



## I Was a Teenage Dominatrix

Shawna Kenney

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Ride shotgun with Shawna Kenney as she transforms her self from young, broke and miserable to an educated, confident woman after answering one newspaper ad: Get Paid for Being a Bitch. This award winning tell all comically chronicles Konney's simultaneous navigation through Washington DC dungeon and academia.

## I Was a Teenage Dominatrix Details

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Author : Shawna Kenney

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# From Reader Review I Was a Teenage Dominatrix for online ebook

## Rachel says

Here's my blurb:

"With one lash of Shawna Kenney's stripped-down, bracingly honest prose, you'll be begging for more. Clad in latex, Kenney bravely maps out her own sexual and moral territory and becomes queen of her own destiny. A beacon to teenage girls to claim the bitch goddess within. Reading never hurt so good."

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## Eric K. says

A moderately interesting and rather unenlightening memoir of an uneducated (and uninterested in education) girl's experiences whipping her way through early adulthood as a craigslist-class pro-domme. The author isn't really interested in bdsm qua bdsm, and the descriptions of her sessions have an irksome "ZOMG freaks!!!!1" quality to them.

Listen up, girlie: If you become a professional dominatrix because it turns you on to be paid to hurt rich men, that's possibly empowering, and arguably even heroic in a postmodern, post-queer sort of way. But if you perform sex acts you find repulsive strictly because you need or want the money, then you are a WHORE.

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## Kitty says

I read this in one sitting and honestly from the way some people talk about this I thought it was going to be the dreggs. Much to my relief it wasn't.

This isn't a particularly soulful exposition on the nature of women's affairs in sex politics, it wasn't a sexual awakening or even a really in depth look at any thing for that matter. What you see is what you get - a 128 page long book of anecdotes with a bit of back story thrown in. Tiny in size but it lasts just long enough to give us a glimpse of all the major corner stones we feel we \*should\* touch before the books end, namely boyfriends, friends, family, the super creeps and the pitiable customers along with the obligatory The Time it Went too Far story and The Moment I Got Fed Up With This Story.

Much like any other memoir of a sex worker who simply gets the job out of a desire for money/adventure instead of a genuine need for whatever it is she's doing, she ends her novella on the ever so popular "I am woman hear me roar as I walk out into the Real World to go legit" schtick while managing to throw in quite a few judgements leveled at the rest of her coworkers proving that once again, for all their talks of rara-feminism, writers who continue to follow this routine still can't help but play the part of the persnickety bitch at times to their fellow women. Look at you - you stuck it out long enough to write a book about it where you can prove how cool and hip you are for hanging with the weird kids and make yourself look extra edgy in the process by proving how "accepting" you were in the process. Honestly, I can't believe this book hasn't shown up on the list of Things White People Like yet. I guess it's hard to realize you're all in the same boat together at times - however much to her credit she avoids going as far or being as nasty as other writers such as Cody Diablo have done in the past.

Over all it wasn't such a bad way to spend an evening.

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### **Christine says**

what i love about this book is that the author has no sense of the guilt or moral disgust WITH people commonly associate with the sexual trade. everything is matter of fact, and every fetish is taken as a matter of course. that doesn't mean that she didn't have her own prejudices against certain sexual turn-ons. she had plenty. but it is because of them that a sense of her person came through. this book wasn't raunchy or pornographic. it was more of a psychological study of humans through their sexual desires.

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### **Marta says**

Glad to read the full book. I have read excerpts from this memoir in other places. An interesting read of what a gal chooses to do to make ends meet.

It is a quick read as she is only 18 or 19 when she starts and a college grad when she quits the biz but it is an interesting read.

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### **Paul Eckert says**

This memoir is almost everything you want it to be.

Kenney did not get into the dominatrix business because she came from an abusive background or because it was an option of last resort. Instead, she did it to make some extra money to pay for college, and it paid a lot more than anything else.

In "I Was a Teenage Dominatrix", we get to see some of the goings-on in the dominatrix business, from a woman running her business out of her house to the slick-oiled machine of a well-managed harem of doms. Even more interesting are the various memories of Kenney's past clients, ranging from golden showers to brown showers, forced feminization, "slavery", and the obligatory spankings.

Amid the fetish and money is a surprising amount of heart. Kenney never judges her clients (unless they piss her off), but at one point she asks her boss what kind of person craves such "punishment." Her boss tells her: "They've all done something wrong. Somewhere, somehow, all of them have screwed someone over and know they deserve it." Not only is this pretty funny considering Kenney lived in Washington DC at the time (and noted that several clients were politicians), but hearing this sheds new light on the deeper psychological roots of sexual fetish and helps to bridge an understanding between the reader and subject. There are several other moments like this, like the men that order the services of a dominatrix not for sexual fulfillment, but just to have someone to talk to in a desperate attempt to curb their loneliness.

The writing is unambiguous and straightforward. Some might see this as a bland laundry list of experiences with sexual fetishists, but what I liked about the simple style of writing is that it allows the reader to interpret Kenney's experiences for themselves. I never felt that she embellished on her past in order to make a good story. Instead, the narrative feels conversational and genuine. However, there were instances that, in the

hands of a gifted storyteller, scenes could have had more of an impact.

The only downside of this book was the lack of good editing. Kenney sometimes repeats herself, seemingly without knowing it, and there were a few typos and grammatical mistakes.

Definitely recommended for open-minded individuals who like to read about unique life experiences.

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### **Kristi Marsha says**

perhaps she was relying on shock value to some extent, but it simply wasn't that shocking. maybe for someone who knows nothing about the world of sex work and domination it would be new and interesting, but i found it a little boring. i'm sure living it wasn't boring, but i wasn't engaged enough while reading.

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### **J. says**

I find the construction and tone of the generation-x style memoir to be unrelentingly fascinating. There is an aura of rebellion to the style that seems unique to the spawn of that particular time. It's not necessarily endearing, and in fact it can often times appear to be amateurish in quality due to the brusque language and manner of delivering information. These are the post-post-modern writers who strive to present themselves as a sort of Holden Caulfield for a new era without the panache of Salinger's prose.

Shawna Kenney's autobiography of her time spent working as a dominatrix to put herself through college is interesting in and of itself but sometimes feels hindered by her need to maintain an image of herself that she seems determined to keep true even if the evidence of her actions speak otherwise. I have met several professional dominatrices and their story is equally compelling without the "I think she doth protest too much" elements of personal ideology that don't line up all too well with the rest of the text.

The main problem with this particular memoir is that there really is no conflict to the narrative. There are no truly harrowing experiences. The profession of a dominatrix is presented without any real drama. In Kenney's writing it is presented as just another job, which works in allowing for better understanding of the lifestyle but does nothing to make the overall text compelling beyond the details of the domination sessions that she describes over the course of the altogether brief page-count.

I breezed through it in about two hours worth of reading. It's a brisk and light read, all things considered, and even if it is ultimately a somewhat empty narrative there is still something there to make it interesting enough to finish.

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### **Daemon Grendl says**

Shawn Kenny writes a nuts-and-bolts autobiography of her early life. It's unusual story because she worked her way through college as a dominatrix. This is suppose to be an honest look back at her experience. It's not really about being a dominatrix but more specifically one woman's experience as a dominatrix.

After leaving home and a falling out with her family she turned to exotic dancing to pay the bills. Pretty quickly, she decided she needed a college education to become successful and she turned to sexual domination for better pay. To her, being a dominatrix was easier and more lucrative than exotic dancing, waitressing, or just about anything else. (Being a dominatrix is easier?)

But unlike several other Dominatrixes who've written their biographies, Shawna says she didn't enjoy BDSM, nor did she practice it in her personal life. She never "Got-in-to-it". Some BDSM activities disgusted her and describes several scenes that actually made her physically sick. (Yet she was the Golden Shower Queen ?) It was actually this disgust that made it easier for her to dominate and humiliate some clients.

That's what really set this book apart: She claims she isn't a lifestyle BDSM player. She did it just for the money - It was just a job: a short period of her life, no big deal. This is not erotica, this is real life. She doesn't try to sugar coat BDSM or try to make it sound glamorous or more titillating, because to her: it wasn't.

One of the first things I noticed about the book is how impersonal her story is. She has few friends and doesn't share much personal information with us. She spanked and studied, nothing else. I find this to be unbelievable. Either she had no life or didn't feel the need to share it with her readers. At one point she was interviewed and told the reporter she wasn't abused as a child and had nothing unusual about her life. This seems dishonest to me because it ignores several important aspects of her story. What about her rebellious childhood? Or her break-up with her family? Or being shunned by her friends? That's normal? She said she wasn't ashamed of anything she'd done: Yet she didn't tell her parents or most of her friends what she did to pay for college.

My biggest critique about this book is that I don't understand her motivation: How could she be a dominatrix? You don't work for years as a Dominatrix without enjoying it. I've heard many professional dominatrixes say that it's not something the average person could do for any long period of time, "You have to be in-to-it," you can't fake it for very long. This really confuses me: How could Shawna fake it for so long? And it seems absurd that she hated stripping but could do BDSM sessions?

After discussing it with her (via E-mail), I realize she doesn't understand it herself. That's not meant to be critical -- Very few of us really understand how and why we do some of the things we do. But I feel she wasn't being honest with herself or her readers and this is where the book lost me. What's also contradictory is that, after ending her career as a dominatrix, Shawna has continued her career as a writer and photographer for BDSM and other erotic publications (like Whap! Magazine. I have to conclude she's not telling us something.

In her E-mail she said there were several clients that she really liked and that there were aspects she liked about being a dom (like carrying over the teasing she'd done in real life, and "Reforming" bad behavior, and especially her friendship with Miranda). I was really glad to hear that extra bit of information. It filled in some of the gaps for me.

The bottom line is that this was an okay book. She's not a lifestyle BDSMer and makes that very clear: She doesn't need to be. If her clients got what they wanted, and she got what she wanted, and we (as readers) got an interesting book, then everyone should be happy. She knew what she wanted and did what she had to to get it. She also had to face the consequences of her decisions. We can all learn from her story.

If, after reading the book, you're left with questions or comments, visit her website and let her know. She seems like a reasonable and intelligent person. Don't criticize her for not being a lifestyle BDSM person and

don't ask her advise about BDSM, but do check out her other work.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed reading this book. It was interesting and easy to read, but there's nothing really Earth-shaking about it. Personally, I felt something was missing from the story. Either intentionally or subconsciously she left some critical details out.

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### **Kathy Ahn says**

Fun memoir. The writer doesn't glorify or damn the profession and instead gives the reader a candid look at the 3-4 years she spent learning to be and working as a dom. Not exceptionally well written, but she's a decent writer and the narrative is engaging.

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### **Black Heart Magazine says**

Great memoir from a "teenage" dominatrix, explaining how she got into this unusual line of work, what it was really like, and why she eventually left. No sob stories, no stories of abuse, no excuses, just a realistic depiction of a really interesting part-time job. Highly recommended to anyone curious about the biz!

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### **Jeff Raymond says**

A friend lent this book to me the first week of school in 2001. I finally got around to reading it in 2006. With that said, surprisingly interesting story about a girl's work in the sex trade. Short and to the point, and fairly fascinating.

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### **Rebecca says**

An easy, straight to the point memoir. A really quick read too. I read this book in a day! Smart girl needs money and being a dominatrix is the easiest way to get cash. She only did it in college to earn money and quite once she finished up. Even though the topic was a bit racy, it was quit well written from a girl power point of view. Who knows what was left out, but I didn't care. Simple cast of characters, people come in, they stay and then they leave, never to be heard from again. My favorite type of cast! Nothing to keep track of. It was such an easy read, if not for the subject matter, I would totally recommend this book to high school kids because it was quit an empowering book. Depends on the kid.

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### **Geoffrey Kleinman says**

I'm surprised at just how much I enjoyed Shawna Kenney's *I Was a Teenage Dominatrix: A Memoir*. Keeney is an immensely talented writer who weaves an extremely compelling and engaging tale that is focused and pitch perfectly paced. Using a combination of vivid language and well rounded characters Kenney writing is immerse, it's easy to get swept away with the universe she creates.

There are so many traps and pitfalls with a book that deals with a sexual topic and Kenney is adept at navigating the story and the characters into a very real but not overly heady space. Everything in the book feels very real and not contrived, a level of honesty which serves the book extremely well. If you're even remotely curious about this book or the topic, I highly recommend picking *I Was a Teenage Dominatrix: A Memoir* up, it delivers and is well worth your time.

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### **Helena says**

A fun romp, and a quick read.

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