



## Ask: Building Consent Culture

**Kitty Stryker**

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*The book's powerful, positive message is much needed at a time when "just say no" isn't enough.*

Consent is sexy? No, it's mandatory. *Ask: Building Consent Culture* is an empowering, informative anthology of essays to help young people define their personal boundaries. Focusing on respect, safety, and self-advocacy, *Ask* is required reading in a culture that often overlooks young people's rights to make their own rules about their bodies.

Consent isn't just protection from; it's also freedom *to*: "freedom to express desire, to explore pleasure, to seek intimacy and adventure." As a response to rape culture, consent is a necessity. The essays in *Ask* focus on important experiences with consent at home, school, and work; in a medical environment or in jail; and in relationships.

The majority of the essays are a critique of existing power structures and suggest alternative, more inclusive ways to live, work, and take care of each other. This is not a handbook, but a wonderful guide that suggests new ideas about social awareness and responsibility.

*Ask* is edited by Kitty Stryker, founder of consentculture.com. Active for decades in the kink community, she tours internationally as a speaker on feminism, sex work, body positivity, and queer politics. Contributors include people of all orientations, backgrounds, and identities, giving a strong, diverse cross-section of opinions on consent.

From lawyers to educators to poets to sex workers to journalists, *Ask's* list of writers is a council of smart, compassionate advocates. Their message? Learn what works for you. Ask for what you want. Empower others to do the same.

Although *Ask* may sometimes go over the heads of younger people, it's thought-provoking material. Parents and adults who work with young people will find good resources here. The book's powerful, positive message is much needed at a time when "just say no" isn't enough.

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