

Hannah's Interview - part 2.

If you have not read our first interview with Hannah, please do so before reading this as this is a continuation.

1. You said in your first interview, you are doing a criminology degree, what does a criminology degree entail? What do you hope to achieve with it?

Essentially, a criminology degree begins at the bachelor level. It's four years' worth of study. I can then decide if I want to further specialize in this area of expertise later down the track. Criminology examines the underlying causes of crime, emphasizing individual behaviour and the structural systems by which people accused of crimes are brought to justice. Eventually, I hope to use this degree in clinical social work or a police detective (I haven't decided yet!). This degree covers a lot of career spaces and opportunities as it incorporates law, psychology, and social sciences.

2. In regards to your work, how do you keep the emotion out of the sexual act?

The more I think about this question, the more I realize that there will always be some element of emotion during sexual acts. For example, I may feel sympathetic towards a client who confides in me they have experienced loss. However, I am diligent in reminding myself this is purely a business transaction, and I am playing a character for a moment in my clients' lives. I guess sex work is comparable to acting, and I'm playing a character in whatever fantasy – knowing this makes it easy to return safely to myself at the end of each shift.

3. What steps and boundaries do you put in place so clients don't become intrusive in your private life? How do you keep your privacy?

I'll be honest. I lie a lot. I have a fake 'real' name/place of origin, and I'm cautious when discussing hobbies/interests with clients, so I genuinely just lie. It's easier that way. I have been in a situation before where a client was asking pressing questions, almost like he was trying to profile me, so I explained he was making me feel uncomfortable. He kept pushing for answers to his

questions, so I pressed the distress button, and he was escorted from the premises.

4. Have you had any experiences of transference, (clients becoming attached to you emotionally) if so, how did you deal with it?

Unfortunately yes. This has happened quite frequently. One client, for example, continued to bring me gifts, perhaps to butter me up, who knows. Anyway, he wanted to meet on the outside in 'real-life.' He would push for this every interaction I had with him until I told him I couldn't see him anymore because he was too emotionally involved in his perception of me.

5. Do all clients want sex or do some book you for other reasons? If so, what are the other reasons they seek your services?

Many of my clients book me for companionship and the type of intellectual intimacy they can't seem to achieve with women on the outside. I have a handful of physically disabled clients, for example, who, on the outside, struggle in talking to women or who try talking/dating women and are rejected and ignored because of their disability. This is where I feel an incredible amount of sympathy and pity towards some of my clients. It would be heartbreaking not to be able to achieve that basic human need of intimacy outside of the service I provide.

6. Do you feel any body image pressures being a sex worker? For example, you have to look a certain way?

It's an interesting thought, and as a whole, I have always felt a certain amount of pressure to look a certain way, especially in alignment with the standards set out by society of 'how a woman should look' and 'what is socially deemed as beautiful.'

7. There is a belief that sex workers hate men, are you a man hater?

While some sex workers may come to hate men through sex work, I'm certainly not a man hater myself.

8. Are there any phrases/terms/names that offend you when talking about your industry? What are they and why?

Whore – Personally, I find this term has been thrown around as a means to degrade women further, and consequently, it further expands the gender gap, and I find this isn't just limited to sex work.

I hate the word c#\$t. I won't even type it. That word brings an all-over cringe factor and is quite aggressive if thrown around too freely at women.

Slut/s – I don't think this word is appropriate for sex workers considering the definition of slut is a woman with many sexual partners. While this seems to be true of sex workers, we are not partnered to the sexual interactions we have, and the most critical point here is that just because we have many sexual interactions does not make us immoral to those standing beside us in this world.

9. Do you have any funny client stories you'd like to share?

HAHA WHERE DO I START?!

Captain Jack Sparrow is a regular client of mine who dresses in full costume of the famous pirate. During this session, he brings in a trained African Grey parrot who mimics phrases used during the session (still not sure if I should alert the RSPCA of the potential trauma this parrot has incurred?)

Another regular client of mine, the feeder, likes to set up a picnic blanket on the bed and enjoys indulging me in my favourite treats over a couple of hours. I can confirm this session is too good to be true as I become full quickly, and the food/treats he brings in are decadent! Needless to say, I don't eat breakfast, lunch, or dinner on the days the feeder books in with me.

One of my favourite clients who is disabled from the waist down often brings in his emotional support cat, so while it's not a funny client story, it is strange to have a cat perched at the end of the bed watching his master and me.

I also have a couple of clients who are right into the W.A.M fetish (wet and messy). This was a fetish I was hesitant to cater to initially, but I've come to enjoy throwing pies and smashing cakes into these clients' faces. It's quite the stress release for me! I guess I serve these clients in a way where they can get the release they seek without these urges interfering in their everyday lives.

Finally, I once had a client bring in this contraption he had built. It appeared to be one of those meal trays placed over the lap. However, there was a small hole in the centre where he placed it over, threaded his penis through, and wanted me

to stomp on his dick repeatedly. It was one of the stranger requests, but he seemed to enjoy the stomping.

10. What does the phrase "sex positive feminist" mean to you?

For me, it's about exercising choice as women in a society that tries to restrict our choices through a heavily induced patriarchal system. It's about engaging in consensual sexual activities through the lens of sexual pleasure and experimentation, with the view that by engagement, we are choosing to meet that fundamental human need for intimacy. Being a sex-positive feminist entails not making moral judgments, respecting individual personal preferences, and encouraging people to become active agents of discovering their own sexual needs through acceptance and openness.

11. Do you think people take sex too seriously? As in, should people relax and enjoy it more and joke and laugh about it more?

In my experience, it's 50/50. Many people I interact with can laugh and joke about it more, but I've also come across those who view it as a forbidden topic of discussion, despite them being in a brothel in the company of a sex worker in the first place. Sex is one of life's greatest, most basic pleasures and should be enjoyed in safe and satisfying ways by all human beings.

12. Why do you believe sex is a topic that can cause such controversy and debate?

I think there is so much to still understand about sex. People are hesitant about the unknown and the 'different.' I believe media articles often represent sex by labelling it as 'bad,' 'dirty,' etc., linking sex to pornography, and perpetuating the controversies surrounding the topic of sex.

13. Do you believe there is an age limit/cut off for your job?

Professionally no, I think age and sex go hand in hand as a timeless affair, sex should be able to be enjoyed throughout the different life stages, and I've worked alongside women in their 60s who still very much enjoy it. However, I don't want that to be my story personally.

14. Does anything shock or surprise you anymore? Or do you think your job has desensitised you?

It's not so much that the work I do has desensitised me. It's more that I have become more open to the various client desires/wants through the exposure to each individual experience over time.

15. Is there anything that offends you?

When I think about the things that offend me, it always comes down to the few times clients have tried to overstep the clearly laid out boundaries in place. It's offensive when people blatantly disrespect your boundaries by trying to do what you've told them not to. I would say I am also open-minded. I try to keep an open mind to the requests/situations I'm exposed to, but there are also things I'm personally not willing to try. Hence, it's not that I'm not open-minded to an experience, but it's more of a personal boundary I've spent time thinking about and have concluded it's not a boundary I want to cross.

16. Would you consider yourself to be a good actress? In a strange way would you consider your job to be a form of acting?

It may sound horrible, but yes! I consider myself a great actress. The key is finding one common theme with a client and tapping into that. Making them feel heard etc. If you want to do well in this work, then acting is essential, so yes, my job is undoubtedly a form of acting.

17. Do you think social media and apps such as Tinder etc. have made your job easier/harder safer/less safe?

I don't think those apps have made my job harder because clients mostly come into a brothel because they know it's less fuss than if they were to meet somebody on the outside through one of those apps where the potential for emotional complications/general safety is at a higher risk. These apps have only solidified the safe environment provided by brothels. I look towards the news story where tinder interactions have gone wrong, for instance, where a woman was thrown from a high-rise building.

18. What would be your advice to people who are afraid or embarrassed to express themselves sexually?

I would advise them to seek out people who may share similar fears and concerns in expressing themselves. There are many support networks online, for example, that host group supports. For instance, one group supports those with a fetish for BDSM and provides services for debriefing after involvement, etc. By sharing similar experiences/desires, people's shame is often diminished.

19. What do you enjoy doing outside of work, hobbies etc.?

I like spending time with my family, going to the beach, being in nature, or reading a good book. I'm genuinely a quiet type of person who just enjoys the simple things in life.

20. If anyone was thinking of getting into the sex industry or becoming a sex worker, what would be some advice you would give them?

Do your research. It won't always be glamorous, so it's vital to have support services you can debrief with, counsellors/psychologists, etc. I would also emphasize the importance of knowing who you are so your identity doesn't get caught up in the act of being a sex worker. Finally, approach the work with an open mind and understand that all human beings deserve to have their basic need for intimacy met, be curious about why your clients are there, and ask questions to form the foundational knowledge required to be successful in the field of sex work.