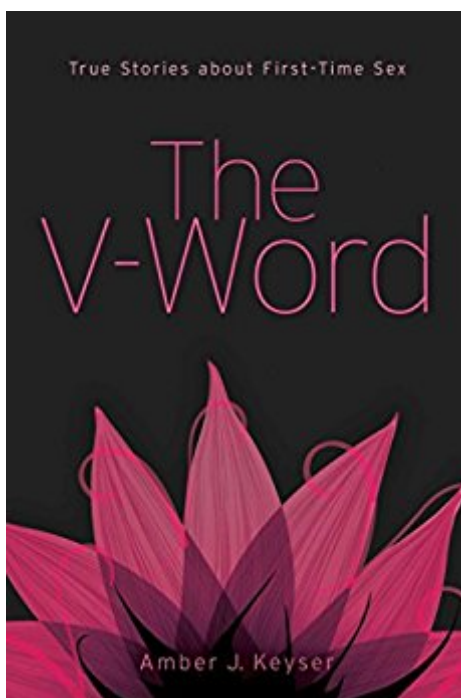


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# The V-Word: True Stories About First-Time Sex



## Synopsis

An honest and poignant collection of essays by women about losing their virginity in their teens. The V-Word captures the complexity of this important life-decision and reflects diverse real-world experiences. Includes helpful resources for parents and teens. Losing it. Popping your cherry. Handing in your V-card. First time sex is a big unknown. Will it be candlelight and rose petals or quick and uncomfortable? Is it about love or about lust? Deciding to have sex for the first time is a choice that's often fraught with anxiety and joy. But do you have anyone telling you what sex is really like? In The V-Word seventeen writers (including Christa Desir, Justina Ireland, Sara Ryan, Carrie Mesrobian, Erica Lorraine Scheidt, and Jamia Wilson) pull back the sheets and tell all, covering everything from straight sex to queer sex, diving-in versus waiting, and even the exhilaration and disappointment that blankets it all. Some of their experiences happened too soon, some at just the right time, but all paint a broad picture of what first-time sex is really like. Funny, hot, meaningful, cringe-worthy, gross, forgettable, magnificent, empowering, and transformative, the stories in The V-Word are never preachy, but provide a map for teens to chart their own course through the steamy waters of sex. With The V-Word girls can finally take control, learn what's on the horizon, and eliminate the fear and mystery surrounding this important milestone.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I first heard about this book on a podcast when the author was a guest. I have to say that this book and the author's message has been instrumental (and almost life-changing!) how I'm now guiding my teen daughter! The message that there should be no shame or "loss" with one's first time, and the fact that it certainly doesn't matter in what form (e.g., straight, gay, trans) one's first sexual experience is, is breathtakingly refreshing. And it's a HEALTHY attitude! The author drives this point home and keeps it relatable, especially for younger readers. I wish that I had received this book when I was a teen and I know it would have helped me have a healthier attitude in general about sex. When my dad found out I "lost" my virginity, he told me that he wouldn't punish me because I had "already lost enough." Wow. This book made me realize how wrong that was of my father and it has taught me how to approach conversations about sexuality in a loving and compassionate way with my teens. Life changing for all. I couldn't more highly recommend. Thank you, Ms. Keyser!

This collection of 17 stories is amazing. The names of some of them tell a lot: It Would Not Be an Understatement to Say I Knew Nothing; It's a Nice Day for a White Wedding; The Lion Poet and It's All in the Choosing, to name a few. Some very brave women trusted the author to tell their stories. I think she honored that trust.

Boring

While I like anthologies, for me I usually love a couple essays/stories, like a few, and skip a few. It just seems to happen when there is a mix of writing/authors. In this case ALL the stories were really strong ranging from 3 stars to 5 stars and I didn't feel the urge to skip any of the stories. The best part of this anthology is how different all the voices are, the stories. We are brought up with such a weight attached to virginity, to this idea of it being lost/taken one day and that being a monumental thing. The stories of these women and their first sexual experiences were all so different--marginalized groups were represented by far more than just one story--that regardless of whether you're reading this for information as someone looking to hand in your V-card or as someone who long ago got that card stamped it is a reminder of how different women are. We all

come from different places, our brains are all filled with different thoughts, emotions, wants, ideas and as much as society might tell us what virginity means it is completely different to each individual. There were hilarious stories, a bit sad stories, honest stories--it read like a great group of friends each telling their first time story. And beyond that there's the getting to know and understanding yourself, body-image issues...And for anyone who might need or is looking for actual information the book ends with a lot of resources.

Publisher: Beyond Words Publication Date: February 2nd, 2016 Rating: 4 Stars Source: ARC from the publisher Add it on Goodreads! Summary (from Goodreads): **HAVING SEX FOR THE FIRST TIME IS A BIG UNKNOWN. LOTS OF PEOPLE WILL TELL YOU WHAT TO DO, BUT IS ANYONE TELLING YOU WHAT IT *REALLY* LIKE?** The V-Word pulls back the sheets on sex. Queer and straight. Relished and regretted. Funny and exhilarating. The seventeen women in this book (including Christa Desir, Justina Ireland, Sara Ryan, Carrie Mesrobian, Erica Lorraine Scheidt, and Jamia Wilson) write about first-time sex *that's* hot, meaningful, cringe-worthy, gross, forgettable, magnificent, empowering, and transformative. Whether you're diving in or whether you're waiting, we hope these stories will help you chart your own course. I received this from Simon Pulse/Beyond Words for a blog tour that I did a couple weeks ago. If you never got the sex talk and you want it or you have to give the sex talk and don't know where to start, seriously, just pick up this book. This book is made up of a story section and a resource section. All the stories in this book are about a different woman's first time. There's a little bit of everything in this book. Straight. Lesbian. Transgender. Awesome first times. Horrible first times. First times that aren't technically first times. First times just to cash in the V-card. I found mostly all of the stories in this book to be interesting. All of these first times are so different and all of the writing is so different and unique. I think that these stories would all be valuable to someone trying to decide if they're ready to get it on. Out of the seventeen different stories in this book, there was only one of them that I skipped over because I didn't care for the writing. I thought it was kind of boring. The second section of this book is resources. The resources section is GREAT! It has sections on knowing your body, knowing what turns you on, knowing what you're up against, knowing about being safe, knowing how to talk about it, and knowing when you're ready. There's a great Q&A. There's a list of website resources. And finally, there's a section of reassurances and resources for parents. There is a LOT of good information in this book for people who aren't sure if they're ready to take this step! Overall, I would highly recommend this book! If you're a girl thinking about having sex for the first time or if you're a parent with a daughter and you

need to have the talk, this would be good. For instance, my parents got divorced when I was little and I lived with my dad from the age of 8 until I moved out at like 22. How awkward of a conversation would that be to have with your dad? I think this would be a great book for a situation like that!

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