



LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX, BABY

LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU AND ME,
AND CONSENT

CONSENT AT CC

A. Active consent: When each person involved in sexual activity or contact expressly agrees to the sexual activity or contact freely, willingly, and knowingly. Active consent is an affirmative process.

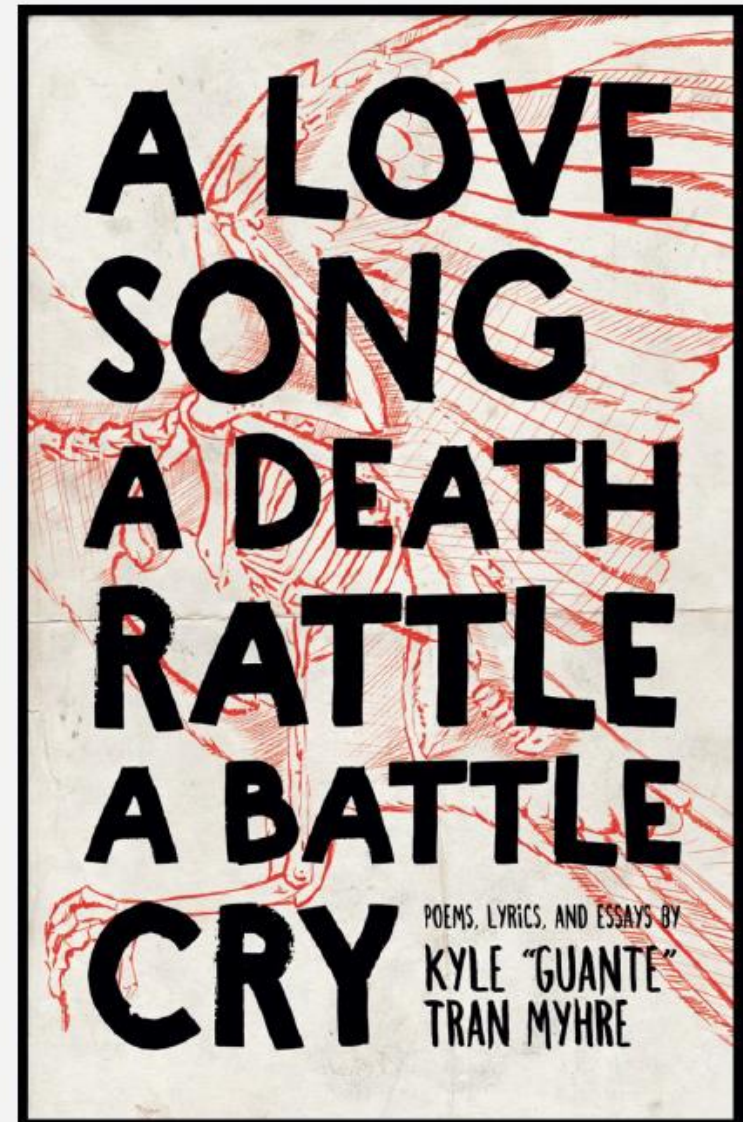
i. All sexual activity or contact between individuals must be with each person's active consent.

ii. A person cannot give active consent if, for example, they are:

1. Physically pressured or forced;
2. Psychologically pressured or forced;
3. Threatened;
4. Intimidated;
5. Coerced;
6. Frightened;
7. Unconscious or asleep;
8. Substantially impaired by drugs (including prescription, over-the-counter or illegal drugs) or alcohol; or
9. Their judgment is otherwise substantially impaired, including due to a physical or psychological condition or impairment.

**Responsibility of
the initiator**

POETRY CORNER



“Consent at 10,000 Feet”

A Love Song, A Death Rattle, A Battle Cry

Kyle “Guante” Tran Myhre

You ever have sex in a haunted house? Like you know, you sneak in together, and you’re both laughing, and **you got it all planned** out because you both worked there last year and know the layout of the building, and then, like, a werewolf jumps out and it’s like *oahhhh!* but then you find that one spare room and it’s like... *oahhh...* you know: **it’s different, it’s outside the box, but there’s nothing wrong with it.**

You ever go to your roommate’s fringe festival show and end up hooking up with one of the supporting cast members, but they’re like, a method actor in the middle of a series of performances, so they never break character? And it’s cool, but their character is this, like, alternate universe steampunk Mercutio and their blunderbuss keeps getting in the way, and you both laugh about it, **and it’s memorable, something beyond the norm, but there’s nothing wrong with it.**

You ever have sex inside an enormous bowl of fettuccine alfredo that is suspended by chains between two sequoia trees because you’re dating this super avant garde performance artist and wanted to draw attention to their new vanity publishing press but you only got like a hundred Twitter followers? Yeah, **it’s squishy, and definitely an experience that is not easily replicated, but there is nothing wrong with it.**

There is nothing *wrong* with any of these scenarios because in all of them, **both partners are 100%, flamboyantly beyond any shadow of a doubt, down** with what’s happening, and **the communication of that, verbal and nonverbal, is clear and constant. This is consent. And wrong... would be the absence of that. In any context. For any reason.**

It would be silence. It would be *I don’t know if this is what I want right now*. Because maybe that’s not a no, but it’s definitely not a yes. It would be just about everyone agreeing that rape is bad, but only when it’s called *rape*; how the amount of people who will admit to getting someone drunk, or otherwise manipulating, coercing, or forcing them into a sexual act is so much larger than the amount who will admit to raping someone.

How wrong is it, to continue to talk about sexual assault like it’s always the stranger lurking in the bushes, or always that cartoon caricature of a predatory fratboy and never... the boyfriend. Or the girlfriend. Or the best friend. Or the “ally.” Or that really sweet guy from class.

This is for that really sweet guy from class, who might be asking: *what about the grey areas? What if we’re just both really drunk? What if she sends mixed messages? What if I’m trying to do the right thing but I read those signals wrong?*

Have you ever had sex while skydiving? **Like where you talk about consent the same way you talk about wearing a parachute — no grey areas, no assumptions** like, *I’m pretty sure I’m wearing a parachute*. No questions like, *I asked her to check my parachute and she didn’t say anything, but it was okay last time so I’m sure it’s good this time too.*

Have you ever had sex in a burning building, when smoke and cinder wrapped itself around your neck, but coming was more important to you than going? Have you ever had sex on a life raft in the middle of the ocean, surrounded by sharks? **I’m not saying the water can’t be cloudy. I’m just saying: we are under no obligation to swim through it.**

Have you ever not had sex? Just watched a movie, maybe made out, maybe made plans to go out again later, and then maybe days or weeks later, **when you’re both there, and both ready, and both smiling, and both completely alive in your own bodies, and both listening to each other, fully;** and maybe it isn’t love, maybe it’s just sex, and that’s perfectly okay, but “love” is so much bigger than *let’s spend our lives together*; it is also *let’s spend this moment together* as two (or more) people: **present, electric, the opposite of grey, the embodiment of human: hands, eyes, lips, everything.**

What does
CONSENT
LOOK
like?

Do = both = people
AGREE
TO ANY KIND
OF
SEX ACT?

YES

NO

Are = both = people
ABLE
to
CONSENT?



CONSENT
IS NOT
POSSIBLE

The = best = way to
get
CONSENT

IS TO
ASK

ONLY
YES

NOT
SAYING
NO

NO

means
CONSENT

DOESNT
mean yes

means
NO

Saying = yes = to

ONE

activity

doesn't mean

CONSENT to

ALL
activities

VITAMINW

Model for learning from the Central Board of Secondary Education, The
Ministry of Education, Government of India, New Delhi, India



It's my favorite
consent metaphor.

It goes like this:

BUILDING CONSENT CASTLES

As partner and I give workshops on consent, we talk a lot about consent activities – things to talk about and things you can talk about to establish consent before and during kissing.



What a miracle! I've been with my wife for 15 years. There's no way we cover all of this every time we have sex! We usually start out being really careful. But you know that, where not having consentual sex??

Of course not!

When we talk about these activities, we're often talking about new relationships or picking sex and jobs.

The truth is, the way we practice consent changes as we build relationships.

Consent isn't a checklist. I now deem this encounter fully consensual.

Consent is a tool to build strong, reliable, sexual, and romantic relationships.

When you start out practicing consent and building a Consent Castle that you can both enjoy.

Consent Castle? I'll give that a try.

It's my favorite consent metaphor.

You can talk about your experience.

I've never worked with sandstone before.

That's okay! I'll give you some tips.

I'll talk you through it. We can go slow.

And it's a good idea to check in to see how it's going.

How does this feel? Is it okay?

It's good, maybe go a little faster!

The point is, when you're building something with someone, you usually start out being really careful. You use scaffolding, and wear hardhats and steel-toed boots. You communicate a lot to make sure you're both on the same page.

It might seem like a lot of work, but it's also a lot of fun!

You're building something that you're both going to enjoy.

You don't have to take these precautions, and maybe everything will be okay. But maybe...

That just wasn't what I wanted to happen.

I'm sorry.

As you build your castle, you'll finish rooms, and you'll both get used to the space. If you've built it right, you don't have to wear hard hats all the time, because it becomes a safe, comfortable, familiar space.

As you establish a relationship based on consent, you learn what your partner likes or dislikes and the things you may find fun, sexy or otherwise things without explicitly talking about it at all.

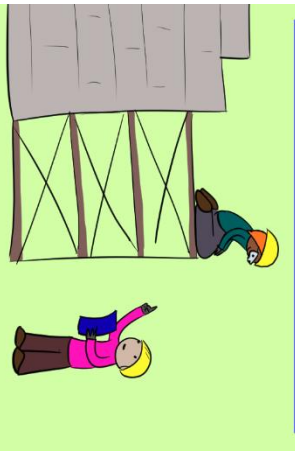
Come here, you're teether!

The great thing about consent castles is that they are always works in progress. You may need to do some maintenance.

I've been feeling really self-conscious about my body during sex lately.

Oh! — can I help with those feelings?

You might want to add a new room, or refurbish an old one. In that case, you put your hard hats back on and plan things out a little more carefully.



Similarly, you may want to add something new to your relationship. That's the time where you slow down and start talking things through again to make sure you're both excited and having fun.

I think... I think I'd like to try using a strapon with you.

That might be fun! What does that look like for you?

I use the Consent Castle metaphor because I think it's a good illustration of how consent and healthy relationships reinforce each other.

I don't know anyone in a long-term relationship who always explicitly and fully negotiates sex and intimacy with their partners, every single time.

But my experience is that by being careful and deliberate with consent early on with someone new, you build a solid foundation for a mutually satisfying relationship.

So gear up!

Because this is going to be a lot of fun...



**IF YOU WANT TO BE
MY LOVER
YOU GOTTA
GET MY
CONSENT**

**IT'S ON
US**