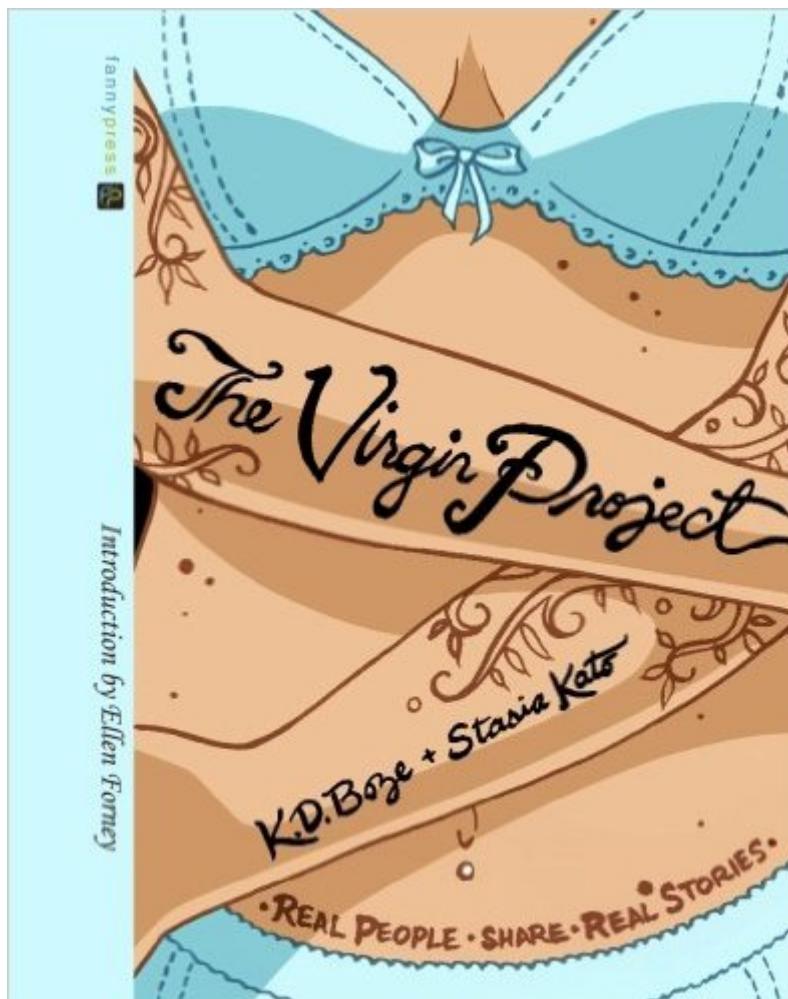


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The Virgin Project



Synopsis

Few human experiences are as universally shared, and yet as diverse, as the loss of virginity. The Virgin Project is a collection of first-time sexual encounters that illustrate a small sample of the breadth of human experience. Some people consider virginity as a prize to be given away. Some consider it a burden to be disposed of. For some, it was stolen and can never be restored. A few place little value on it at all. As one remarked, "I didn't lose my virginity any more than I 'lost' my pacifier. I outgrew it." The very moment of losing virginity among same sex couples can be a gray area and a topic of debate. Some focus instead on gaining their sexuality, and the opening of a new world of human experience. In one sense, losing one's virginity is an antiquated concept, because society no longer regards sex outside of marriage as shameful. Yet it still marks a passage from adolescence to adulthood for every generation. Most everyone remembers the "first time," some with regret, but many with fondness. According to Dr. Alex Comfort, writing in "More Joy of Sex," "Sex is the only social skill we do not learn by watching," which may account for the great variety in the stories. This first volume of The Virgin Project is the product of a collaboration between two artist-storytellers. They collected stories at various times and locations, including the Seattle Erotic Art Festival and the Victoria Erotic Art and Film Festival. All of the stories in this book are true. The names have been changed to protect privacy, and fictitious names were supplied by the people telling the stories, resulting in a few duplicate names. The variety of stories includes everything from teenage experimentation to wedding night nerves, including the humorous and tragic, gay and straight - all of them different. The introduction is by Ellen Forney, a professional cartoonist/illustrator/author and college instructor. In retelling these stories, artistic license has been used.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In 2008, writer K.D. Boze and artist Stasia Kato published their first collection of "Virgin Project" stories, at long last reclaiming the "loss of virginity rite of passage" anecdote from the realms of the frat house and summer camp bunkhouse. As Dr. Pepper Schwartz explains in her introduction to this second volume, this collection is "a small sample of the breadth of this human experience. Although loss of virginity may no longer hold the significance that it did when society regards sex outside of marriage as shameful, it still marks an elemental passage and change in self-conception for every generation." Some of these stories are basically "It happened--so what?" A few were preludes to long-term relationships. There are stories of adolescents gleefully plunging into a newfound world of eros. "Alice" recounts the uncomfortable, messier side of the experience as though it were the gorier side of heroic fantasy. Stories like those of "Danny" and "Benny" would have been fodder for Chaucer and Boccaccio in earlier days. And there are those stories, including those of "Clinton," "Devorah," and "Russ," that made me put the book down for awhile while I tried to come to grips with the pain in those memoirs. Since each story is different, the art and storytelling technique varies as well. One of the funnier examples is the one "ringer" in the book, contributed by a goof who was trying to impress with a threadbare and hoary male threesome fantasy, which Kato illustrates in a wicked parody of X-rated Manga, complete with empty-eyed expressions on the characters' faces. Some of the stories are told as quickly as one panel in one page; others extend to three pages.

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