

Full Changelog (WIP v0.93j)  
for  
*Sex Positivity versus Sex Coercion, or Gothic Communism: Liberating Sex Work  
under Capitalism through Iconoclastic Art* (2023)

by Persephone van der Waard

*"Most of the records were lost during the war! Her full name, where she lived! They just knew the city!"*

—Kyle Reese, *The Terminator* (1984)

*Sex Positivity* is composed of four volumes: Volume Zero, One, Two and Three (arranged numerically as "volume [1, 2, 3, or 4] of 4, from 0 to 3" on their text-only title pages). Each has a proper title and ordinary noun(s) with which it is referred to; e.g., Volume One is also called "the manifesto," and Volume Two is also referred to as "the Humanities primer," etc. Currently my thesis volume, manifesto volume, Poetry Module (Volume Two, part one) and Undead Module (a sub-volume for Volume Two, part two) are all live; the remaining volumes/modules are planned to release over the remainder of 2024, and will be accessible through my website's 1-page promo (below).

*Note: Volume Two divides in three; part one is the Poetry Module, and part two is the Monster Modules, the Undead and Demons. Each module is effectively its own sub-volume with its own release, but also its own online promo series (where you can download the exhibit images at full resolution): "[Brace for Impact](#)," "[Searching for Secrets](#)," and "[Deal with the Devil](#)." For organizational purposes, all sub-volumes are considered part of the same overall volume. —Perse*

About the project: Made in collaboration with other sex workers, *Sex Positivity* is a four-volume book being released one volume/sub-volume (module) at a time. From newest to oldest: as of 9/6/2024, [my Undead Module is live](#); as of 5/1/2024, [my Poetry Module is live](#); as of 2/14/2024, the manifesto/instruction volume is live; as of 10/8/2023, the thesis volume is live. [Simply go to my website's 1-page promo and pick up a copy of each for free!](#) While you're there, you can also learn about the other yet-to-release volumes/modules, project history and logo design.

## Current Changelog (post-10/8/2023)

### Changelog (all volumes)

9/11/2024: Updated "What I Will and Won't Exhibit." Added several paratextual sections: "The State: Its Key Tools; re: the Monopolies, Trifectas and Qualities of Capital" and "Abridged Manifesto Tree (of Oppositional Praxis)."

9/7/2024: Added links [to Romantic Rose' fan page](#) on my website. Put cover images in the Volume Summaries; expanded summaries for Volume Two, accounting for its three sub-volumes/their promo pages. Updated and expanded my corpus/glossary definitions: "Metroidvania as closed space" and "Metroidvania." Updated the Acknowledgments section. Updated the Heads-Up section. Various small corrections, throughout.

4/17/2024: Changed a few "sex positive" to "sex-positive" to be consistent. Went over all the exhibits to make their grammar consistent; e.g., "source tweet" followed by a comma if just the year, but followed by a colon just the author is listed, too. Tweaked the volume summaries. Updated [Quinnvincible](#) and [Mercedes the Muse's](#) hyperlinks (and the Acknowledgements page) to link to their special pages on my website. Also expanded the About the Author section (and my various hyperlinks) in conjunction [with my About the Author webpage on my website](#).

3/13/2024: Included an omitted citation in the Four Gs section: Jerrold Hogle's "The Restless Labyrinth: Cryptonomy in the Gothic Novel" (1980); also corrected a misspelling of Hogle's name, "Hogel." Fixed the hyperlink to my master's thesis, "[Lost in Necropolis](#)" (2018). Fixed italics with Metroidvania definition and the phrase *vis-à-vis* throughout the volume.

3/11/2024: Made updates to the paratextual section, "[A Note About Canonical Essentialism](#)" (2024).

3/9/2024: Wrote a small paratextual section, "[A Note About Canonical Essentialism](#)" (2024). Expanded the Acknowledgments section to include my muses, [Harmony Corrupted](#) and [Mugiwara Art](#).

2/24/2024: Tweaked the paratextual documents and updated the Acknowledgements section to include [Marlon Trelie](#).

2/23/2024: Updated the hyperlinks for [Bay](#) and [Crow's](#) special pages on my website.

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2/21/2024: Wrote a short essay to accompany the paratextual documents, "Making Marx Gay" ([which also is on my blog](#)). Consequently also updated the Volume Summary section's word, page and image counts; updated the book cover image and text-only volume cover page to reflect these changes.

2/20/2024: Updated the "Volume Summaries" section slightly, including the approximate word, page and number counters.

2/18/2024: Changed some hyperlinks of Bay to link [to my website's tribute page of them](#).

2/16/2024: Modified all the title pages to account for Volume Three being split in two. Several small tweaks and changes throughout; e.g., changed some hyperlinks of Blxxd Bunny [to link to my website's tribute page of them](#).

1/28/2024: Expanded on the promo posters, including [Mikki Storm](#) and [Roxie Rusalka](#).

1/18/2024: For logistical reasons, I decided to divide Volume Three in two (Chapters One, Two and Three; and Chapters Four and Five). Because of this, I also decided to give each volume its own unique model, and to design a series of promo posters from several models ([Quinnvincible](#), [Sinead](#) and [Mercedes the Muse](#)), as well as [Blxxd Bunny](#)'s unused bookends for Volumes Two and Three.

11/3/2023: Included a small paratextual section titled "Illustrating Mutual Consent." Also tweaked the Volume Summaries section and added several photos elsewhere in the volumes for variety.

10/12/2023: Put a list of the Gothic-Marxist tenets (the Six Rs) and four main Gothic theories (the Four Gs) in the paratextual documents; also updated the "Concerning My Audience" paratext to include more information about the books' art and reading order—i.e., you can read Volume One first or the thesis volume first, depending on your reading level.

10/11/2023: Included the Volume Summaries paratext; updated the full volume summaries/table of contents document (v.90).

10/10/2023: Updated all the covers in anticipation for the Halloween release. Updated the paratextual material per volume, as well as the full, separate table of contents to account for said paratextual materials (and the numbering of my volumes from 0 to 3 instead of 1 to 4 on the text-only cover pages).

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## Changelog (Volume Two, part two: the Monster Modules):

9/11/2024 (the Undead Module): Changed a writer's note in "Escaping Jadis"; corrected "Leaving Jadis" to "Escaping Jadis" at various points. Several other corrections. Updated the Acknowledgments to credit several more models/artists.

9/6/2024: Volume Two, part two (the Undead Module) went live on my website. Length upon completion: ~430,580 words/~1,055 pages and ~832 unique images

8/8/2024: Divided the Undead Module from the Demon Module. At the time of doing so, the approximate length for Volume Two (sans paratexts) was

- part one (the Poetry Module): ~300,000 words/~795 pages, ~625 unique images
- part two (the Monster Modules): ~304,000 words/~786 pages and ~588 unique images (Undead Module, mostly done); and ~117,000 words/~348 pages and ~191 unique images (Demon Module, under construction)

8/6/2024: Updated the "[Brace for Impact](#)" and "[Searching for Secrets](#)" pages, and prepare a draft for the "[Deal with the Devil](#)" (for when I start to release pieces to the Demon Module on my website).

5/4/2024: Released the "[Searching for Secrets](#)" promo series (with posts release over the next three months; check the individual posts on the contents page for their unique release dates).

## Changelog (the Poetry Module):

8/12/2024, v1.2d: Swapped out several images.

8/8/2024, v1.2c: Updated "Two Essential Halves," adding links to my on-site promo series for Volume Two's three separate modules. Updated "Defining Sexualized Media" and the Heads-Up refresher. Several small fixes elsewhere.

8/6/2024, v1.2b: Small update to the cover. Updated the Acknowledgments (a new muse, Romantic Rose; notes about Karl Jobst being a sexist bigot) and definitions to "Metroidvania as closed space," "Metroidvania." Various small corrections.

6/23/2024, v1.2a: Expanded on "[A Note about Rape/Rape Play](#)" to clarify and present its definitions on rape/rape play more clearly and quickly.

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6/14/2024, v1.2: Included two new chapters, "[In Search of the Secret Spell](#)" and "[Back to the Necropolis](#)." Made other various spelling/syntax corrections.

5/2/2024, v1.0a: Included the preface, "Written Afterwards" ([originally posted on my website](#)), in the module. Also expanded on it to critique Natalie Wynn, aka [Contrapoints](#). Expanded my Acknowledgements to include [Casper Clock](#) as a muse.

5/1/2024: Volume Two, part one went live on my website.

4/26/2024: Completed "Medieval Expression," the last chapter and originally written first/just called "Monsters, Magic and Myth" being expanded into seven subchapters; i.e., written up to the original, which I then expanded and divided into subdivisions and sub-subdivisions. Once it was finished, I did a recount of the Poetry Module:

approximate length ("), part one (the Poetry Module): ~185,000 words/~469 pages, ~346 unique images and 49 new exhibits

approximate length ("), part two (the Monster Modules): ~225,000 words/~666 pages and ~349 unique images

4/19/2024: I release the photobash "[Apocalypse](#)" and "Halfway There: Between Modules; or, Facing the Past to Move Forward, followed by "'That Ass Is a Higher Truth': Leaving the Castle; or, Bookending Harmony Corrupted" and its exhibits a day or so later. Over the next week, I go through "Brace for Impact," finishing the remaining subchapters/subdivisions.

4/18/2024: I release Harmony's [cover pages](#).

4/17/2024: I divide Volume Two into two halves, with the total approximate length being ~338,000 words/~945 pages and ~662 unique images. Volume Two, part one becomes the Poetry Module. As such, I've taken the "Brace for Impact" chapter after "Psychosexual Martyrdom" and made it a full module, aka the Poetry Module, aka "Brace for Impact: Harmony's Castle Black." From here, the module is ~113,000 words/~279 words, ~313 images in length. I continue writing it.

Over the next three weeks, I work on and release the sections as planned out, but also add new ones. First, Volume Two continues to expand as I finalize and proofread the first five or so pieces. I keep adding subchapters and subdivisions, until I finally stop counting at thirteen. "Brace for Impact" grows from a chapter into a module, whose median length of ~85,000 words, ~209 pages, ~139 images *Sex Positivity versus Sex Coercion, or Gothic Communism* by Persephone van der Waard; WIP changelog (v.93j) from final proofread-in-progress, 9/11/2024 —

and sixteen new exhibits (starting from a lower amount in early April that I can't remember) I liken to a novella in size.

4/26/2024: I release the book sample, "[Medieval Expression, part three / 'Out of this World, part two'](#)"

4/24/2024: I release the book sample, "[Medieval Expression, part three: Opening and 'Out of this World, part one'](#)"

4/23/2024: I release the book sample, "['The Fun Palace': Medieval Expression, part two](#)"

4/21/2024: I release the book sample, "['The Fun Palace': Opening and Medieval Expression, part one](#)"

4/16/2024: I release the book sample, "[The Medieval: 'Heaven in a Wild Flower'](#)"

4/15/2024: I release the book sample, "[The Medieval: Knocking on Heaven's Door](#)"

4/14/2024: I release the book sample, "[The Medieval: The Eyeball Zone](#)"

4/12/2024: I release the book sample, "[The Medieval: Green Eggs and Ha\(r\)m](#)"

4/10/2024: I release the book sample, "[The Medieval: Opening and Castles in the Flesh](#)"

4/6/2024: I release the book sample, "['Solving Riddles': Conflict and Liberation](#)"

4/6/2024 I release the book sample, "['Solving Riddles': Teaching and Coaching](#)"

4/4/2024 I release the book sample, "['Solving Riddles': Opening and Meeting Medusa](#)"

4/4/2024: I release the book sample, "[Angry Mothers](#)"

4/4/2024: I write and release the book sample (on my old blog), "[Prep, part one: Teaching](#)"—the Opening to "'My Quest Began with a Riddle': the Caterpillar and the Wasp"

4/3/2024: I decided to post blog posts onto my website, [the first being Harmony's dedication](#) and [her website page](#), as well as "[Brace for Impact](#)."

3/29/2024: I release the book sample (on my old blog), "[Prep, part zero: 'Time Is a Circle'; or, Expressing Reality through Gothic Poetry in Relation to Historical Materialism](#)."

3/27/2024: I release the book sample (on my old blog), "[Brace for Impact: Some Prep When Hugging the Alien](#)."

For the rest of March, I start expanding on "Brace for Impact."

Originally it was about ~22 pages at the start of Volume Two, preceded by "[Psychosexual Martyrdom](#)" and starting with (in no particular order) around the time I do a top to bottom proofread/expansion of the original Volume Two manuscript, followed by writing

- the original "Monsters, Magic and Myth"
- "'The Caterpillar'; or, What's to Come" (the conclusion to Volume Two, which became the conclusion to Volume Two, part two)
- "'Damsels, Detectives and Sex Demons,' part zero: Derelicts, Medusa and Giger's Xenomorph; i.e., the Puzzle of 'Antiquity'" (which became an essay in Volume Two, part two)
- the original "Brace for Impact" piece as just a small solo chapter to segue into the Monster Modules.

From there, I wrote the beginnings of the "Medicine," "Time," and "Teaching" chapters and "Facing Death: What I Learned," before expanding seriously on "Teaching" and "the Medieval" entering April.

3/10/2024: I write and release "[Book Sample: Psychosexual Martyrdom](#)," which was written based on the previous four pieces; on 4/9/2024, I decided to include it with "Braced for Impact"

3/9/2024: I write and release "[A Note About Canonical Essentialism](#)."

3/8/2024: I write and release "[Judas Priest: Invincible Shield and Zionism](#)."

2/29/2024: I write and release "[Bushnell's Requiem: An Ode to a Martyr](#)."  
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2/27/2024: I write and release "[Remember the Fallen: An Ode to Nex Benedict](#)."

2/25/2024: I reach out to Harmony on her Fansly.

2/24/2024: I released a book sample onto my blog "Book sample, "Maps and Monsters, Beowulf and Amazons"

### **Changelog (Volume One, aka the manifesto/instruction volume):**

2/29/2024, v1.02b: Expanded, for the third time, even more on the writing right before and inside exhibit 30a; i.e., focusing on the dogmatic role that neoliberal (cinematic and videogame) Amazons and Beowulf play in maintaining Capitalist Realism (which I decided [to upload as a small sample onto my blog](#)). Made mention of Nex Benedict in a small blog essay I wrote, "[Remember the Fallen: An Ode to Nex Benedict](#)" (2024). Changed Bay's dedication photo.

2/24/2024, v1.02a: Expanded even more on the writing right before and inside exhibit 30a; i.e., focusing on the dogmatic role that neoliberal (cinematic and videogame) Amazons and Beowulf play in maintaining Capitalist Realism (which I decided [to upload as a small sample onto my blog](#)).

2/23/2024, v1.02: Expanded on the writing right before and inside exhibit 30a; i.e., writing more about monomythic heroes as exterminators, destroyers and retrieval experts for the state, including Amazons in neoliberal propaganda like *Aliens* and *Metroid*.

2/20/2024, v1.01b: Expanded slightly on exhibits 8b2 and 30a (Amazonian racism and extermination tactics, both methods subjugating Amazons to have them chattelize nature on all fronts—black people at home and Communists and other state enemies abroad).

2/18/2024, v1.01a: Updated the "Manifesto/Instruction Volume Outline" to better reflect the volume's current structure.

2/14/2024: Released the first edition, v1.0, [onto my website](#).

### **Changelog (Volume Zero, aka the thesis volume):**

2/29/2024, v1.08b: Expanded, for the third time, even more on exhibit 1a1a1h2a1; i.e., focusing on the dogmatic role that neoliberal (cinematic and videogame)

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Amazons and Beowulf play in maintaining Capitalist Realism (which I decided [to upload as a small sample onto my blog](#)). Made mention of Nex Benedict in a small blog essay I wrote, "[Remember the Fallen: An Ode to Nex Benedict](#)" (2024).

2/24/2024, v1.08a: Expanded even more on exhibit 1a1a1h2a1; i.e., focusing on the dogmatic role that neoliberal (cinematic and videogame) Amazons and Beowulf play in maintaining Capitalist Realism (which I decided [to upload as a small sample onto my blog](#)).

2/23/2024, v1.08: Expanded on exhibit 1a1a1h2a1; i.e., writing more about monomythic heroes as exterminators, destroyers and retrieval experts for the state, including Amazons in neoliberal propaganda like *Aliens* and *Metroid*.

2/20/2024, v1.07i: Expanded on exhibit 1a1a1h2a1 to discuss the hero during Tolkien and Cameron's refrain (the videogame map of conquest) as a bourgeois exterminator, destroyer and retrieval expert.

1/28/2024, v1.07f: Some small spelling mistakes and tweaks in anticipation for Volume One's release; expanded on doubles in several places, including "Pieces of the Camp Map."

1/18/2024, v1.07e: Fixed a cover image formatting error, made various spelling mistakes throughout the volume; added a new footnote and corrected various footnote formatting errors.

1/2/2024, v1.07d: Additional spelling mistakes, and added more photographs. Updated the cover to credit Bay Ryan.

12/22/2023, v1.07c: Updated the author's foreword to include additional mentions regarding fat positivity versus fat liberation. Expanded the Acknowledgements section to account for several new muses (Sinead and Crow), and other various artists and models who have joined the project. Fixed some small spelling/grammatical mistakes throughout the manuscript.

12/18/2023, v1.07b: Revised the abstract and the rest of the paratextual documents to reflect changes made in anticipation with Volume One's release. Made various spelling and organization corrections. Included additional photos and illustrations.

11/30/2023, v1.07a: Added several more definitions and illustrations to the "essential keywords" paratext and companion glossary, namely menticide/waves of terror. Corrected some small errors.

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11/28/2023, v1.07: Added several paragraphs about fat acceptance and positivity to the author's foreword; added several definitions on sexual orientation (e.g., "heterosexuality") to the "essential terms" sub-chapter and keyword glossary. Additional proofreading and correcting of small errors.

11/5/2023, v1.06a: Fixed numerous broken links. Edited the glossary slightly.

11/3/2023, v1.06: Included a small paratextual section titled "Illustrating Mutual Consent." Also tweaked the Volume Summaries section and added several photos elsewhere in the volume for variety.

10/27/2023, v1.05: Added a few images. Also transferred part of a section from Volume One (the manifesto) about the Six Doubles (of oppositional praxis) to a section in this volume: "Pieces of the Camp Map (from the Manifesto Tree)." I knew I had mentioned the Six Doubles in Volume Zero, but had forgotten that I originally waited to include their full definitions until Volume One. I decided to reverse that decision.

10/12/2023, v1.03: Put a list of the Gothic-Marxist tenets (the Six Rs) and four main Gothic theories (the Four Gs) in the paratextual documents; also updated the "Concerning My Audience" paratext to include more information about the books' art and reading order—i.e., you can read Volume One first or the thesis volume first, depending on your reading level.

10/11/2023, v1.02: Included the Volume Summaries paratext, tweaked some footnotes.

10/9/2023, v.1.01: Made some small spelling corrections in a particular section; also made a note about thinking of the thesis volume as "Volume Zero" in relation to Volumes One, Two, and Three (updated the front cover to reflect this).

10/8/2023, v1.0: the final proofread is completely finished, as are the last of the last-minute changes. The final thesis volume wordcount (again, not including the first disclaimer, title page, abstract, symposium and glossary) totals ~191k words and 250 images.



(artist: [Persephone van der Waard](#))

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## Changelog Leading up to Volume Zero's Release (12/24/2022-10/8/2023)

10/8/2023: Released the first edition of the thesis volume [on my website](#).

10/4/2023: The final proofread for my thesis volume is mostly done totaling at ~177k words and 226 images (I have 63 pages left to proofread, and that should be done by today or tomorrow). Partly the volume grew a lot because I had to write several sections to fit the glossary back into the book (to be able to use the heading system to link to keywords I didn't have time to define); I also added in fun bits as I went—e.g., roasting Ann Radcliffe in a hypomanic fit. I'm still planning on releasing it this first week of October. I'm not sure if I'll have time to proofread the rest of the book by Halloween, but I might try and focus on getting Volume Two polished and up by then (seeing as its full of monsters). We'll see!

Update, 9/20/2023: I also updated my website [to include a one-page promo for the book](#), and it contains all relevant information/download links: the companion glossary and full table of contents, but also my thesis volume when it releases on the 25th. That's correct; the thesis statement has become its own thesis volume, which debuts on my website (through the hyperlink above), September 25th. It will contain my expanded author's foreword, and provide my book's thesis statement on Gothic (gay-anarcho) Communism, as well as the "camp map" and symposium, which together summarize and articulating its broadest and most common arguments and key points (e.g., the Gothic, monstrous-feminine, Amazonomachia).

Writing the thesis volume has been... something. Not including the symposium, which was mostly written before 8/31—or the disclaimer "Defining Sexualized Media/Sex Work, and Regarding Hard Kinks: What I Will and Won't Exhibit," which is new but not restricted to the thesis volume—I decided to expand my author's foreword and smaller thesis statement/"camp map" into full versions of themselves. This has been an extremely rapid process. To put things into perspective, as of 9/13/2023 (six years to the day I arrived in England to study at MMU), the thesis volume's renovations clocked in at 74,445 words. That is, from 8/31 to 9/6 to 9/13, my thesis statement went from 5,000 words to ~25,000 to ~75,000, or nearly an additional 70,000 (and 102 images, ~40 of which are full-fledged exhibits) in two weeks. As of 9/20/2023, the thesis volume wordcount (not including the symposium) is ~106k words, and 155 images. The entire thesis volume word counter (as of writing this) is 123,643 and 180 images/~50 collages. I also designed new cover art to go with the volume, featuring my partner Bay:



Lastly, I updated my book sample on here so it only has the manifesto on it; the thesis statement was outdated and will be uploaded in its final form when it debuts my website.

9/6/2023: I updated my thesis again, writing a ~11,000 word "camp map" that talks about camping canon to subvert heteronormativity's harmful effects (including Capitalism Realism) and a thesis conclusion that wraps everything up. All in all, I wrote about ~20,000 words in six days (from 8/31 to 9/6) expanding on my initial thesis statement (not including the symposium, which is another ~17,000 words, though I'm not sure how much of it was new or old material before/after 8/31). The base argumentation didn't change; it was more like building a pearl around sand—to include as many key points and arguments that I could. I also wrote a "cheat sheet," whose heads-up (comprehension pointers) and assemblage of maxims, equations and cherry-picked block quotes from the thesis/"camp map" covers some of my book's most productive and widely-used ideas. Lastly, I decided today that sending links that break whenever I update uploaded new versions of the uploaded file is a bad idea: [Click here to access my website's 1-page promo, which contains all relevant download links/information regarding my book.](#)

Update, 9/4/2023: I overhauled my thesis statement, not changing its argumentation but making it and the symposium longer and more detailed. Because of this, I have decided to remove the sample essay and *Sex Positivity versus Sex Coercion, or Gothic Communism* by Persephone van der Waard; WIP changelog (v.93j) from final proofread-in-progress, 9/11/2024 —  
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glossary [from my book sample blogpost](#). The solo glossary has been reposted on my website as a companion text PDF and will be updated one more time when my book goes live on Halloween; the sample essay will be included in Volume One when it releases. I also made a PDF for the volume/chapter summaries and full table of contents. —Perse, 9/4/2023

8/31/2023: I decided to write a thesis statement/turn my author's foreword from Volume One into a symposium (basically a fancy lecture) that unpacks my book's core argumentation and discusses/unpacks things in between the thesis statement, preface (which explains why I picked anarcho-Communism over Marxist-Leninism) and manifesto. The thesis statement [is included inside the book sample on my blog](#), but you can also download it separately from my website. The solo thesis statement on my website includes an additional paragraph at the top, which reads:

"Dear readers,

Small spelling goofs and syntax/grammatical errors aside, this is my finished thesis statement to my upcoming book, Sex Positivity vs Sex Coercion, or Gothic Communism: Liberating Sex Work under Capitalism through Iconoclastic Art (eta October 31st, 2023; you can read [a blog post containing most of the first volume](#) on my old blog, including the abstract, disclaimer, table of contents, full foreword, preface, manifesto, and sample essay). Like all good thesis writing, my thesis statement is merely the rewording/summation of my book after I wrote, titled and organized it, in turn organizing my thesis sentence, paragraph, and statement to be the best distillation of my chief aims and arguments as they presently exist; i.e., getting to the bottom and returning to the coda in endless repetition until things were nicely refined. As I have been updating my sample blogpost online and final manuscript offline repeatedly to have the best thesis statement/essay that I can, I wanted to provide the (for all intents and purposes) finished thesis statement on my website ([vanderWaardart.com](#)) as a matter of historical record. As of completing it and writing this paragraph, the current time is 1:42 AM (central mountain time) and the date is 8/31/2023, roughly two months before Halloween (the timestamp on my website upload will be slightly later, of course).

Yours,

—Persephone van der Waard"



8/26/2023: I decided to finally design a logo for my book's ideology, Gothic (gay-anarcho) Communism. The details [are included in this blogpost](#) (the full PNGs for the Gothic [gay-anarcho] Communism logo by itself—with three different versions [full version w/flame and w/o flame, and the "skeleton key" simplified version] are available [on my DA Stash](#)). As such, I've updated my volume cover illustrations and inner-sleeve book cover.

(model and cover designer: [Blxxd Bunny](#) and [Persephone van der Waard](#))

Update, 8/20/2023: Since my last update, I've sign-posted the book a ton, providing cross-volume threads for various terms and dichotomies (subversive vs regressive Amazonomachia; impostor syndrome, monstrous-feminine, sodomy, and war personified, etc). As a result, the book has grown nearly 100,000 words and increased by over 130 new illustrations (510,000 words and 756 as of writing this update); it is also currently too large to upload as a single pdf, so I will be uploading it in separate three volumes (similar to Lord of the Rings). Each volume will have a unique bookend, courtesy of my good friend, Blxxd Bunny, who modeled extensively for the book. I have six weeks until the end of September and will be doing the last of my book's illustrations. After these are completed, I will be spending the entirety of October doing a final proofread. The book goes live on Halloween!

7/25/2023: Lots of changes since my last update!

- First, I met someone while accepting submissions for illustration collabs. They're a queer sex worker named [Bay](#) and the inspiration I received from their contribution of ideas, feedback, ref material (and all-around sweetness) led to an explosion of additional exhibits: over 50 collages, amounting to

*Sex Positivity versus Sex Coercion, or Gothic Communism* by Persephone van der Waard; WIP changelog (v.93j) from final proofread-in-progress, 9/11/2024 —  
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more than 25% of my total collages; as well as countless written changes, anecdotes, critical insights, pop culture nods and more!

- Second, I've updated the Acknowledgments section a fair bit; I've also included more definitions to my glossary, focusing on game theory beyond just Metroidvania and adding excerpts from my own extensive research/corpus (while crediting everyone that I can).
- Third, I've spent a lot of time collabing with different sex workers and models; the window for submitting ref material lasted from late April to mid-July and I ended up arranging ten-or-so collabs for the book. The drawings for these are still in-progress, but I have all the ref material (and relative agreements written down) and am slowly working through them. To be safe, I'm giving myself the next couple of months to do the rest of the outstanding drawings, with an extended deadline of Halloween at the very latest to get as much polishing in as I possibly can!
- Fourth, I updated the cover art, featuring the always-amazing Blxxd Bunny on Sex Positivity's front and back (and a few more exhibits of them inside the book for good measure) with the original (and busier) cover design put on the inner sleeve.
- Fifth, I annotated all of the citations in my book yesterday—from YouTube videos, essays, PDF files, tweets, articles not English, and more—and added a ton of block quotes. It was one of the final writing steps and generally one I don't do until near the end because it requires so much small-detail writing to include the quotes and respond to them.

Still need to go through the whole manuscript and check for small, super-tiny mistakes, but other than that and finishing the outstanding illustrations, the manuscript is about done for now... probably. I know, I know—I've said that more than once, now! But it would be very difficult for me to add more material on top of what I already have (the manuscript is 441k words and has currently has 618 images); I'd rather release the book without any more substantial writing revisions, then do a smaller follow-up/extension section later that covers areas I missed/want to go into more detail about (e.g., space aliens/flying saucers, cowgirls, steampunk hauntologies, etc). That's the plan, anyways!

In my book, I'm touching upon my Metroidvania research. So I finally wanted to share my master's thesis. It was accepted by MMU in at the end of 2018 and I've since expanded on my research, but I wanted to have the original document available online as a matter of public interest and historical record. [Give it a look if you're curious!](#)

4/8/2023: I've reached a milestone of sorts editing my full manuscript! Originally my Humanities primer was structured around generalized language: dreams, sight, *Sex Positivity versus Sex Coercion, or Gothic Communism* by Persephone van der Waard; WIP changelog (v.93j) from final proofread-in-progress, 9/11/2024 —



reflection, blindness, transformation and revival. I've since retailored its focus onto monsters. Each section is about the poetic history of a different monster type (the undead: zombies, vampires, ghosts, and composite bodies; the demonic: summoned demons and demons tied to nature) with an emphasis on humanizing said monster through sex work during oppositional praxis. The idea of the primer is to learn from the past when fighting present-day worker exploitation through our own labor, self-expression and creative output. It was a really big section to get through (~61,000 words) and I hadn't looked at it in a while. Now that I've restructured it top to bottom, I want to start the final edit for the primer, including illustrations. After that, I'll be going through the second half of the book (which I actually wrote first) and adding more drawings and collabs with sex workers.

3/2/2023: I've decided to extend my deadline again. Honestly the editing is going fine, but I keep getting sick and frankly there's a ton of work I still want to do, proofreading everything until I feel happy with it. It's getting there, but it's hard to quantify exactly how much work is needed. All I can say for sure is that if I keep working on it every day (for 4-8 hours, if I can help it) then it should be finished-finished in the next couple of months. I can't say anything more than that with any degree of certainty and frankly making sure I'm happy with the entire book feels far more important than finishing it on a particular date (e.g., Valentine's, the ides of March, Easter, etc).

2/26/2023: Editing the blogpost and everything inside it is basically dunzo! I could probably go over it one more time, but I need basically all of the next three weeks to finish proofreading the remaining ~175k(!) words of the final manuscript (~232k in total). Granted, a lot of that—especially everything in Volume Two—has already been proofread more than the manifesto was, but it's still going to be a bear to get through!

2/14/2023: I've removed the rest of the manuscript —most of Volumes One and Two—from this blog.

2/19/2023: To make the book sample more pared down and accessible, I've removed the Table of Contents abstract and placed the Handy-Dandy Glossary to the back of the blogpost. The glossary's secondary terms are all germane to my book's thesis, but are largely explored beyond just my manifesto. Meanwhile, the manifesto is entirely self-contained and expanded upon by the rest of the book. So I wanted to keep my manifesto front and center in this blogpost, but also include the glossary for you to refer to at your leisure (the glossary will be placed in front of the manifesto in the final, published version of my book, however).

2/13/2023: No longer sick and the book is shaping up alright. The deadline has been extended as I can't finish the proofread on time (will do a post about it later. Need sleep). However, the bulk of the writing is done but the book is nearly impossible to edit. I've transferred over everything to Word to spend the next couple weeks just formatting and proof and focusing on packaging it. :)

2/10/2023: I am sick, but it's just a stomach bug (I hope and pray). I am at the point where I cannot add anything new and still finish by the deadline. Even if I edit until the last minute, it's gonna be close. See you all after Valentine's!

2/05/2023: My friend is here and I'm sticking to my Valentine's Day deadline. The book is mostly finished, but I'm just adding extra stuff for fun. Nothing major-major, but more signposts for the uninitiated can't hurt. From the title page to the start of Chapter One is ~82k words; Chapters One through Five of Volume Two and the Conclusion of the entire book is ~114k words. The total word count is ~196k words. There's currently 369 drawings (nice) and 100+ exhibits. So quite girthy but the nature of this work is inclusive. The more monsters the merrier! Gotta correct the exhibit numbers again, though!

1/30/2023: Today is the 19th draft of my manuscript and was the last day I'll be making any serious additions. From today forward, I will only be proofreading, making formatting changes, and doing artwork for the book! The versions on my blog are censored, but the published version on my website will include the uncensored variants. <3

1/25/2023: This is the Rubycon (the Tangerine Dream version, not that silly river Caesar crossed). The total word count has reached 158k words. 53k of that are the Abstract, Disclaimer, Table of Contents, Foreword, and all of Volume One. I'm making the decision to call it there, as I need time to edit the manuscript and correct its (many) spelling/syntax errors. A friend is coming to visit on the 4th; they'll be staying for a week. I'd like to have the manuscript fully proofread by then, and any additional drawings finished. The manuscript will stay up on my blog. However, on Valentine's Day I will also be sharing the finished manuscript with all of the completed artwork on my website, where you can download a free PDF of the book itself.

1/18/2023: Still writing! I converted the preface into a clearly defined volume, preceded by a manifesto, a smaller preface, then the body of work that makes up the volume itself as a kind of "Humanities" primer that pertains to the proletarian praxis of Volume Two. I'm also making changes to the second volume, editing the later chapters in particular, adding more exhibits. The word count is now over 141k

words, but this is also a two-volume work—effectively two books written to be read, understood, and practiced together.

1/15/2023: I've honed/expanded on the Preface, Introduction and Conclusion, and included more Gothic stuff and poetry and other things that make up this project as being a part of me, from me; I've clarified the book title as "Gothic Communism" (so I'll need to redesign the cover); I've added fancier chapter titles more in spirit with an academic "fun" flavor. I still need to go through the chapters again, but everything up to Chapter 1 largely feels dunzo; Chapters 2 and 3 feel like they need small touch-ups; and Chapters 4 and 5 feel like they need the most work. We'll see how things go but the new-new planned deadline is Valentine's Day (a celebration of love, but also the day my abusive ex physically kicked me out for calling them out on their mental abuse) and I feel like I'm going to be able to finish the manuscript and illustrations in time. We'll see!

1/8/2023: The writing of the book's preface is finished, and I've been sign-posting my arguments and expanding on various chapter subsections to make sure everything connects nicely and flows smoothly. I don't foresee any more major writing additions to be included, but still have to edit the last two chapters to match up with all the recent additions. At this rate, I expect the manuscript to be fully completed, "Fonz approved" in the next week. However, I still need to finish the illustrations, of which I have three more planned. So the new planned deadline is slated for the end of the month. Fingers crossed!

12/24/2022: I'm currently designing some cover art, bumper art, and additional artwork to go with the big release. I'm going to try and finish it before New Years, but more than likely it will be done a week into January. Once completed, I will be putting the final product [onto my website](#). Excited to show you all the final product! :)



(artist: [Persephone van der Waard](#))

## Records before 12/24/2022 (back to 07/22/2022)

The project started on July 22nd, 2022. But before 12/24/2022, I didn't keep a precise record of what I changed or altered. What details I did keep are limited to this 4/8/2023 blogpost:

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As many of you know by now, I've been working since July 2022 on a book called *Sex Positivity vs Sex Coercion, or Gothic Communism*. [A large, semi-censored sample—including my manifesto—is currently available on the original blogpost](#). That post initially started as a smaller article, but has gradually turned into a full-blown book—containing multiple volumes and dozens of personal illustrations made in collaboration with various sex workers. I haven't made a new blogpost since August for several reasons:

- I've been working on the book non-stop.
- I had been using my blog for months to proofread and alter the manuscript—partly because I wanted to share the process with people and partly because I was hesitant to carry the project over to my personal computer (Blogger isn't the friendliest when it comes to transferring documents).
- I wanted to keep attention on the project as I was creating it (as I wasn't promoting it as much through my artwork at the time).

Around December of last year, the manuscript was around 50,000 words. After January it was over 100,000, requiring me to move the document over to my personal computer. As I write this, the book currently stands at 271,000 words.

To be honest, I never planned on *Sex Positivity* becoming so big. It's less of a single book now and more a series of smaller books/modules and illustrations. Regardless, I am quite pleased with the project despite having to extend the deadline multiple times. I'm currently shooting for June (my birthday month) but am trying not to rush things. I didn't finish the book for New Year's, Valentine's, the Ides of March or Easter, so if I don't finish it on June 1st, that's ok; I am absolutely loving the journey of writing and illustrating it.

Initially I was just writing the book on my blogpost, not illustrating it. That is, I wasn't really including my own art or promoting the book itself with my art. Now that the book is much further along, I've retailored my drawing approach

- using it to renovate dozens of old pieces to be included in the book.
- collaborating with more and more sex workers to model for new illustrations and collages. At first, it was just a handful of old friends/collaborators like Krispy Tofuu and [Meowing from Hell](#), but

I've since invited lots of new talent to participate. This includes [Blood Bunny](#) on Twitter, [Quinnvincible](#), [Lustful Angel](#) and others!

The combined artwork has been used to promote *Sex Positivity* on my various galleries and social media accounts, while also inviting more people to join in the creative process. The need for large amounts of artwork, short-notice, has led me to get creative when working with photos and old gallery pieces. While I've focused on touch-ups, photobashes and other shortcuts that don't sacrifice the creative vision I have in mind, it's also had the unintended side effect of allowing me to blaze a trail through my own galleries (something I've wanted to do for years)!

To summarize, most of the writing for the book is completed, but there's still a lot of artwork to do. I've finished the last "big step" in writing the manuscript (see the update log, below) and really want to spend the next couple of months doing new illustrations. I have quite a few drawings that I'm currently working on, but am also planning many more. I can't quote the exact number I'll be adding. Volume One—the first half of the book—has tons of exhibits, already; Volume Two—which I wrote first, before I started illustrating the book heavily—features plenty of artwork by other artists, but not as many drawings or exhibits by me. To compensate, Volume Two's writing is more polished at this stage, but I want to include more exhibits and collaborative pieces to round things out. The more, the merrier, as they say! ([source](#): "Big Book Update: Writing is Mostly Finished; Focusing on Illustrations!").