \$1200 – \$1500 or more. You also have to figure out how and where to advertise, and how to target

the upscale (often international) consumer of your rarified services.

When I first established The Boarding School, I converted a detached garage into a school room and dormitory able to accommodate up to eight “students” at a time, and promoted weekend retreats in my home on the outskirts of Denver. If you’re inventive and have a couple friends (or clients) who are handy with a hammer and nail, you can hang a blackboard and get some bunk beds, used desks and the other appropriate accoutrements (often from yard sales), do a little painting and be up and running in a couple weeks, for under \$1000, if need be. As you develop yourself you can expand to more elaborate trappings if you like.

You’ll find that, for the most part, the motif and the decorations don’t matter as much as the attitude and atmosphere you create by virtue of your mastery and your air of authority. You are, first and foremost, an entertainer... a ring master (or *ring mistress*, if you will) creating an aura of strictness and decorum, and directing their attention from moment to moment. The more you become able to capture and captivate their imaginations, the more you’ll draw people back to visit you again and again. This is especially true of residential situations like this where you are managing your “students” over a protracted period of time. You’re always “on”. Always in character. It takes a lot out of you. And it can often feel to you like herding cats. So make sure you give yourself some downtime. If you invest your time and money wisely it can be a greatly rewarding and fun experience for all.

- TAKING IT ON THE ROAD -

Many pro spankers build their business by traveling to major cities and cater to non-local clientele, as well as developing new clientele who can then come to see them when traveling to their home base. You can book advertising on well-known websites like ErosGuide, which offers options to make announcements and post additional ads in multiple cities for occasions just such as this. You can also piggyback onto already existing events and parties. Get to know the organizations that hold these events and see if you can buy space on their ads. You can also put word out in your blog. Max Fisch’s website has a forum for news and events. This will reach people all over the world.

You can book yourself into industry trade shows or fetish expos. You can put on

a demonstration (and charge for it in many cases). It's good exposure and should garner you some bookings. Or you can travel in conjunction with these already planned events, and set yourself up in a hotel room... or at a friend or colleague's home if you have one, and offer sessions. People who travel to these showcases are your target audience and you might grab sessions that yield future business.

Many dommes acquire clients who will pay their traveling expenses just to have them come to their locale. If you have this opportunity, you can use it to rustle up additional bookings while there. Many dommes do this type of thing not so much for the profit, for truthfully, many of them often just break even, once accounting for the business they miss at home while traveling. They do this for the fun of it; to get away for a while; to make some new friends or clients; and just to have a vacation. One that didn't cost them a dime.

- WHAT ABOUT PHONE SESSIONS? -

Phone sessions can be a great adjunct to your business, especially if you're the actorly type. You can have clients pay via a Paypal type service, in which case, if you like, you can take calls spontaneously in your downtime. I never promoted this as a big part of my work. My phone sessions always came out of clients I'd already sessioned with live, or clients who took a liking to me during a phone interview but lived too far to see me very often. I always scheduled mine a day in advance because I had other demands and had to plan my time. For many people, phone sessions are impulse purchases, so if you have the flexibility to be available at moment's notice you have the chance to cultivate a hearty income stream. Those random fees really do add up.

As with deposits, some people preferred to mail me cash for phone bookings. They'd send me a "retainer" of several hundred dollars, and that way we could plan sessions spontaneously if we chose to, and when their account was depleted they would send another retainer. With Skype available now, you can view each other and add another dimension to remote sessions. I have always been too private to broadcast my image on the internet, but this is a drawing card for many pro dommes. Maybe you're one of them. Remember, men are very visual.

- VIDEOS -

If you don't mind exposing your image publicly, making and selling spanking videos can be very lucrative. With today's technology you can do this relatively inexpensively. In fact, all you need is a decent camera-phone and you can be off and running. You can make a great living doing nothing else but making and selling spanking videos, if you wish.

Just remember that you have to get a legal signed release from any person appearing in videos you intend to sell or broadcast, whether you pay them for their participation or not. And to be safe, you'll want to stipulate what, if any, profits they are entitled to, so they agree to this in writing up front. There are lots of such videos on the market. Good production values don't hurt, but even if yours don't look much better than a home movie, if the scene is very real (many of them look staged and fake) you can do quite well with these. If this is an adjunct, consider dedicating a day to filming several short movies (they needn't be more than 10 or 15 minutes long) every few weeks. If you find you have a big demand, then you can create multiple series. A naughty school girl series. An errant husband series. Man spanking the maid – or the maid spanking the man. And so on. You can offer them as downloads, which means that your only material outlay is your initial time to shoot and edit, and any personnel you may have to pay.

- KEEPING RECORDS -

I will confess, you can find much better resources to tell you how to structure the business end of your practice than I. But however you set it up, you should keep regular, accurate track of your cash flow. You do have to pay taxes. You might not want to report your profession as “professional spanking psycho-dramatist” or what-have-you, but you have to file. Call yourself a life coach if you like. Everyone seems to be becoming one of those these days. And in a sense, that's what you are!

Initially it can feel like you have all this instant money coming in. Start putting some aside right off the top. You'll need it not only for paying income tax, but also for the unexpected capital expenses that arise in every business. Your canes

will eventually break. You'll need wardrobe. There's advertising and promotion. Even "education", if you go to demonstrations, parties, conventions. And trust me when I tell you, you need to put a stash away for slow periods because you will have spots during the year when business just slows down... or stops. It can even last for several weeks. Bottom line, keep track of your money.

As far as keeping records of your clients, some dommes do keep copious notes on clients. They have birthday lists and special preferences notated, and it's all digitized. Personally, I kept most of the information in my head, except for phone numbers. I don't recommend this. It's precarious. But since I built such a personal rapport with each client, I did naturally remember an awful lot about them. I didn't want to record too much on paper because clients have privacy concerns and I didn't want them to worry about their data becoming public somehow.

You will have to come to terms as to the best method of keeping track of your client information and maintaining discretion. If you're good with computers, perhaps you're able to create a well-encrypted filing system. As many strides as have been made over the decades, somewhat de-stigmatizing spanking and bringing the subject more into the mainstream, this is still not a mainstream business. There are no templates. You're kind of on your own here.

Whatever your ultimate hopes are in making this your trade, I suggest that, in the beginning, you don't quit your day job. Don't go out and rent a fabulous commercial space and spend all your money on wardrobe and flashy ads and assume business will come flocking to your door. Build things gradually and you'll never be overly pressured to get clients. People can smell desperation and will take advantage of it if they can. Also, you will be tempted to take unwise safety risks if you feel that kind of financial pressure. I have experienced periods where bringing in money was of such importance that I relaxed my safety protocols and decided to go on good faith. Sometimes it worked out okay, but there were times when I found myself with a scary person in my home and wasn't sure how I would get them to leave without incident. Trust me, it's not worth taking a risk like that, so be a smart businessperson; don't put yourself in that position.

Remember, it's your decision whether or not you will allow clients to include "a release" (to put it less delicately: letting them jerk off) in their session. As I said, I don't consider it part of a discipline scene, but you may have a different view. The serious spanking enthusiasts generally won't expect it. You will undoubtedly meet folks who do, or who will at least try to talk you into it. The one point I want to make here is that if you decide *not* to permit people to *release*, you do need to make that policy clear up front. Announce it in no uncertain terms in your initial phone interview. This will avoid awkward situations once the session is in progress.

One side note before concluding: If you're not one of the naturally assertive personalities who gravitate to this profession but, for whatever reason, are drawn to take a run at it, don't let anyone discourage you from doing so! I have known many submissive women who chose to become Spankers and did very well at it. They could strongly identify with their clients and sometimes were even more intuitive and convincing than the most experienced Tops... because they were able to give to others what they, themselves, intimately understood and craved.

Ultimately, this is your show. You are the producer, director, actor, agent, and manager. You get to create it any way you like. The habits, practices, and experiences I have shared are merely to throw out some ideas to help you begin brainstorming your own creative methods and styles. If you weren't an adventurous person you would not consider exploring this fascinating milieu, nor would you be considering making it your lifestyle or livelihood. You have more than enough practical information to go on at this point. What you do with it is now your game. In the end, it's what you uniquely bring to the party that will make you a success. Be yourself. Be patient. And play safely. You'll figure it out as you go. If you're having fun... they'll have fun, too. Everyone comes to these little adventures for their own unique reasons and purposes, but I think we can all agree that the best one is because it's fun.

Happy spanking!

APPENDIX

Guides for Beginners and Resources

- QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BOTTOMS -

For those of you just starting to explore spanking, here are some questions to ask of prospective partners and of yourself:

1. When you're being spanked, how old are you in your mind?
2. What is your level of experience with spanking?
3. Do you find yourself spending at least some time almost every day thinking about spanking?
4. What is the most exciting aspect of being spanked?
 - a. The pain?
 - b. The scolding?
 - c. The embarrassment or humiliation?
 - d. The loss of control
 - e. Having your bottom bared in front of another person?
5. Do you prefer to be spanked by someone you know well, or even intimately? Or someone who is more of a stranger or a least more objective and less able to be swayed by your personal dynamic together?
6. Do you want to be brought to tears? If so, what does that for you?
 - a. The scolding and shaming?
 - b. Escalating pain?

- c. Knowing the spanker well enough to let yourself go and be vulnerable?
7. Do you like to be marked?
8. Do you want to develop an ongoing spanking relationship or would you rather go to a professional spanker, meet someone safely at a party, or find someone safely through a personal ad whom you are unlikely to ever see again?
9. Are you single? If not, will you tell your significant other about your spanking needs?
10. Will you attempt to encourage your spouse or partner to participate in your spankings? Or is it more palatable for you to be spanked by someone unrelated to you?
11. What types of spankings do you seek:
- a. Domestic discipline (parental or spousal)?
 - b. Institutional (Schoolroom [age-regression], the military, prison, office environment...etc.)?
 - c. Behavior modification: real life issues, which you want to address and improve upon?
 - d. Kinesthetic spankings – purely for the sensation and/or the pain?
12. Do you have any favorite spanking fantasies? Please describe briefly.
13. What position(s) do you prefer being placed in for your spankings?
14. Does getting a spanking or thinking about spanking arouse you sexually? If so, are you looking for erotic spankings or purely disciplinary?
15. Do you know your pain threshold? If so, on a scale of 1 – 10 with 10 being the most painful, how would you rate it?

- QUESTIONNAIRE FOR TOPS -

For those of you just starting to explore spanking, here are some questions to ask of prospective partners and of yourself:

1. What is your level of experience with spanking?
 - a. You know how to give an effective and safe spanking to a partner.
 - b. You've never spanked anyone.
 - c. You're a switch and you've been spanked yourself and know what implements feel like.
 - d. You've casually played around with spankings, more or less as foreplay to other activities.
2. Is spanking something you've been attracted to all your life or a recent curiosity?
3. How much of your thoughts and attention are absorbed with spanking related thoughts?
4. Have you tried to dismiss your attraction for spanking and found that it persists no matter what you do?
5. What aspects of spanking play is most compelling to you:
 - a. The exchange of power?
 - b. The idea of inflicting pain?
 - c. Sexual arousal?
 - d. The drama of role play?
 - e. You feel a strong connection or closeness to someone through the dominant/submissive process?
6. Are you seeking a long-term intimate relationship with someone with whom you can share spanking activities, or do you prefer to keep this activity separate from your personal life and compartmentalized?
7. Are you capable of and willing to determine and respect your partner's

limits and sensibilities during spanking play?

8. Is spanking something you want to integrate into your lifestyle or do you prefer occasional, organized, formal arranged sessions?

9. Do you have a preference for the type of partner you seek?

a. Male

b. Female

c. Married

d. Single

e. Do they have to conform to some standard of physical or intellectual attractiveness, or do they simply need to share your interests and goals about spanking?

10. Do you have favorite spanking fantasies and roles you want to enact? If so, what are they?

11. Are you interested in training a novice spankee or do you prefer finding someone who already knows what he/she wants and can handle?

12. Do you require the ritual of spanking to enjoy a scene or is it more free form and spontaneous?

13. Describe the ideal partner and situation to fulfill your spanking needs.

14. Would you prefer to see a professional submissive?

15. Are you open to joining a spanking club, should one exist in your area?

16. Have you tried joining online spanking social networks to gain information and seek access to likeminded potential partners. Was this successful? If not, have you explored the many options or given up after one bad experience?

17. Be honest with yourself: are you pursuing your spanking interests for their own sake, or is there a desire (conscious or perhaps unconscious) that

it will lead to a sexual liaison? If the latter, are you willing to respect your partner's preferences regarding the sexual component, or absence thereof?

Resources

To help get you started, here is a listing of spanking-related books, blogs, websites and groups that I consider worthwhile. I'm sure you are clever enough to do your own investigating but perhaps this will give the newbies amongst you a good place to start. Some of these have been mentioned already but this provides you convenient access to all.

- SPANKING BLOGS AND WEBSITES -

www.shadowlane.com

www.nu-westleda.com

[www.spanked-in-uniform.com](http://www spanked-in-uniform.com)

www.overherknee.com

www.coloradospankers.com

www.scony.com

www.cherryredreport.com

www.ericascottills.blogspot.com

www.britishpunishment.com

www.auntyjane.com

www.pandemos.net

www.adelehaze.com

www.domboss.com

www.msmarwood.com

www.sandysroom.wordpress.com

www.mscassandrapark.com

www.victorianspanking.blogspot.com

www.institute-of-discipline.com

www.ladygoverna.com

- CHATBOARDS AND SOCIAL NETWORKING -

www.maxfisch.com

www.fetlife.com

www.alt.com

- ONLINE AND RETAIL MERCHANTS -

www.purplepassion.com

www.cane-iac.com

www.canes4pain.com

- OTHER READING MATERIALS-

It's Supposed to Hurt by Cassandra Park

Kink and The City by John Smith

On The Bare by Fiona Locke

Spanked by Rachel Kramer Bussel

Bottoms Up by Rachel Kramer Bussel

The Art of Spanking – pictorial erotica by Eve Howard of Shadow Lane

www.ccbpublishing.com/ehoward.html – spanking fiction by Eve Howard

http://2010publishing.webeasysite.co.uk/2010web_022.htm - Ian Hamilton, spanking artist, and more

- ADVERTISERS -

(DDI) Dominant Directory International Magazine

Contact David Jackson, 760.363.6434, 760.363.1330

www.ddimag.com (DDI website)

www.eros.com



[1]

Speaking of finding a spanking partner in *The Big Apple*, there's an amusing book I read called *Kink and the City*, by John Smith, that describes the foibles of someone setting about to do just that.

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