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[Home](#) | [Gloria's Kinky Links](#) | [Gloria's Counseling FAQ](#) | [The Well-Read Head](#) | [W.D. Brame](#)

# Selected Highlights from the [Message Boards](#) of [gloria-brame.com](#)

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[ [Up](#) ] [ [All About Catherine Gross](#) ] [ [fetishauctioneer.com](#) ] [ [to be a good top](#) ] [ [Old Guard](#) ]  
[ [Public vs. Private: Etiquette, Protocol and Manners](#) ] [ [D/s Families](#) ] [ [Vaughan Keith National Educator Award](#) ]  
[ [Sub Hubby Came Out to me](#) ] [ [The Challenge](#) ] [ [Using Conditioning: Ethical or not?](#) ] [ [Helpless Bottoms?](#) ]  
[ [Dominance](#) ] [ [Emotional Edge Play](#) ] [ [Hierarchal Structures](#) ] [ [Body Image](#) ] [ [Discipline and Goals](#) ]

## Helpless Bottoms?

1 [notnilla](#)

2002-11-01 10:01

Hi all,

I've seen a trend in the last seven years of bottoming taking on "protectors." It is something that has puzzled me endlessly.

I have wondered if perhaps this concept is nothing more than semantics and means that a bottom has taken on a mentor.

Or, is it seriously a protector? Someone who will protect you from predators... or?

I have always wondered if this was necessary. After all, we grow up and begin to evaluate people as children. We decide who we like, who we don't, who would be "ok" for us in a myriad of ways-- partners, friends, bosses, work environments, etc. Do bottoms need protectors?

What do you think?

Catherine

2 [knyghtflyher](#)

2002-11-01 10:31

Lady Catherine,

So very good to "see" you again. I was asked, on an occasion or two, to be a "protector", but not exactly in the manner that you postulate. On one occasion, two female submissive friends of mine were going to a public venue, one to which they had never been. They were a bit concerned about what might happen whilst they were there, being unescorted and uncollared. They really had no frame of reference for this type of "public" play and "public" venue. They weren't "trolling" for a top, or anything like that, they were just somewhat "new" and had never visited a venue like this.

I had mentioned that I was going to be there also, and they asked if they could meet me there. This was not a "date" because they both knew I was in a relationship and would be there with my submissive. What they really wanted was someone who was "known" in this venue, as I was fairly well-known there, to be around, and, perhaps someone to whom they could turn should something happen about which they felt uncomfortable...a friendly "face in the crowd", as it were. They called me their "protector", but I really did nothing other than be "visibly" "known" to them by greeting them warmly in the "public" space and visiting with them a time or two

during the evening. I made no attempt, nor was I asked, to do anything else and I was comfortable with that role. To be truthful, I doubt I "protected" anything, but if it made them "feel" better about being in that space for the first time, then that was good enough for me.

Knyghtflyher

3 [Thorn4MyRose](#)

2002-11-01 20:36

To: notnilla

Welcome 'a-Board'. :-)

If a submissive feels more comfortable participating in online discussions by advertising they have someone they trust advising them, why is that a problem? I don't view that as helpless at all. In some cases, it may even prove helpful (but I suspect you well know that <eg>).

Be safe,  
Thorn

4 [TooLoose](#)

2002-11-02 00:39

notnilla said:

>> I have always wondered if this was necessary. After all, we grow up and begin to evaluate people as children. We decide who we like, who we don't, who would be "ok" for us in a myriad of ways-- partners, friends, bosses, work environments, etc.

Well sort of :-) None of the ways we use to evaluate people in r/l are available online. All the techniques we learn, both consciously and sub-consciously, are tripped up by the text-only face of the web. People who log on and innocently assume they can use the same rules as in r/l are going to be unpleasantly surprised, which brings me to:

>> ... Do bottoms need protectors?

bottoms? No, protectors? No. What all people need when they first arrive on the web is information. The same level of information that we give children when they first toddle out onto a street.

- If you use DSL you must use a firewall.
- Don't email your pic.
- Don't send any file other than plain text.
- You are supposed to have limits.

Those of us who've been on the web know these things, but newbies do not. Ignorance in this area leads to identity theft and stalkers. Are bottoms more likely to be targeted for these kinds of crimes? I don't know the statistics, but in my purely unscientific observations on the web my guess is no. My guess is that all people are targeted.

If the word "protector" is applied to a person who is just a source of safety information, perhaps acting as a "greeter" to the online world, then I have no problem with it's use. However, I would rather see a page or two on a website explaining this stuff, rather than add yet another term to our convoluted lexicon, and another role to our overburdened lifestyle.

Whadya think?

TooLoose :-)

5 [notnilla](#)

2002-11-02 01:18

These are some of the best reasons I've seen in ages for having someone with greater knowledge aid another person along in their journey. I think reaching out to ascertain knowledge from someone who knows the terrain while retaining your own common sense to make your own judgements is quite intelligent.

The internet is an easy place to stalk and manipulate others. We read passages on occasion and attribute

characteristics to the person typing that they may or may not possess.

Catherine

6 [memneth](#)

2002-11-02 01:41

Was the question only aimed at online ummm relationships and discussions? I think I got lost in the curve.

Justin Medlin  
Who Heads Back  
To The Picards  
And His Single Tail

7 [alpha\\_femm](#)

2002-11-03 13:23

Compliments to whoever (Catherine?) chose the title "Helpless Bottoms" for this thread.

Whenever I read the title on the Topic List I smile :-)

A helpless bottom --those raised, rosy cheeks smiling at me-- is a joy forever.

Off-Topic Deb

8 [TheirFaerieGirl](#)

2002-11-03 14:19

hmmm r/l i have used a mentor or protector someone whome i know i am safe with in a given situation.

r/l i have also assumed that role, kept an eye out for someone in a situation that is unfamiliar to them.

At a recent play party at someones house. One of the femdoms, (please no one pick on me about terms or caps I really dont care and you all know what I mean), brought a boysub that had never been to a play party before. She knew me and my sub, knew we were sort of house subs for the party, knew we knew people etc. She came to me and asked if I would take him under my wing for the day. Show him what to do, point him in the right directions etc. In that case I was a protector. I kept an eye out for him. It worked out well. This is not to say she didn't keep an eye out as well. But he had someone on his "level" to go to, so as not to bug her. It was good.

online. well i confess i give my picture out. pictures with clothing. but pictures. if i was meeting people in a bar, at work, on the bus, at church, town meeting etc they would know what i look like, so if someone asks, no problem. i dont however ask for them. if someone volunteers (ie i just got these great new pics of myself who wants one?) count me in. otherwise i just come up with my own picture of you in my head. hehehe .. you should SEE what you all look like! <veg>

I have went through a phrase where i was interested in learning about Gor. Not so much to know it for myself. But because I was seeing femsubs get picked on in non Gor channels for it and i wanted to see what was going on. I hate kick/bans however and so took a male "protector" with me to the channels. 1) I was "with" someone so less likely to get picked on. 2) He could point out in pm what I should do in a given situation.

Helpless Bottoms? Oh please, I don't think so. But I do think anyone, in a new situation, can use a helping hand.

9 [Thorn4MyRose](#)

2002-11-03 18:26

To: alpha\_femm

lol. Geez, Deb. Ya kill me. Ya really do.

;-)

10 [Thorn4MyRose](#)

2002-11-03 18:39

(General posting)

Well, whether online or off, I still see nothing wrong (nor helpless) about seeking someone more experienced who will sincerely look out for your interests -- or, for that matter, someone more experienced offering that sort of help.

However you refer to that (mentor, protector, confidant, friend, whatever), it neither lowers the the person

seeking help nor the person giving it. And frankly, if more people cared about each other that way, the world would be a much better place. ;-)

Be safe,  
Thorn

11 [alpha\\_femm](#)

2002-11-04 06:48

Dear Thorn,

I getta kick outta you too, darlin' !

Deb  
(who just luuuuuvs appreciation, and gives as good as she gets ;-)

12 [Hawkins's kate](#)

2002-11-08 11:02

As this thread seems to have become about the usefulness of mentors/protectors, (pick tag of personal choice)as well as about Lady Catherine's original question, whether said people are actually protecting their charges or are just mentors, i chose to write on both.

Personally speaking, i think it is always better to learn from your elders and betters than to keep on falling on your face.

As i have the tendency to get very lost in the pleasure of verbal communication, a trait often worsened by enthusiasm, i have tended to put both my tiny feet in my mouth on several occasions. As it is difficult to walk or even stand up properly with one's feet in one's mouth, that is when falling on face becomes hard to avoid. Falling on face is horrible, as i get hurt, but more because other people usually end up hurt/insulted/annoyed/etc. comepletely without me ever having intended such. i \_hate\_ it when that happens...

i also found out early on in life that it is well possible to be spontaneous and flippant, as well as deeply shy.

i also found out that this is usually completely invisible to people, as they see and hear the spontaneous flippancy, and don't usually wonder if there is anything underneath.

This means you have no where to go with your shy.

The combination of all this has lead me to the practice of seeking out someone i think might well be capableable and \_inclined\_ to provide me with the following;

-stimuli that enables me to learn (using my own brain to come to conclusions is inifinitely preferable to memorising and regurgitating other people's ideas, and as very few ideas are actually as new as we might think, i end up coming up with the same ideas, but i end up believing them, meaning it, instead of just blurting out the right things on cue)

-a safe environment to do the learning in (i.e. relative privacy between them and i so i can allow my shy to melt and private protected-by-shy inner-me can participate, i need them to be sure enough of themselves, have enough self worth not to feel hurt or insulted every time i don't phrase something all that well, as i \_hate\_ making someone feel bad, especially if it is someone i respect, or worst, respect and care about. If the liaison is a new one, that makes me feel so bad i lock myself up in good behaviour and trying to please to the extent it blocks my learning process.

-sounding board, so i can occasionally allow myself to rant and vent and not be reasonable (ferocious typing on wet key-board \*grin\*), or just to bounce ideas off...

-protection from self to some extent. i agree with what you said Lady Catherine, in another thread, about not wanting to take a learning opportunity away from someone, but i'm sure you make a decision based on whether the harm which is going to be done to all concerned not outweighs the benefits to the learner.If i know there is someone making that decision for me, there is already less chance of me messing up, as i feel safer, and less nervous.

-honesty, (last, but definately not least) so i can trust their judgement, positive and negative, to be meant as it comes out ...

Soothing is sometimes very welcome, as are praises, but usually that would just happen...i don't have to look for

it.

Now, i don't look for a protector as you outlined the difference in your original post, Lady Catherine. But usually, if i find what i look for, and it works well, they usually end up feeling so protective towards me that i don't have to worry about that.

i don't know if it always works like that for everyone, but as long as i can remember, i have had male (vanilla) friends (friends as in not sexual partners), and as long as i can remember they take issue with strangers doing, or even thinking of doing things to me i don't want. Come to think about it, some of them even tried to protect me from things i did want. It is not exactly the same, but to me the emotions concerned, in both me and them, feel the same.

Don't you feel protective towards people you teach or mentor for a time? i don't mean as in your family. Family is self-explanatory, well, at least to me. i feel very protective towards anyone i get close enough to. Which makes me think of an anecdote. i sat in a corner once, listening to a close friend of mine having a badbadbad conversation with an ex-partner. It made me seethe. She was scribbling something on a pad as she sat there, calmly listening to him with a very red face. When he took a phonecall she tore off the sheet from the pad and handed it to me...it was a scetch of me, about an inch big, in the typical boxing stance with my fists up and my head in my neck, looking up fiercely at this figure...her ex, the whole length of the page, almost 15 inches, who didn't even see me.

The title underneath read: 'tiny towering tigercathy'.

i asked her, if she was not perturbed at all, why she had such a red face...'I could hardly keep a straight face', she said, 'he always acts like this, to me it is normal, why do you think i chucked him out? But you were so radiating protect mode back there, i could feel it burn my back. It was hilarious'

k

13 [notnilla](#)

2002-11-08 11:52

You asked if I feel protective of friends or people outside of my family.

Yes, I do. However, feeling protective does not make it my job to be protective. I won't interfere with their lives or the choices they make. My take on it is that I trust them enough to make the most correct decisions for themselves. Sometimes that means watching them choose their next lesson by said decision.

So, feeling protective and doing anything about that at all are two different things for me.

Catherine

14 [spookyboy](#)

2002-11-09 16:18

This is only my second topic to these boards, so i hope i'm not out of line by throwing in my comments here.

i have a very close friend who calls Himself my protector/mentor. He's had a lot more experience in the BDSM lifestyle than i have, and He's there to look out for me if i have questions or need advice.

^v^spooky^v^

15 [red-headed\\_trollop](#)

2002-11-10 16:52

Although many of the responses I've read about the "protector" role seem positive, personally, I think that in most cases this is yet another excuse for people not to take responsibility for themselves. No functioning adult need have a "protector". Anyone who refuses to take responsibility for themselves or who is willing to believe whatever people tell them, or who thinks of themselves as a "victim of circumstance", controlled by outside forces has no place in any adult place and especially not the lifestyle. Having a "protector" or believing that you "need" a protector perpetuates the myth that bottoms are helpless, lacking in self-determination, and unable to handle the real world on their own. This is entirely untrue. Unfortunately, the people who tend to believe in the "helplessness" of the submissives, are the submissives ourselves. It may be a nice fantasy to have a knight-in-shining armor, but it's just that, a fantasy. Accept it as such and it's okay. But I think the whole idea of needing a "protector" is harmful over all.

-adrienne-

(Justin's girl, personal trollop of the J.Y.D.W.P.F.W.E.P)

16 [nixie1201](#)

2002-11-10 17:27

What if it's not so much an inability to take responsibility for yourself as it is wanting to learn more about a topic so vast and varied you couldn't begin to figure out where to start?

Every where I look as I research and explore BDSM, I see people warning those new to the lifestyle to slow down, to be careful and not to rush. There are so many variations and so many intensity levels to this, it makes my head spin sometimes.

I know your comments are not directed at anyone specific, but I can only answer for myself. I've been following this thread and a few others fairly closely. In the last month or so, I've come to grips with the realization that I do want to explore this. That alone is a HUGE thing for me. At 31, I've been a single parent for over 1/3 of my life. I was never particularly dissatisfied with my life - sexual or otherwise. But I wasn't thrilled either.

It's my belief right now, this is what was missing. With each relationship in my life, I was looking to fill a need. As each one ended, I added some other silly "requirement" to my check off list for potential partners. And yet, never did I find someone that satisfied all of me - only parts. And what was missing was my need/desire to be submissive. Only I was never even aware that was the problem. Sure I got a thrill out of being tied up, told what to do (mild in comparison to a lot I know). But it's just a game right?

Only now, at the instruction of a close friend, I find out it can be so much more than a game. My eyes get wide when I read about the possibilities. I love the "so much more". Not just on a sexual level, but on a deeper personal level. I feel more calm and more at peace when I know what I do pleases someone else.

He's helping to give me a taste of what this can be, teaching and guiding this exploration - from a person I feel safe with. Someone who cautions me to slow down when I get over excited, takes things slowly, and understand that I'm just learning. For now, most of this learning is done online. I know most of you don't consider it real, but it is a good place to start.

Neither he nor I call him "protector" or "mentor". It's not that I'm not capable of taking care of myself - I've been supporting myself and my son just fine. But without someone to share their experiences, how is a person completely new to this supposed to learn? I don't have friends who are into this and I am very shy by nature - where would I go to learn and explore this and do it safely? Where else would I turn if I couldn't find someone willing to teach me? And more to the point - from what I can see, finding that person if you are not part of a group or organization can be quite the hit or miss affair.

While I live in Atlanta, the idea of just showing up at the Sanctuary (didn't take much online surfing to find that one heheh) not only terrifies me but just seems wrong and presumptuous. Personal ads seem equally scary. Well okay - not as scary as a dungeon! My point being, my friend encourages me to read upon things, to ask questions, to discuss my thoughts and feelings. He guides me through this initial exploration, and as such could be considered a mentor. But it's not a negative thing at all.

Anyway - long winded probably repeatitious but I think in some cases there is a good reason for such a person.

17 [notnilla](#)

2002-11-10 18:02

I would agree that having someone who can aid you in learning is a fantastic resource. We all need to learn from each other-- it's the way of things and has been for a long time.

It's only in recent history that there have been books which provided solid knowledge. Without books and websites, people have always relied on each other for information. It's a good system in general.

Catherine

18 [alpha\\_femm](#)

2002-11-10 18:29

I don't think anyone would argue against the value of pingng ideas around with friends whom we trust and find

knowledgeable and credible.

But that's a very different image from the picture I get when I hear "protector": I picture a gorilla-like bodyguard whose purpose is to keep others at a distance.

Deb

19 [nixie1201](#)

2002-11-10 22:38

/giggle

Gorilla-like? That does amuse me. If you are putting yourself into a position where you actually NEED that sort of protection, then maybe you should re-evaluate the situation. And if it isn't necessary, then having a body guard/protector seems... well seems like a bit of an inflated self image.

Using the Sanctuary again as an example, it scares me, but not because I'm worried about my personal safety. While having a friend along for comfort/support would be nice, I wouldn't feel the need for a body-guard. I'm more worried I'd offend people. I mean, I've never actually seen the things I've heard described. Some of them hold NO appeal, some hold some intense appeal - but there is a vast difference between thinking/imagining and actual real life experience. Before I'd be comfortable going to a place like that, I'd like to actually SEE some things in person so I don't gawk like a tourist or something.

nixie

20 [memneth](#)

2002-11-10 23:08

Speaking as someone who is and has been part of the Sanctuary staff as well as Master Doug's leather family, I would like to make a suggestion. Call them, any day that your free and ask them if it would be ok if you came by and saw the place with your friend, when nothing is going on there. You will get to see the place, talk to the people who live and work there and thus feel a lot more comfortable when you do go to a scheduled event. They have done this for many people and I am sure would be happy to do so for you. 404-847-4838

Justin Medlin

21 [nixie1201](#)

2002-11-10 23:40

Thank you Justin. Actually their website mentions and suggests just that. The website was very very helpful. I'm a ways off from being ready for that though :) For me that's still on the far end of the spectrum. Still adjusting to a lot of small things.

Something as simple as being required to remain "bare" in the evenings after my son is in bed/asleep. It all takes some working up to. Before now, I've never slept nude, and it took several nights to stop blushing every time I moved. Now I prefer it. There are a lot of things I want to get more comfortable with before venturing out in public. But the journey and the learning ... it's really enjoyable. Opens up something inside me.

22 [rabidchihauhau](#)

2002-11-11 07:28

nixie,

weather permitting - try foregoing the sheets/blankets next.

No children here. The rule in this house is - through the door, off with the clothes.

Have fun!

23 [memneth](#)

2002-11-15 19:59

nixie,

The sort of person you described- someone to give you information and introduce you into the "scene" isn't what I'd call a "protector". Trust me, I know that the idea of going into a group of ANY new people who already know eachother can be intimidating, and there's nothing wrong with having a buddy. But to me giving that person the title and role of "protector" is when there's the lack of responsibility. There's plenty you can do on your own. The fact that you're on Gloria's boards talking to people and exploring shows that you're doing just that. And also, you would be welcome at the Sactuary. Everyone there is really friendly. Plenty of first timers come there, even if it's just to watch for the first few times. I think a lot of times people build up the public scene in their minds to be this really scary, almost mystical thing but in reality, people are just people. I understand your trepidation, but everybody has to make that first step. I felt the same way you do before I went to my first public "munch" and I took a buddy. But I didn't consider him my protector. He had less experience than I did. In a nutshell, what I'm saying is that a friend, buddy or "Mentor" (which is also a loaded, ill defined term) is fine. But don't build up this person into a great oracle of knowledge that you can't ever hope to attain who will be responsible for you. I have experience in that area too, and I've found that everytime I gave responsibility for me and my learning and growth, it was a very bad decision. By the way, this Saturday at the Sanctuary, there's a "Fetish flea" flea market at the sanctuary from 1-7 pm. There will be lots of people socializing, shopping, and doing pretty "normal" things. It may be a less intimidating introduction than going in during play. Good Luck !

adrienne

24 [TheirFaerieGirl](#)

2002-11-15 20:46

ok, thats it, i am moving to atlanta, or at least saving my pennys for a vist .. dammnit

[ [Back](#) ] [ [Up](#) ] [ [Next](#) ]

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[Home](#) | [Gloria's Kinky Links](#) | [Gloria's Counseling FAQ](#) | [The Well-Read Head](#) | [W.D. Brame](#)