

# Top Shelf January 3, 2012

With thanks to Lovely

## Discussion Question “What do Tops get out of scenes?” (in particular, rope scenes)

### 1) Ilya

- power high of taking partner to an altered mind space
- enjoys the vulnerability of his partner
- in control- get to lead, the pacing, what happens, etc.
- play styles- he is the actor, bottom is the receiver (different from others where bottom is the actor more)
- Rope in particular enjoyed because it is a concrete process- no uncertainty. There is a final product and an end point.
- with some partners he will free style and improvise the scene- with others he plans (ie: with Shannon he plans because she goes into a mute state and he can find himself getting drawn into the trance. If he didn't have a plan he might get stuck in the moment and not move forward or forget what he was going to do. With Erin she babbles throughout so he remains more alert and in the moment so doesn't have to pre-plan)
- Allows artistry
- meditative aspect- “energy sharing”- masculine and feminine energy combine to complete oneself- give companionship. Stabilizing ying and yang aspect. Balance.

### 2) Eric

- template for Rope skills comes from leather family experience. Does acts in honour of them and that memory. In a way his Topping is a service to the bottom
- gives joy to unleash aspects of himself not done usually (ie: sadism)- escape from the reality of what he is (job requires gentleness)
- synergy created- re-enacting fantasies- fun taking control of this.
- planning scenes- enjoys trying to figure out what the bottom wants, get in their mind set
- very old school approach- more pre-planning, negotiation (ie: forms to fill out before)- new style is more spontaneous, less negotiation just do anything
- enjoys ritual, policy, rules, procedure, meaning behind things
- invests a lot of time in getting to know a person first- need to play with a person multiple times to build up
- Ilya comment- it's about chemistry- need to relate and connect on both a vanilla level as well as kink. Able to hold an intellectual conversation
- Braven comment- Tops get a deeper connection with a person through playing

Shannon's Question based on above: “It seems Tops devote a lot of time/effort into scenes, but bottoms just show up at play time. How is that fair? Enjoyed?”

-Eric- disagrees-sub is involved in planning- lots of pre-questions done in his way. Sub needs to open up and share her fantasies and a lot about herself.  
-Ilya- says bottom is involved too- in getting to know her and feedback after scenes. In case with Shannon long emails were the norm during the expanding boundaries phase. Now these are not needed, and things are a bit one sided in that he does the planning and she isn't involved in it anymore.

Ilya's Question- is there a gender component? Men are taught to "woo" the lady. Types of scenes done often differ based on the genders of the players. Can we hear from the female Tops in the room on the original question?

3) Kitty

-enjoys the accomplishment- ie: having Jeff suspended  
-the beauty of it (Amos comments that he likes this also)

4) \_\_\_ (unknown name!)

- enjoys topping because she find she is able to feel what her bottom is feeling and ride the wave of it also. (again a sharing energy type thing)

5) Mishie

-finds that Topping is about taking the players to a place they didn't think they could go to  
-enjoys the aspect of control

6) Amos

-Enjoys the sense of pride he gets from Topping "it's my work. I did this"  
-able to see an end result and feel power

7) Jeff

-Finds Topping is about the power, control, being in charge  
-it is a swap from every day life where he has to obey others and listen.  
-about exploring- doesn't plan ahead (this just feels like a chore)- unlike Eric  
-Topping is a journey- will ask what they like, what they want- with just a few questions at the beginning of the scene can then free style  
-gets the satisfaction of the look on the bottoms face and how they feel- this reflects back on them- transference of feeling (or "energy" but he dislikes this word)  
-Topping (rope especially) can be a creative outlet

8) Seann

-Planning allows more freedom in the scene so he doesn't have to worry about things in the back of his head. "allows the little boy out to play"  
-enjoys being so much in the moment that everything else goes out of mind

Question for the bottoms: How is playing with Sadists different than what we have heard for the reasons that these Tops here tonight enjoy Topping?

-LittleGirl- had an experience playing with a sadist in a public dungeon where he ignored the safe signal. Through the experience she wasn't sure if she should yell and make a big fuss so that he would stop, or just put up with it until it was over. Decided to put up with it (a bit because of pride due to public setting). Later talked to him and he said she should have made a fuss. Lesson learned- he seemed to get off on ignoring the safe signal and was just focused on his own sadistic pleasure he was getting from causing the pain.

-Shannon- sadists are very different than the comments heard in room tonight- they tend to get off on the bottoms displeasure rather than pleasure. This is Ok in small doses and knowing what you're getting into. Chose to do this in one instance to see what it was like. Doesn't get her to a happy mind space but instead becomes pissed off/ angry and fearful.