

# *Negotiating Sex*

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## *How to Get your Desires Fulfilled and Protect your Boundaries*

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### ***A Public Service Announcement brought to you by the Bureau of Erotic Discourse (B.E.D.)***

You may have heard there is a lot of sex going on at Burning Man. Are you considering enjoying some of the fun, too? We at the Bureau of Erotic Discourse (B.E.D.) want you to have the best sex possible and we have just the steps you need to follow when you are trying to get your sexual desires fulfilled and protect your boundaries, too:

- 1) Assess your own desires and boundaries. What kind of sexual interaction do you want to engage in? What kind of sexual interaction would violate your boundaries? It's important to be very clear with yourself on both counts. Do you want oral sex? Or just a snuggle bunny? A make-out partner? A hot and heavy interlude with a ton o' lube? In terms of your boundaries, do you not want to engage in penetration? Do you want to play with bondage but avoid orgasms? Decide what it is you do and do not want so that you are clear with yourself before you even search for a partner.
- 2) Select someone coherent. You don't want to have sex with someone who is so loaded that they can't express what they do and do not want. It's against the law, for one thing, and it's unethical and uncool as well.
- 3) Approach your coherent, potential bed buddy and talk to them. Ask them about themselves and comment on how sexy and awesome you think they are. Flirt shamelessly. If the vibe is good, get up the nerve to tell your buddy what you want to do with them. Say it in a sexy, direct fashion. Promise that you will be an attentive and communicative partner.
- 4) If your buddy refuses your offer—either in a gentle or rude way—continue talking with them if that seems fun, or wish them a great burn and walk away with your head held high. That was a success! You did it! You told someone your desires, you were rejected, and the world didn't melt! Hooray! Now go get a cool drink, have a sit-down, lick your paws, reassess the situation, and start from scratch with someone else.
- 5) If, however, your bed buddy seems interested in your expression of your desires, ask them about their desires and listen with rapt attention. Ask your bed buddy if they would like to participate in an erotic game where you each express your desires and boundaries to one another. If they agree, listen attentively and speak clearly. Discuss safe sex and birth control, if applicable. Then decide what fun and naughty things might work for both of you and propose them. If your bed buddy agrees, get busy, you hound dogs! And take as much pleasure from not doing things that your bed buddy doesn't want to do as you get from engaging in things you both want.

***Have fun and be safe!***

## *A Sample Negotiation*

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Pat: It was awesome to dance with you tonight. I love the way you shake it out there. You rock!

Chris: It was so cool the way you dipped me!

Pat: Yeah, that was fun. Hey, I was wondering if you'd like to take this great energy and hang out in the chill dome next door?

Chris: Sounds fun, but let's talk first just to get things clear.

Pat: Good idea! It's such a pain to try and figure out what the other person does and doesn't want in the middle of things.

Chris: Just so you know, I'm looking for some serious making out, but not full on sex.

Pat: Sounds good. I like lots of kissing, especially playful tongue stuff, but not one of those things where you can't breathe.

Chris: I agree. Touching anywhere outside of my crotch is OK. Oh yeah, and I like my ass grabbed and lightly spanked. No penetration, though, I'm just not ready for that.

Pat: Fun! OK, so what I'd like some of is for you to play with my nipples. Lots of touching and licking, but no biting.

Chris: When can I start? All this talk is turning me on! One more thing. When I get hot I like to grind against you. Is that too much?

Pat: No, but it might make me come. Is that too much for you?

Chris: Oh, I'm counting on it. I'd be disappointed if we didn't get there, as long as we take our time about it.

Pat: Excellent. Let's see who comes first: me, you, or the sunrise.

Chris: It's only 2 am!

Pat: Yeah, I know.