

Switches' Dilemma

Intro

- 1 There's been recent evidence that switches are the largest and fastest growing segment
- 2 A switch is someone who can straddle both sides of the slash,
- 3 It is an important part of their make-up, It is who they are.
- 4 And they choose
- 5 Switches are not only an anomaly but also misunderstood

Now I'm no expert, don't have any titles after my name, nor sashes, belts, or collars. I actively participate in the lifestyle, though in the bedroom community. But I have experience, I'm a switch and I know my tribe.

Why are they misunderstood?

- 1 The community at large sees BDSM participants in two roles, dominants and submissives, sadists and masochists
- 2 They are viewed as the bipolar stepchild they don't talk about or acknowledge. I'm not saying this has stayed the same, but, misinformation and myths still keep them from being accepted in either camp.
- 3 In fact, it is a type of discrimination that keeps many dominants and submissives from admitting they have switched or that they might do so again.

What's in it for switches?

- 1 Besides having their cake and eating it too, there is an invisible line that allows them to shift from role to role.
- 2 The shifting is based primarily on their mood which is like a light with dimmers, that varies in intensity
- 3 They don't fit into a box. That's why it's difficult for them to understand WHY in a non conformist community, they are pressed to conform.
- 4 Switches know how something feels from both sides of the slash. >I'm not

saying that they are better equipped and more knowledgeable,

>or that in order to be a good dominant or submissive one should first be a switch first,

>but as an active participant I want to know more, experience more, and appreciate more than what I see on the surface.

Along with good are the drawbacks, as if there is a choice on the drawbacks

- 5 Some switches suffer from drops that are more profound
- 6 An example is when a switch, who is mostly dominant, descends into the world of submission. That's a role that a switch needs to stay in for a longer period of time. The climb is steep and difficult.

This is a good opportunity to clarify that switches are not half and half. They are either mostly dominant or mostly submissive except for sadomasochists. That group is closer to being half and half.

Male switches are more often submissively inclined and as such don't get many opportunities to top unless they have a switch partner.

- 7 Female switches are more often dominant and find a greater wealth of willing submissives than male switches. Sometimes, they are perceived to be too toppy to submit to dominants. It's a conundrum.
- 8 So who are the best mates for switches? In my research, interviews, talking with others, and online participation, the consensus are that switches are better partnered with other switches for long-term relationships. However, there are lots of exceptions to the rule. Your mileage may vary.

Is switching more trouble than it's worth?

- 1 You have to understand that living as a switch is perhaps one of the most

challenging aspects in BDSM.

- 2 Switches confuse everyone including themselves. This confusion coupled with the desire to belong forces many Switches into choosing a side. It doesn't hurt to try, but, if they do it to please someone or fit in, they end up extremely unhappy.
- 3 The ideal is attaining acceptance and support in their immediate community.

Dare I call this mythology? Well I'll give it a go.

- 1 Switches can't make up their minds. This implies switches are people who know what side of the fence they want to be on. In other words, switches don't really exist.

> Once they've straddled the line, they can't choose, they don't want to choose, they have needs that have to be met. Switching does exist. When a person switches their focus from being a dominant to being a submissive, there is switching.

>Switches who avoid being a Dominant or submissive, are weak, afraid, or lacking in personal conviction. They aren't a real part of the community. They are just wannabees. And who want to play with a wannabee?

> This is a major stumbling block and it's unfounded discrimination. It takes a LOT of personal conviction to pursue a need, knowing that in doing so, their reputation may take a hit.

- 2 Real dominants do not switch.

Really? I know VERY domly Dominants who started out as subs. At one point, they switched, crossed over to the dark side, AND they might do it again. Does that make them switches? Not in my opinion, but it doesn't really matter. They are what they ARE – and it certainly does not make them indecisive or lacking personal conviction.

Cues

I've always been a student of human behavior. I want to know what makes people tick and ever since I was young, I preferred to watch people rather than read a book, or go to a movie, or do any passive activity. I had plenty of opportunity because my family had a grocery store and all of us worked there, every day.

Let me share my personal experiences on observing people. Now these are first blush

assessments, basic common sense, right? And we all know it takes more than one time to pick up on things, let alone identifying the nature of person's orientation.

I have been surprised by people who I would never have guessed had been submissives. They never used the word but described their journey.

My advice

- 3 How do they stand? How do communicate with others?
- 4 Listen very closely when introduced. Engage in conversations. If you are pretty much dismissed, then you can assume three things, they are dominant or rude, or they are dominant and perceive you as a submissive.

Dominants don't need to identify themselves. Their level of confidence is the most obvious indicator.

- 5 In public arena, they are at the front and lead first.
- 6 Make direct eye contact
- 7 They wait for someone to do something for them
- 8 Check out their scene name

Submissives

- 1 Can identify dominant quicker than anyone else.
- 2 They are very helpful and most service oriented
- 3 They blend in to the crowd and sometimes avoid eye contact

Switches

- 1 Appear pretty neutral and rarely introduce themselves as Sir, Master, Mistress
- 2 Sadomasochists really throw a curve ball, ie Artemis

If you can take away food for thought and discussion, then I feel happy to have done a service. Thank you all for attending.