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Stories From 3 Sexworkers

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Stories from 3 Sexworkers
Transcript:

Summer: There's just thousands and thousands of us. And I know a whole lot of "MILF's" who are over 30, who are all supporting our families. I run into a more and more of them that I used to know in my civilian life because there aren't any jobs for us. I was more of an anomaly in 2008 but there are legions of us now, you know, who had partners who got laid off in the economy and so we had to make this choice.

I was just a happy handshake girl for a long time. I'd put on lingerie and just show my boobs. I only had a few classes from UC Davis extension. I probably sucked. Oh, Mr. Picky Pants! I was only eighty bucks an hour! What do you expect?

Victoria: was originally \$350 an hour. Then, I went down to \$280 with the recession. Now I am back to \$300. And I really feel like I was made to do this on some levels. I have very sexy body. I am very voluptuous in all the right places. I am very sensuous. I have a sensuous voice.

We talk. I have them take a shower. Then, I give them a little bit of a massage. So I am controlling where they are laying on the bed. I'm the one touching them and then I start doing what I want to do, where I want to, when I want to. So, they are the ones, kind of, lying helpless on the bed.

The real me wouldn't do any of this. Are you kidding! I'm not like a wild and crazy girl. It's just really a performance and on some levels the guys know that, and we know that.

Summer: I went through this whole period when I was grieving the loss of the life I had. I thought I was one of the best and the brightest and so I spent the first couple years, "Why me?" And then I thought, "Why not me?" And I had to find my purpose there and then I found my purpose. And, after awhile I realized: there were so many girls who were drinking and hurting and struggling and using drugs to, like, numb their feelings. And I joined the legions of these girls. And you would see them. They would come on the boards in the forums and just pour out their hearts. And all of these evil people: "Shut up you fucking ho you asked for it!" and just say these horrible, horrible things to them.

Nicki: Last night I got a call and he asked if I could do an hour for \$20 or \$40 dollars cheaper. He was like, "I can only do \$60" and I'm like, "Dude, really?" It makes me feel like a streetwalker. Like, I'm not a streetwalker. I'm not. You don't drive down the street and find me and be like, "Hey baby. Do you date?" No. I'm classy. I don't use words like "prostitute" or "tricks" or anything like that. I am a very classy provider. I am not a prostitute and I don't see it like that ever.

As Nicki, I am sweet and I'm cute and I'm giggly and I'm always smiling and I'm wearing these cute, like, red and blue dresses and I'm pretty and I'm bubbly and I'm not. Not at all. Like, I'm really into reptiles. I have a reptile obsession. No, yeah, I am very honest, I am very straightforward and people don't like that about girls. But people don't like that in general about people

Honestly, if he came to me tomorrow and said I want you to stop. I would stop. He comes first and that's all there is to it. And he knows that.

Boyfriend: And, I guess that's why I can do it. Because I know that. We are doing this as a means to an end. She does it cause she has goals that she wants to reach and she wants me to be home. Her doing this means I can work from home.

Summer: I said, "I am a massage therapist." I said, "I run a massage collective with other girls," and his brother goes, "Oh, so you give happy endings?" And I said, "As a matter of fact, I do." And that's when his brother stopped listening. But he and I were just laughing and ended up doing karaoke and we ended up together that night and we've never, never been apart.

Victoria: I met him at a restaurant I was waitressing at and he came in. He always tipped me very generously and I noticed he didn't look at other women and so that attracted me to him a lot. We were married three years but he was killed when our baby was a couple months old. So, it's just. I didn't have any choice about that ending.

Alexis Kenyon: How was he killed?

Victoria: Can we not discuss that? I don't want to talk about that.

I figured the best way to be like a cool macho dad that my son would look up to, would be cop. I was like a couple weeks from graduating from the academy. I got knocked in the head a number of times. I think I landed on my neck a couple times. And, I woke up ready to go jogging or whatever we were doing that day, and I couldn't move my arms. And, that was pretty much the end of my career.

Nicki: at first it felt wrong the first week or so. I felt like I was a prostitute and all that stuff but after a while it didn't feel like that anymore. It felt okay. It felt fine because I had talked it out with people and with him and I wasn't seen that way by anyone.

But, they'll call us prostitutes and whores but it doesn't affect me because I don't feel that way about myself. I did at one point and now I don't.

Summer I have to say in a lot of ways its more satisfying than any other work I've done. I love making people happy and I love doing that all day. There's nobody telling me what to do. I don't have a dumb supervisor yelling at me anymore. I am the captain of my ship. I like that. If I want to take a day off and spend it with my kid I do. There's an incredible freedom in that.

I had women who would not speak to me anymore. Women who I'd know for years who treated me differently. One actually told me, "Don't speak to me. I know. Don't talk to me don't ever speak to me." And I just kind of turned away. I went out to my truck and I just cried. Because there was a loss of anonymity that I could never have back.

Victoria: think if people just realized that we are just like anyone else doing a job. Just like everyone else has their job. I think a lot of the fear would subside about who we are. On other hand, society always needs a scape goat and let's face it we're easy. Defenseless women who are in control of their sexuality? What a perfect target.

Summer I remember my son, my second son saying, "God I hate whores." If he knew his mother was paying all his bills that way. What would he think of me?

Alexis Kenyon: What would he think of you?

Summer: I would hope that he would understand that what I did, I did not do for selfish reasons but I do because I love them.

Victoria: In my regular jobs, quote on quote, and the people I see there are no more mentally fit or balanced or less addicted than any sex worker I've ever met.

Summer I would have never felt compelled towards sexwork if I didn't have a family to support. I would have done something else. I would have gone and worked in an antique bookstore of something like that. I know it sounds like it's a double standard, I would never, ever, ever want my child to have to experience what I've experienced. I'm strong enough to do it and I did it support them and I did what I had to do and I will adapt and I will survive and that's all it comes down to.