

Asexual: a person who does not experience  
SEXUAL ATTRACTION

# TAKING <sup>THE</sup> CAKE



*an illustrated*

*primer on asexuality*

*by Maisha*

Asexual: a person who does NOT experience sexual attraction



Asexuality is...

considered a sexual orientation (or lack thereof)

a community about 1% of people identify with/in the asexuality community

a spectrum & an umbrella term

totally normal!

a label

# ASEXUALITY COMES IN A LOT OF FLAVORS

**AROMANTIC**  
Someone who does not experience romantic attraction

**ACE**  
shorthand for asexual, like bi is short for bisexual

**DEMISEXUAL**  
A person who Experiences sexual attraction only AFTER forming a strong intellectual or emotional bond with someone, and not at "first sight."

**HETEROROMANTIC**  
romantically attracted to people of a sex different from one's own sex.

**HOMOROMANTIC**  
romantically attracted to people of the same sex as one's own sex.

**GREY ASEXUALITY**  
aka grey-A  
somewhere between sexual and asexual, such as a person who very rarely experiences sexual attraction or once did but now doesn't.

**REPULSED**  
Someone who is squeeked out by the thought of themselves having sex. Full

**MORE in the back room!**  
Just ask!  
☺

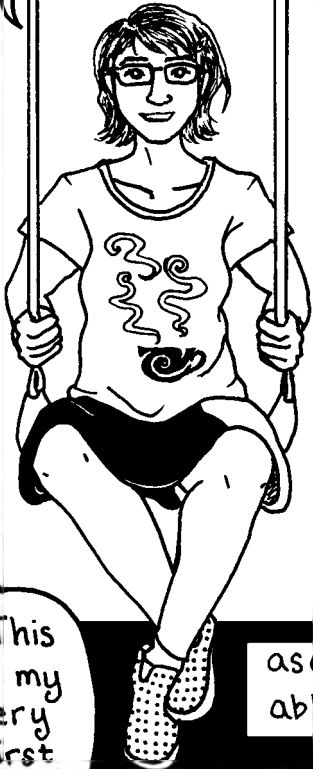
**INDIFFERENT**  
someone who feels pretty meh about sex, neither very repulsed nor enthusiastic about it.

**PANROMANTIC**  
romantically attracted to people of many genders

**BISROMANTIC**  
romantically attracted to both women and men

# about the zinemaker

Hullo!  
My name is  
Maisha.



This  
is my  
very  
first  
zine!

In the spirit of responsible sociological methodology, I believe transparency about my subject position is very important. I am by no means an authority on asexuality, nor should this zine be viewed as the final word on or ultimate guide to asexuality. I definitely didn't cover everything about asexuality in 10 pages, and I may have even goofed some stuff up. I'm human and my work is colored (though it be in black and white) by my perspective and experiences.

• age: 23

at the time of this writing;  
I am not a vampire and I do age.

• location: Portland, OR

• assorted identity tags:

asexual, queer, cisgender, white,  
able-bodied, femme-ish, female

**GRAB BAG:** social justice, tea, dinosaurs, kids, crafts, webcomics, chocolate, bicycling, singing along very badly, vegetarian cooking, gardening, communing with tomatoes

## OTHER WORKS of the ILLUSTRATED SORT

- Sex Talk: a comic about communication, consent, & gettin' it on online at [tinyurl.com/sextalkcomic](http://tinyurl.com/sextalkcomic)
- Lifelines (an autobio webcomic that updates at random) [tinyurl.com/maishacomix](http://tinyurl.com/maishacomix)

this zine was produced in 2012. Alter, excerpt, copy, & distribute at will!

# RESOURCE LIBRARY

LOVE FROM THE ASEXUAL UNDERGROUND  
[asexualunderground.blogspot.com](http://asexualunderground.blogspot.com)

SHADES OF GRAY  
[grasexuality.wordpress.com](http://grasexuality.wordpress.com)

ASEXY BEAST  
[theonepercentsclub.blogspot.com](http://theonepercentsclub.blogspot.com)

ASEXUAL FEMINISMS  
[acefeminisms.blogspot.com](http://acefeminisms.blogspot.com)

ASEXUALITY ARCHIVE  
[asexualityarchive.com](http://asexualityarchive.com)

ASEXUALITY STUDIES  
[asexualitystudies.org](http://asexualitystudies.org)

ASEXUAL EXPLORATIONS  
[asexualexplorations.net](http://asexualexplorations.net)

ASEXUALITIC: asexual dating site  
[asexualitic.com](http://asexualitic.com)

ACEBOOK: asexual dating site  
[ace-book.net](http://ace-book.net)

APOSITIVE  
a sex-positive asexual forum  
[apositive.org](http://apositive.org)

AVEN: Asexuality Visibility  
and Education Network  
[asexuality.org](http://asexuality.org)

BLOGS (NON-TUMBLR)

INFORMATION

ONLINE COMMUNITIES

ASEXUAL EXPERIENCES  
[asexualexperiences.tumblr.com](http://asexualexperiences.tumblr.com)

ACE WATCH  
[acewatch.tumblr.com](http://acewatch.tumblr.com)

ASEXUALITY-EXISTS  
[asexuality-exists.tumblr.com](http://asexuality-exists.tumblr.com)

YOU KNOW YOU'RE ASEXUAL WHEN  
[youknowyoureasexual.tumblr.com](http://youknowyoureasexual.tumblr.com)

ASEXUAL EDUCATION  
[asexualeducation.tumblr.com](http://asexualeducation.tumblr.com)

ASEXUALITY EXISTS  
[asexualityexists.tumblr.com](http://asexualityexists.tumblr.com)

GRAY-ASEXUALITY  
[gray-asexuality.tumblr.com](http://gray-asexuality.tumblr.com)

DEMISEXUALITY  
[demisexuality.tumblr.com](http://demisexuality.tumblr.com)

CAKE YEAH ASEXUALS  
[cakeyeahasexuals.tumblr.com](http://cakeyeahasexuals.tumblr.com)

ASEXUAL AXOLOTL  
[asexualaxolotol.tumblr.com](http://asexualaxolotol.tumblr.com)

ASEXUAL ADVICE  
[asexualadvice.tumblr.com](http://asexualadvice.tumblr.com)

ACE SECRETS  
[acesecrets.tumblr.com](http://acesecrets.tumblr.com)

TUMBLRS

VIRGIN #1 and #2  
[alchemistscloset.org/virgin.html](http://alchemistscloset.org/virgin.html)

ASEXUAL FEMINISM

ASEXY LIFE  
available from microcosm publishing

(A)SEXUAL: Not everybody's doing it  
[artsengine.net/asexual](http://artsengine.net/asexual)

THE ASEXUALITY CHRONICLES  
[blip.tv/theasexualitychronicles/](http://blip.tv/theasexualitychronicles/)

THE DAPPER ACE  
[youtube.com/user/TheDapperAce/](http://youtube.com/user/TheDapperAce/)

ACESOMNIACS  
[youtube.com/user/ACESOMNIACS/](http://youtube.com/user/ACESOMNIACS/)

HOT PIECES OF ACE  
[youtube.com/user/HotPiecesOfAce/](http://youtube.com/user/HotPiecesOfAce/)

VLOGS & YOUTUBE

DOCUMENTARY ZINES

ADD YOUR OWN!



Attraction is kind of like a recipe. A lot of ingredients go in but it can be hard to tell them apart in the finished product. Some people have more of some ingredients than of others.

Asexual people don't have sexual attraction at all.



# Attraction

serves: 1

- 1 cup of aesthetic attraction
- 1 cup of sensual attraction
- 1 cup of romantic attraction (leave out for asexual)
- 1 cup of sexual attraction (leave out for asexual)

Aesthetic attraction is finding someone good-looking but not necessarily in a sexy or romantic way.  
Sensual attraction is a desire to do sensual things with a particular person, like cuddling or hand holding.  
Romantic attraction is what makes a person want a romantic relationship with a particular person.  
Sexual attraction is the desire to do sexual things with a particular person.

Identity Recipes



Other  
incl  
son  
by



You wanna  
be an ally?  
Here's how.



## HOW to BE an ALLY to ASEXUALS

### 1. Listen and believe us!

Everyone is the expert of their own experience.

### 2. Educate yourself about asexuality.

Lots of resources exist. Use them!

### 3. Ask before asking.

Not all asexuals want to be your asexuality encyclopedia.  
Make sure an asexual is open to questions before asking.

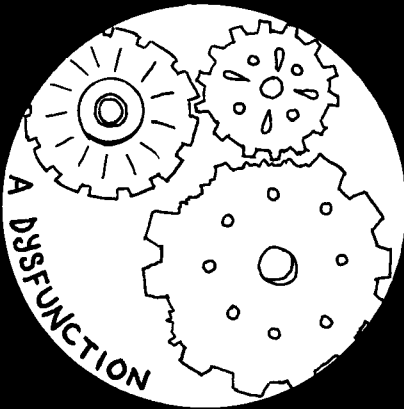
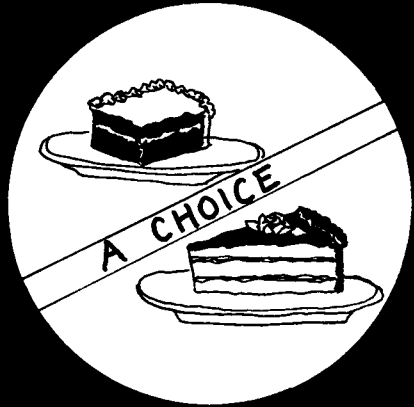
### 4. Advocate for asexual visibility.

Asexuality gets left out a lot. Include it!  
Support projects that make asexuality visible.

### 5. Move up, move back.

Know when to talk about asexuality and when  
to listen to asexual voices.

# ASEXUALITY IS NOT:

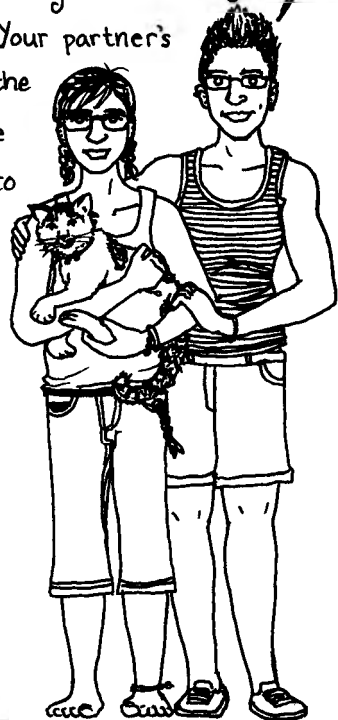




# TIPS for SEXUALS DATING ASEXUALS

a guest page authored  
by Melissa Sweet

- ~ YOUR PARTNER'S ASEXUALITY is not a reflection of a "failure" on your part to "make" them be sexually attracted to you. You also can't "make" them be sexual. But you can...
- ~ UNDERSTAND that you might not understand each other's different sexualities but talk about it often, and talk to other people about it when it's appropriate. You both need supportive listeners!
- ~ ENCOURAGE your partner to connect with an asexual community.
- ~ CONSENT and OPEN COMMUNICATION are key to an awesome relationship - talk about what sex means for both of you, what you feel like you need in order to be with the other person, and most importantly, be HONEST about what you need and be willing to compromise - but know when you can and can't compromise.
- ~ JUST BECAUSE YOUR PARTNER isn't sexually attracted to you doesn't mean you're not a SEXY BEAST. Your partner's attraction to you isn't indicative of how the world sees you. Appreciate and recognize ways that your partner feels closest to you, which is likely to be nonsexually.
- ~ READ and TALK about asexuality and find good resources to be a great partner and ally.



QWERTYUIOPASDFGHJKLZXCVBNM

**Cake** is used to welcome newcomers to AVEN, the Asexuality Visibility & Education Network

(an online forum and community; asexuality.org)



I like to think of it this way: cake is just as good—and maybe better than—sex!

$53x + m^3 = \emptyset$   
can be read as  
sex + me = no result



represents the spectrum of sexual attraction, with black being asexual (at the bottom) and white being sexual, with shades of grey in between.



ASEXUALITY FLAG



black stripe represents asexuality  
grey stripe represents grey asexuality & demisexuality  
white stripe represents sexuality  
purple stripe represents community



Aces represent asexuality because asexuals often call themselves "aces" for short. Ace of hearts and ace of spades are particularly used.

# IS ASEXUALITY PART of the LGBTQ COMMUNITY?

Asexuality is often not recognized as real or legitimate, or is framed as a choice or something that can be "cured" or changed. Notice similarities to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\*, and queer identities?

Asexuals fall outside of heterosexual and (cis)gender norms.

Asexuals often go through a coming out process that includes questioning ourselves, searching for identities and labels that fit, coming to terms with our identities, seeking a community of people with similar experiences, and telling other people who we are.

Asexuality is often left out of classrooms, textbooks, and sex education programs. This exclusion can make us feel alone, invisible, broken, confused, like we don't exist, like we don't matter, and like we don't have futures.

Asexuals are very rarely depicted in the media; representations are often stereotyped.

Not all aces are straight and cisgender! Some of us are queer, homoromantic, biromantic, panromantic, trans\*, genderqueer...

Many asexuals do not consider themselves part of the LGBTQ community, but many do.

There is no simple yes or no answer and no one, monolithic LGBTQ community.

**RESPECT INDIVIDUAL IDENTITIES**

Some LGBTQ folks don't think asexuality should be included as LGBTQ. These folks may believe that asexuality: is not an orientation ◊ is the same as slut-shaming ◊ is not oppressed or discriminated against ◊ can "pass" as heterosexuality ◊ betrays the LGBTQ mission to have sex their way.

You're probably just repressed.

But EVERYONE wants sex!

You just haven't met the right person yet.

So what you're saying is that you're **gay**, you just don't want to admit it.

You're making that up for attention.

So you've NEVER had sex EVER?

HAHAHA

So is it because of your mental disorder?

Don't worry, it's just a phase.\*

You are just TOO UGLY to get a date.

How do you know if you've never tried it?

A

## MYTHS

and other ignorant things people say to asexual people

Although asexuality may be temporary for some asexuals, the term "phase" is often used to discredit very real feelings. Just because something is impermanent does not mean it's not or never was legitimate.\*