



## Guest Video: kd diamond

FROM WEEK THREE: SERVICE

*Length: 8.09*

*Transcribed by Charlie*

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Hi, this is KD, International Ms Bootblack 2011, and I'm here to talk to you about submission and service.

My notes are right here on the screen, so if my eyes are going this way, it's because I'm admiring you. And my notes!

So, I have been a boot black since 2006, and I very firmly believe that my history with boot blacking is what really taught me the various ways to engage with submission and service, whether it's in the public sphere, community service, to an individual or perhaps to a group.

I feel like I have a pretty good range and history with doing that. I have publicly boot blacked for many many events. I've taken care of judge's leathers at IML (International Ms. Leather) as an act of service to make sure they looked great on stage. I've also, one-on-one, either in relationships or at events for friends, been in a submissive or service position.

So I feel like I bring a lot to the table, to teach you a little bit about some key things that you want to keep in mind when you're examining your relationship to service and submission.

So, to start off, I really firmly believe that there needs to be a mutual respect, from both parties, perhaps. I think it's very easy to think that there is a differential of respect when there's a power differential. And that's not true. Just because you're in a position of service or submission, or both – sometimes, many times, these things are linked – does not mean that you have less rights and less of a will than your dominant or your top.

Some things to keep in mind, if you're really really engaging with the submissive service dynamic, is that clear goals and specific tasks can be really helpful to those starting out. So, for example, if you're given a to do list at the beginning of the week that you need to complete for your dominant, that's really important to schedule out and figure out on your own, but a routine and a beginning, a middle and an end to these tasks sets everyone up to win, which is, I think, really important.

To continue on that point, structure and routine can really help keep people in line. It sets up a good dynamic for the top and the bottom, for the dominant and submissive, to know what the actual end goals and what the point of all this service is, so that everyone feels like they're getting the most out of it. And by setting up these goals, you can really figure out what your strength is, as a service bottom, as a submissive.

For instance, you may intellectually think that on paper, the to do list you've been handed, or the particular acts you are being committed to, may be things that you are incredibly interested in, but you may learn that it doesn't fit with your lifestyle – we all have a lot of different complexities – and sometimes you can't do the things that you anticipated doing. So how can you properly assess, after you have these hard goals? You can reflect and look back on these things.

Something else to keep in mind is that, just because you're interested in being submissive, doesn't mean you're necessarily a service submissive. Or, if you're interested in service, that doesn't necessarily mean that you're submissive. Something to really keep in mind is that these two are not forever linked.

A good example is that I have people that I feel submissive to, and a way of showing that

submission is perhaps to provide an act of service, such as doing someone's boots, maybe making sure their house is clean for them, helping them edit a resume, so on and so forth. Some of these can be very practical tasks, or perhaps it's an act of service that comes entirely from wanting to make someone feel good, but not because I'm necessarily submissive to that person.

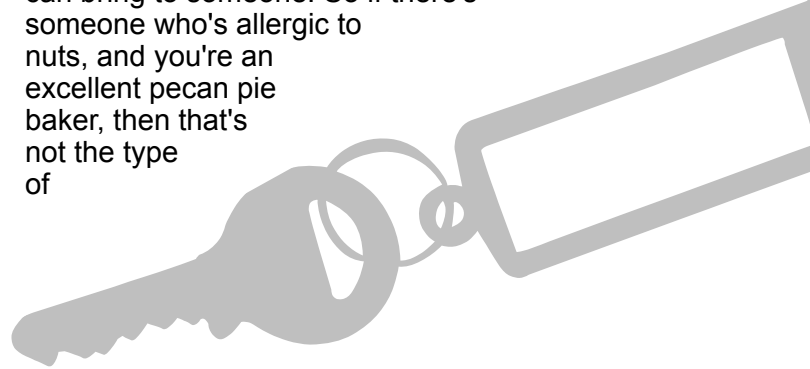
For example, I had a friend who was going through a really rough break up and she was feeling incredibly unattractive. So we set up a date that I took care of her boots for her, while we had a great conversation and were completely on an even playing field, it was very egalitarian. But in providing that act of service, she left feeling like she was incredibly attractive and that her leathers were very well taken care of. And she felt cared for in a way that doesn't necessarily have to be about a power dynamic, but can be a service that you provide someone. So. Broad strokes, but bear with me.

If you really want to explore these things deeper, I know I've just scratched the surface in a matter of minutes, if you really want to explore these things deeper, I'd recommend the following things.

One, the best way to understand yourself as a submissive, and as a service submissive – as a service provider – is to really understand yourself and your own limits. What do you need to make sure that you feel well supported and cared for in the process of providing a submissive service-oriented act? So, knowing what turns you on, what your strengths are, what you can bring to the table personally, politically and physically. If you're someone who has a bad back then you shouldn't be a service submissive who carries someone's bags for them, because you're going to be putting your body under a strain that isn't actually about providing service any more. Your own self care should not be trumped by your submissive, service-oriented nature.

This list will also be helpful because it will help you provide anyone you're interested in playing with, maybe on a continued basis,

maybe for a first time, with the things that you know you like to do. So a date is already pre-packaged for you. You know that you're looking for a top who can provide a certain list of things, and you know what you can bring to someone. So if there's someone who's allergic to nuts, and you're an excellent pecan pie baker, then that's not the type of



service  
you want to  
provide for  
them!

Additionally, I've learned that to really really explore how deeply you can submit to someone, or how very service-oriented you are, or both these things, a very specific level of intimacy is kind of key. That list that I mentioned is great as a starting off point, and is a very tangible way to assess who you are as a submissive and who you might be looking for, but if you really want to fully give yourself to someone, that's not something that's going to happen with someone that you don't know on a very intimate basis. So, getting to know someone on a friendship level, on an emotional level that is perhaps love, beyond platonic, will help you really dive deeper into how you submit. Because you need to have a level of trust, and that intimacy will create the proper platform for you to really give yourself over to submission. It's not easy. It requires a certain level of understanding yourself, and it requires a certain level of being able to trust that the person you are maybe giving your body, your mind or your time to, is going to properly respect that. And that's not necessarily a first or second date scenario.

So! I hope that all these things were incredibly helpful to you. Feel free to contact me via the Submissive Playground website if you have any further questions, and I look forward to exploring with you!