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AN INTERVIEW

"BONDAGE WIFE" GWEN DOLAN

He sat waiting on a sofa near the stairs, not especially optimistic about the girl who should be coming down any minute now. As a rule, blind dates weren't usually worth getting excited about anyway, and he was just doing it to help out a friend. Actually, he would have rather been at home, looking through his collection, privately pondering his strange passion.

All high hopes, including any he might have about the girl who was upstairs getting ready for their date, had been disposed of a long time ago when he had sensibly concluded that the psychological chasm between he and other people was far too great to ever span. He could not help that bondage provoked pleasant sensual stirrings in him, and he couldn't and wouldn't suppress the exquisite fantasies he always had of beautiful women tightly bound and gagged. He hated the feeling of social isolation this peculiar appetite brought him, to say nothing of the complete impossibility of it. Obviously, he could not hope to ever have what he really wanted, and he had thus readied himself to settle for less.

The girl began coming clown the stairs now, and he looked up and saw that she had long blonde hair, which she wore down to her shoulders. She was wearing a beige dress with a mandarin collar. Politely, he stood up and smiled to welcome her. She seemed tall and lovely and she held out her hand in greeting. Then, he allowed his heart to do something he hadn't known it to do before; he allowed it to take over and he made no effort to calm its pounding. He supposed she could hear it, but it struck him as okay if she did.

Standing there facing him at that moment in his life was the very same incredible woman who had recurred in his fantasies ten-fold a thousand times and who he had always understood was nothing more than the Sweet Gwendoline lookalike of his imagination. But all of that seemed stopped now and he knew that everything he had ever wanted was standing here, her hand in his.

What we've just read happened twenty-two years ago. That's how he remembers it. How about you?

Yes, I knew the moment we met that we should be together. And I knew he knew. There wasn't any doubt. We were absolutely right for each other and it was immediately obvious to both of us.

In twenty-two years, that kind of emotional impact has to ease up, so I imagine that it's cooled off at least.

No, it hasn't. Maybe it is supposed to calm down after a few years, but it really hasn't with us. We've grown closer. It has gotten better. We know that is unusual and so we realize how lucky we are.

Do you realize as well the impact you had on the readers of our first issue of "Bondage Life?" We've had all kinds of letters about you...people saying you're the most special personality to show up in the bondage field in all these years and like that. You sent us copies of parts of some of the letters, so, yes, we know that some people did enjoy the pictures of me.

Are you flattered that as Gwen Dolan, you've stirred up all this excitement?

Well, it's nice to be told you're attractive.

Our book was chuck-full of pretty women. Why do you suppose you were singled out for all that attention?

We talked about that, Ryan and I. And, yes, there are many lovely girls in your publication. We think the main appeal of my pictures was that the bondage was authentic. I mean, your captions pointed out that I was not a hired model, but that bondage was a very real and pleasant activity in my life. I think a woman who is personally involved in bondage is probably more intriguing to your readers than someone who is only involved because it's a job. Too, I had been very carefully and very expertly tied up and gagged. You've thought that out fairly well. So, then, what about the men who do write to us about you?

You are their fantasy lady and so forth. A lot of them have wives. We gather. that the wives may not even know about the bondage fantasies of their husbands.

I can't imagine a bigger mistake than keeping something like that from the person you share your life with. The very worst that can happen is that they won't understand it, which isn't any worse than they're not knowing about it. Either way, nothing is going to happen. Even though the husband has no chance at all if he doesn't confide about it to his wife, he has at very least some chance if he does. He should tell her everything he can about himself and let it all fall where it will. If it goes bad, if his lady is put off by it, he can keep looking until he finds someone who will share bondage with him. If confessing his feelings for bondage to his wife is going to wreck his marriage, what good was it in the first place? Then, there is also the problem that if his wife doesn't want to get involved in bondage that he will find someone who does. The point is, nothing good can come out of his not saying anything. I say, tell her... without waiting. But tell her with love. Say, I love you and I need you and I need you like this. I believe that love really does conquer all, even situations like this.



What I'm hearing makes me realize that your physical relationship with Ryan is so wonderful because you have such a wonderful love relationship.

I think so. Whatever positive needs you require of your mate are best begun from a basis of love. Love will make all the other aspects of your marriage even better.

Would you miss bondage if Ryan decided, for whatever remote reason, to dismiss it from your lives?

Hmmm, I would be glad to get rid of one very uncomfortable pair of hoots.

Ah, would you describe them?

Well they are custom made... with six-inch heels. They lace up to knees.

To the original question, would you miss bondage?

Yes, certainly, it has been part of our relationship.

Okay, Ryan enjoys seeing you tied up and it helps your relationship. Separating yourself from Ryan and the relationship, what about you? Aside from the impact it has on him and the feeling that you are pleasing him, is there any-thing else in it for you?

I like the question, because I have thought about that very point, lots of times. Yes, I've noticed something very comfortable about bondage, a kind of security which probably can be traced to childhood. There is this feeling of being gently squeezed, or held, and that is a nice feeling. I read somewhere about a psychologist who believed bondage related to mother love in a couple of ways—that being tied up, gagged, blindfolded, completely help-less in other words, was about as close as you could get to being back in the womb which was the most secure place any of us have ever been. We were so safe there, all the responsibilities be-longed to someone else.

But you said mother-love. What about that?

I'm not really sure of that, but what I remember is that a boy usually loves his mother a lot and is probably jealous of his father. He fantasizes tying her so that he is in control and can take care of her, which tends to work against the fact that she is always taking care of everybody else. In other words, it's really for her own good.

Fascinating, really. May we talk about you and Ryan, your personal life?

Fine.

I remember that you once told me that you had been married for several years before Ryan told you about bondage and that you now regret that he didn't tell you sooner.

Yes and no. He did wait for several years, but I don't think we ever actually stopped to regret it, that would be foolish.

Anyway, he did keep it from you.

I think it was more that he had to settle with himself about it. I think he didn't really know where he even stood. Besides, he didn't tell me, I found pictures.

You must have been very disturbed.

No, why?

Well, here are all these girls in obvious peril. What are their pictures doing in your husband's closet?

The girls were obviously not in peril at all, you could see they were just posing. They were obviously just pinup photos of girls tied up, no big deal.

Well, what was your reaction?

I think I was hurt. I felt I could give him more than those pictures could. In a funny way, I was jealous of the pictures.

But even then, you and Ryan didn't get right into bondage.

Well, it began then. It took a while; we both had to be more mature, fall in love more, become more important to each other, more considerate.

Do you remember the first time he tied you up?

I remember it was for taking pictures. And it was alright. I wasn't afraid. If someone makes you aware of caring for you, even if you are tied tightly, it's okay really. It's even pleasant.

When he had you tied up, you must have been getting some feedback about how he was feeling.

He was melting. Something was happening to both of us.

Love?

Yes, I felt more loved at that moment than I ever had before. It's hard to not love back just as much. I guess it struck me then that we had a very special marriage, that we could really please each other. Clothes are just as important to Ryan as the bondage. He loves leather, boots, just the right heels, gloves, and all of it must fit perfectly, so I began making it a point to dress up for him and it made him happy and that made me happy and the two of us who are called "we" were and are still very happy. I enjoy wearing these clothes. I even made some of the ones which I wore in the pictures you published of me.

You're a good model, do you know that?

Do you think so?

Four square. You really are.

Thank you. I would like to get better. I'm critical. I'm not always happy about how I do in photographs. When they come back from being developed, I can sometimes see immediately what could have done to make it better.



I think you are a good actress. You convey what you are supposed to convey in your pictures and you do it in an agreeable way. I think that has a lot to do with your popularity with our readers.

Of course, Ryan has helped me a lot there. He used to rush through it for my sake and I'd have to tell him to slow down, that I was alright and that he should take his time and get the pictures he wanted. He was afraid to leave me in a certain position and he would worry too much and even tie badly because of that. You know, some very stringent bondage really isn't as uncomfortable as it looks and then what appears to be minor bondage can be pretty difficult.

What is the longest you've ever been tied up?

You mean in one position or in a situation where I was retied often?

That last one.

I was kept in bondage once for a full day. It was a few years ago and another couple was involved. We are not swingers in any sense of the word. The love and sex part of our lives are kept exclusive to each other. But we had been in contact with another couple with the same interests and we decided to visit them, but only to share interests, not spouses. It turned out to be a very good experience and it probably affected me more than anything had before. Much got said that had not been said before, something to do with four minds being better than two. It was only a dialogue, but now Ryan had someone else to help him express what he was feeling. It opened him up more and it gave me the chance to understand more and feel more. It has been very good for both of us ever since then.

We might be kidding ourselves, but we sometimes get the notion that some girls who pose for bondage find it interesting.
It is.

How?

In our life, bondage fulfills the foreplay part of our love life, as much for me as for my husband. There I am all tied up and there he is, emotionally aroused by the sight of me like that. Or, maybe I have tied him up and I tease him. Either way, it sets up very emotional and very personal vibrations. Maybe that stimulus affects some of your models. I've seen your pictures and there is a certain respect for the girls there which I don't find in other magazines. That probably makes it less unpleasant for them. Your models probably feel comfortable with you and lower their walls and even let themselves enjoy the attention you're giving them. After all, you are glamorizing them in a unique way, making them look their best to those men who find bondage appealing.

You have permitted us to publish photographs of you in bondage. Would you favor other magazines similarly?

No. The publishers all have their style, but yours comes closest to how we feel.

How's that?

Well, I think I said it before. Your pictures reflect that you go to a lot of trouble. Your photographers are very good, you select very pretty girls and you dress them well and stylize them in a very sophisticated way. They seem like ladies. That's the look Ryan and I like. Your book comes closest to representing our tastes.

We are very hung-up on the way Klaw did it. His girls did their best to look as good as they could, even though they were going to have ropes all over them.

Yes, and some of them looked wonderful in bondage even though they weren't all real pretty.

What do you think are the essential ingredients of a good bondage photograph?

The person must really be tied up, of course. You can't fake that. You've told us that a lot of your readers wrote and said that you should do a better job of tying, which is probably true. But we've seen bondage magazines which were ridiculously sloppy, which you aren't. If I were you, I would be grateful for the letters because I doubt that any of these other magazines heard from people. The reason they are writing you is that you seem capable of being the best in your field and they want to encourage you. I think their criticism is borne of wanting to support what you are trying to do. I think what you are doing better now is realizing that the tighter you pull those ropes, the better the expression your bound beauty is going to give you. I think that is especially true of the gag; the tighter it is, the better she'll look since how she feels will be expressed through her eyes, which are more dramatized when she is wearing a gag. Wardrobe is important, and so is location. Then there are little touches that help a lot.

Fine. Name some.

The ropes should be cinched, because that means she's locked in. Wherever you have the rope—wrists, knees, arms, elbows — take another piece of rope and lock it all up by cinching it.

Could you tie me up so I couldn't escape?

I hope that isn't a request.

At the moment it isn't.

Yes, I could.

How?

There must be a million ways. I've tied my husband up more times than I can count. Anyway, I've gotten good enough that he can't untie himself.

How about some tips?

Well, make the ropes as tight as you can, then gather up a little more strength and make them even tighter. Then, knot it. Get him when he is inhaling if you have to, then, shoot the works. Take your time, tease him, think about how much he is enjoying it, slow it all down, slowly wind the ropes around him. And, when he thinks you've finished, let him know you've just begun. I don't think he should be gagged right away because he does want that and it is an interesting tease to delay it. When you do finally gag him, remember that it is humiliating, no matter how else he feels about it. So, give it to him good. Stuff his mouth with panties, tie them in there with a scarf or even rope and then put tape over all of that - if you want. Anything you do, he'll like and the variations are infinite. Just use your imagination and bear in mind that you are bringing him much pleasure.

By now, I'm sure you have his complete interest without too much potential for distraction. What happens then?

Well, hopefully, he feels good, in which case he is experiencing a very pleasant form of foreplay, along with some emotional therapy. Let's take those one at a time, starting with the sexual foreplay part of it, which is probably a lot less complicated than the other. Okay, there he is, all tied up and very much at, the mercy or pleasure of the woman who has put him there. There is certainly a pleasant kind of humiliation going on for a big, strong man being unable to resist, let alone control, what is being



done to him by a lovely woman. In this case, what is being done is the bringing to him of pleasure. What heightens even that is that he has no control over the situation and she is using her body to bring her pleasure and that is what a man really wants anyway, isn't it?

To bring her pleasure?

Yes.

What you are saying is that her pleasure is more important to him than his own.

Not exactly. He wants his pleasure, you can count on that. But his fantasy here is that she is doing all this to bring pleasure to herself. The fact that it is also making him feel good just makes it more of a sexual ultimate for them both. In other words, what she is doing to him against his will is what he wants more than anything in the world. He is fantasizing that, as much as he wants this experience, she wants it even more. What could be more fulfilling than that to either one of them? It satisfies the give-and-take needs of both people.

Yes, to be loved by your fantasy object who likes exactly what you like, but even more so, is the stuff dreams are made of.

That's what I mean. Now, from the woman's point of view, she is fulfilling a lot of her own needs; all kinds of psychologies are at work for her, even the maternal instinct, and, certainly, the female instinct to attract, tease and ultimately dominate a man for her own satisfaction.

I think all women should be legally obligated to read whatever books of rules you ever get around to putting together.

It isn't as though it's all wisdom, more like common sense really. Here I am, a woman interested in having a happy, full life. I happen to be blessed with a good man whom I can maybe make even better, as much for my sake as his, by simply understanding his needs and doing what I can to convert them to fulfilled reality. All that can result from that attitude is to make him appreciate me more and make me happier. In that sense, it's really self-serving, no matter how hard that might be for some women to accept. Why else would one try to make a man happy, if not for her own eventual satisfaction.

I guess that is a kind of helpful selfishness.

That's one way of categorizing it, I guess.

Now for that second part —the male in bondage undergoing some kind of emotional therapy.

My husband is like any other man who functions in a pressurized 'Personality A' profession where competition with other men determines how well we are going to live. He works very hard. He worries, frets. All day long, he makes crucial decisions, he holds up staggering responsibilities. He comes home, this kind of man, and wants to relax, unwind. There has to be something. Sometimes, it is alcohol or drugs or affairs with other women, some form of escape. Okay, think about this. He walks in the door and you lead him to a chair or a bed and you take away all his abilities to be responsible by depriving him of movement, of speech, of sight. Now, he is not in control and he cannot be responsible. There is only one thing he can do and that is relax, meditate, enjoy himself. There is also the further possibility that further pleasures are to be taken with hint, which adds enjoyment to the relaxation. So, you can see how it is therapeutic without any harmful after effects, which there often are with drugs or alcohol.

There have been some articles about how so many aggressive and successful executives are inclined to bondage or masochism as a sexual mode. They support what you're saying now.

I don't like categorizing people, but wouldn't you think that, for example, a football coach or a quarterback, might be more in need of escape from responsibility than a conventional laborer? The quarterback has some physical work on his hands, but he also is involved in an unending make-or-break decision making process. The pressure is always on, to think well and to play well. While his team is running a play, he has to pick out weaknesses on the other side to exploit, has to figure out what to do next. He must please his coach, his teammates, his family, his owners; the fans, the press. He either succeeds or fails and he must succeed. There, at least in my opinion, is a man who would dearly appreciate even the slightest chance to be taken off the spot occasionally, even in his love life. Here is someone who would like someone else to take over once in a while.

Please pardon our quick-calculating mentality, but was your husband a quarterback?

As a matter of fact, he was. And that is what he still is in a business sense. I love him and I love being able to take all of that off his shoulders. I will tie him up every day of his life if that's what he wants, not for the sexuality of it alone, but because I am also probably helping to prolong his life and his health by forcing him to step down and relax. You know, this hasn't anything to do

with our interview, but Ryan brought home a bondage magazine several years ago and there was a letter in it from a woman in Oakland, California, who said pretty much the same as I'm saying to you. Her husband would come home, tired and grumpy and probably out of sorts, no good for either one of them. She would fix him a drink and when he had finished, she would tie him to a chair and leave him like that, for an hour or two. I don't know if sex was involved in this, but she said that it always made him feel better, put him at peace. It helped their marriage, helped their lives.



Well, it makes sense. In your case, you are called a "Sweet Dominant" by your husband. We've discussed that you tie him up as much or more than he ties you. He is probably more often in that role than I.

Do you enjoy tying him up?

Oh, yes...and dressing for him. He loves it when he walks through our door at the end of the day and I'm standing there in a tightly-laced corset, rope in my hand.

Does he know what's going to happen, how he is going to be tied? Do you?

He doesn't and I do. It's more fun for him if he doesn't know exactly what's going to be done. And it wouldn't be much fun or me if he told me exactly what to do and didn't let me use my own imagination.

How long do you leave him?

Since he likes it, I don't mind leaving him like that while I make myself a snack. Or, I'll just stay there and tease him and see where that takes us, which is always nice.

I think we're winding down to the last couple of questions. One of the most popular bondage poses is the spread eagle on a cross position. Do you enjoy being tied that way?

Well, it makes me feel more vulnerable than I like. Frankly, I would prefer some other way. I was tied like that once and then the cross and I were turned upside

down—you published the picture in your magazine. I was tied so well that you could have rolled that cross down a hill and I wouldn't have slipped an inch. Sometimes the ropes are a safety device which can keep you from slipping or falling. The ropes hold you securely to the cross or whatever it is you're tied to.

You've had a number of years in which to develop some feelings about bondage. You obviously understand much of its psychology at this point... you've seen a lot of pictures and heard lots of talk. If you were going to produce bondage material yourself, what would you do?

Look, there are all manner of approaches being used today, right?

If you were in charge of, say, hiring the models, what would you be looking for?

I hope I have an idea of what good bondage is. Naturally, I'd have to test out my ideas on my market, but I like beautiful bondage.

Beautiful bondage?

Where everything fits right. When the ropes look right, when clothing isn't obviously too large or small. When the girl has fixed her hair and face and looks her best, when the backgrounds are nice.

If you were photographing girls, would you really tie them, really gag them.

Oh, yes. It would have to be real to look real.

How would you gag them?

I think white scarves are pretty. You'd have to put something inside their mouths and then tie that to make it effective. I know that a lot of men who enjoy bondage want to see the stuffing actually being put into the girl's mouth, just so they'll really know it's there.

Have you ever noticed that some girls are actually prettier when they have something over their mouths?

That's because it throws the emphasis to the eyes, which are always pretty and expressive. Incidentally, two things I especially like about your books are that the girls are always very well dressed and are never really in danger. I don't like violence or pain, and, judging from your work, you don't either.

That is a fact, we don't. Lingerie is important, isn't it?

Yes.

But it is so hard to find, good lingerie I mean.

That's true. We make a lot of our own clothing. One reason is that I have such long legs and am difficult to fit. I made a complete black leather outfit which I still have.

Before I forget it, what are your measurements?

I'm 5-7 and 34-24-35.

You then have come to appreciate having bondage in your life.

Yes.

That's nice. It's nice that two people can be so totally loving and devoted to each other.

We were really meant to be married to each other. From that first moment, we were just comfortable with each other and we both knew it. It's been a wonderful life, a beautiful twenty-two years.

May you have twenty-two times twenty-two more.

Thank you.

He had almost said no and stayed home! He had actually tried to think of some excuse to get out of it. He came so close, like a guy whose whole life is determined because he turned left instead of right. Why? Why me? Why was it I who was singled out for such inexpressible joy? It's like I owe more than I could ever repay. Who would I pay anyway? And how would I pay? The problem now is that I want to live forever, just like this. No matter what they say, nothing after this can be as good. I never want it to end!