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Bound: A Daughter, a Domme, and an End-of-Life Story
By Dr. Elizabeth Anne Wood

**THE THINGS WE DON'T TALK ABOUT WHEN WE DISCUSS
AGING AND CAREGIVING**

"Sex, death, and family are some of the hardest topics for any writer to take on. Elizabeth Wood gracefully and fearlessly explores all three in this moving memoir."
~ Lux Alptraum, author and sex positivity activist

Sex and death are heavy topics. They are even weightier when one is addressing them with care and compassion in relation to a loved one struggling with a serious illness. In ***Bound: A Daughter, a Domme, and an End-of-Life Story*** [She Writes Press, August 2019], Elizabeth Anne Wood, PhD, explores a fascinating array of power dynamics as she cares for her dying mother, Judy. Dr. Wood finds herself navigating the usual challenges associated with balancing patient advocacy and the daughterly emotions one associates with caring for a terminally ill parent. But, different from many daughters, Wood also prioritizes her mother's right to enjoy her sexuality as long as possible – and to make her story even more unconventional, that sexuality happens to include BDSM.

Through Wood's insightful prose, we grapple with a complicated mother/daughter relationship; the relationship between a patient, her advocate, her healthcare providers and the insurance industry – tied between the romantic and sexual relationship between a dominant woman (Judy) and her submissive partner (Kenny) in the BDSM community. Wood weaves these themes together with clarity, honesty, and humor.

Approximately 34 million Americans served as unpaid caregivers to adults aged 50 or older in the last 12 months according to the Family Caregiver Alliance. Forty-two percent of those people were caring for a parent. According to a study by the University

of Chicago, more than three-quarters of American men and half of women aged 75 to 85 express interest in sex. This creates a Venn diagram of aging parents who need care from an adult child while also needing freedom to enjoy their sexuality (This group is increasingly active and visible in the BDSM community thanks to online networks and to places like Chicago's SINS Center, "The Midwest's Destination for Fetish Exploration," which identifies half its clientele as being over 55). The fact that aging parents are still sexually active while receiving regular care from their adult children necessitates some potentially uncomfortable conversations.

Wood was uniquely prepared to not only face but also help facilitate her mother's life as a Domme (dominant partner) because of her training in the sociology of gender and sexuality and her particular sex-positive feminist orientation. Her sociological training also helped her navigate a complex and frustrating medical-industrial complex while managing her own conflicting roles as daughter and medical advocate. In ***Bound***, she shares these experiences and the lessons she learned from them with an ever-growing audience of caregivers, and older adults who want to protect their sexual freedom in the face of illness and the physical changes that come with advanced age.

"The US health care system does a remarkably poor job dealing with sexuality and with death," says Dr. Wood. "Death is avoided often because it is seen as failure in a system focused on cures, and too often this system doesn't see people as whole, but rather as clusters of symptoms. We each – regardless of our age or the condition of our bodies – have unique sexualities and deserve to be seen as whole people, as people deserving of respect, pleasure, intimacy, and affection."

ABOUT ELIZABETH ANNE WOOD:

Elizabeth Anne Wood is a SUNY Chancellors Award-winning Professor of Sociology at Nassau Community College in Garden City, NY. She is also Senior Strategist for Woodhull Freedom Foundation, the nation's only human rights organization working full time to protect sexual freedom as a fundamental human right. She earned her Ph.D. at Brandeis University in 1999 for a study of gender, power, and social interaction in strip clubs, and has written critically about sexuality and society ever since.

Born on an Army base in Kentucky, she grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia and now divides her time between Queens, New York and Jamaica Plain, Boston. She is a devoted fan of Amtrak, and an avowed cat person.



Connect with Dr. Wood at ElizabethAnneWood.com, facebook.com/ElizabethAnneWoodAuthor, twitter.com/elizabethsitps and instagram.com/elizabeth.anne.wood/

Bound: A Daughter, a Domme, and an End of Life Story will be released in August 2019, and available wherever books are sold.

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