

em dash podcast Episode 5 Show Notes

"Kink, Not Forks," featuring Laura Antoniou and Karen Taylor

Podcast available at: <https://www.em-dash-podcast.com>

## Show Notes

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Meet Laura Antoniou and Karen Taylor, together for 19 years. Laura is a novelist, pornographer, and self-described "pervert." Karen is a social service professional and kink aficionado. Laura, Karen, and I talk about sadomasochism, consent, and what healthcare professionals need to know in order to meet the needs of patients who practice BDSM.

## Audio Used:

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- Intro & Outro Songs: "Unbeatable Epic Trailer" by Jon Wright. Used with permission under Melody Loops License #23653623875.
- Used with permission from Nick Koenig/Hot Sugar:
  - "Double Cheese"
  - "I Don't Wanna Be Judged"
  - "The Seagull"
  - "Lightning Strike Me Down"
  - "Requiem to Saving a Girl's Life"
  - "Barbie Jeep"
  - "Soft Skin"
  - "The Building That Crumbled"
  - "Tragic Bonds"
  - "There Are Way More Bugs Than People"
  - "Trapper Keepr"
  - "Rat God"



## Guest Bio: Laura Antoniou (on the left)

"Laura Antoniou is an American novelist. She is the author of *The Marketplace* series of BDSM-themed novels, which were originally published under the pen name of Sara Adamson. Antoniou is also known for her work as an editor and pioneer on the field of contemporary erotic fiction and in particular as editor of lesbian erotica anthologies

including the three volume *Leather Women* series, *Some Women, By Her Subdued, No Other Tribute*, and a collection of her own short stories and essays titled *The Catalyst and Other Works*. In 2011, she won the John Preston Short Fiction award from the National Leather Association for her short story "That's Harsh," published in the e-book edition of *The Slave*. (She also won the NLA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011.) Antoniou's fiction and her essays on alternate views of sexual roles have been cited by writers on the evolution of erotic fiction, and on the social politics of gender roles. Documentary filmmaker and author Tanya Trepanier's described Antoniou as part of a growing trend of novelists exploring hybrid forms of identity, including cultural and sexual identity, that don't fit into simple categories, using narrative storytelling as a way of understanding identities that can't be easily defined in a traditional manner. In an analysis of contemporary novelists in the area of women's erotic fiction, Carolyn Allen cites Antoniou's writings as describing the concept that all relationships between people include elements of power exchange, with one partner taking the more dominant role even in day-to-day interactions. Nikki Sullivan, lecturer in Cultural and Critical Studies at Macquarie University, in her essay *Sadomasochism as Resistance?*, refers to Antoniou's description of sexual roles as a loose structure, due to the many choices available to the participants, with the key element being the choice of which participant guides the activities." Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laura\\_Antoniou#cite\\_note-2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laura_Antoniou#cite_note-2)

## Guest Bio: Karen Taylor

Karen Taylor has been working in non-profits for most of her career, with a focus on LGBTQ advocacy and older adults programming. After 10 years in Seattle's LGBTQ community, Karen met Laura and moved to the East Coast, on the logic that you can't easily move a New Yorker out of New York. After completing a Masters in Jewish Communal Services, Karen has worked in several Jewish and LGBT programs in New York, including SAGE (Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders). She currently works in senior services on the Lower East Side.

## Links

<https://ncsfreedom.org/key-programs/kink-aware-professionals-59776>

<https://carasresearch.org/>

<http://lantoniou.com>

**Tags:** Laura Antoniou, Karen Taylor, BDSM, sadomasochism, kink, consent, erotica, Pat Califia, Fifty Shades of Gray, Joseph Campbell, pornography, diversity, difference, healthcare, LGBTQ,