

Does avoiding S&M make me dull in bed?

gay about town

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Am I boring in bed? I find myself wondering this whenever I see my friend Saul, whose adventurous sexual attitude puts mine to shame.

We were having dinner in Waterloo last week when he told me with boyish enthusiasm about a recent session he had with a kinky investment banker he met online.

This prolonged encounter involved nipple clamps, gags, silk rope, miniature electric jump leads and, for comic relief, a bucket's worth of butterscotch Angel Delight.

That might sound rather grisly but Saul, as ever, ate it all with gusto. In comparison, pretty much everything I've ever done in bed is tame. My standard sexual routines seem about as racy as the *Hokey Cokey*.

But regretting this would be silly. While I'm impressed by the inventiveness with which people get their kicks – from fetishism to sadomasochistic sex (both gay and straight) – if it's not your bag, you just can't fake it.

I've come across guys who want to be "taught a lesson" in the bedroom, and I have obligingly enhanced the "slap" component of our slap

and tickle. With one exceedingly hot one, I found that his excitement at being subjected to some light rough-housing was actually enough to get me keen too.

But generally, if, like me, you don't normally get juiced up by being submissive or dominant, this sort of sex is as boring as filling out a tax return, and it can be bloody uncomfortable too.

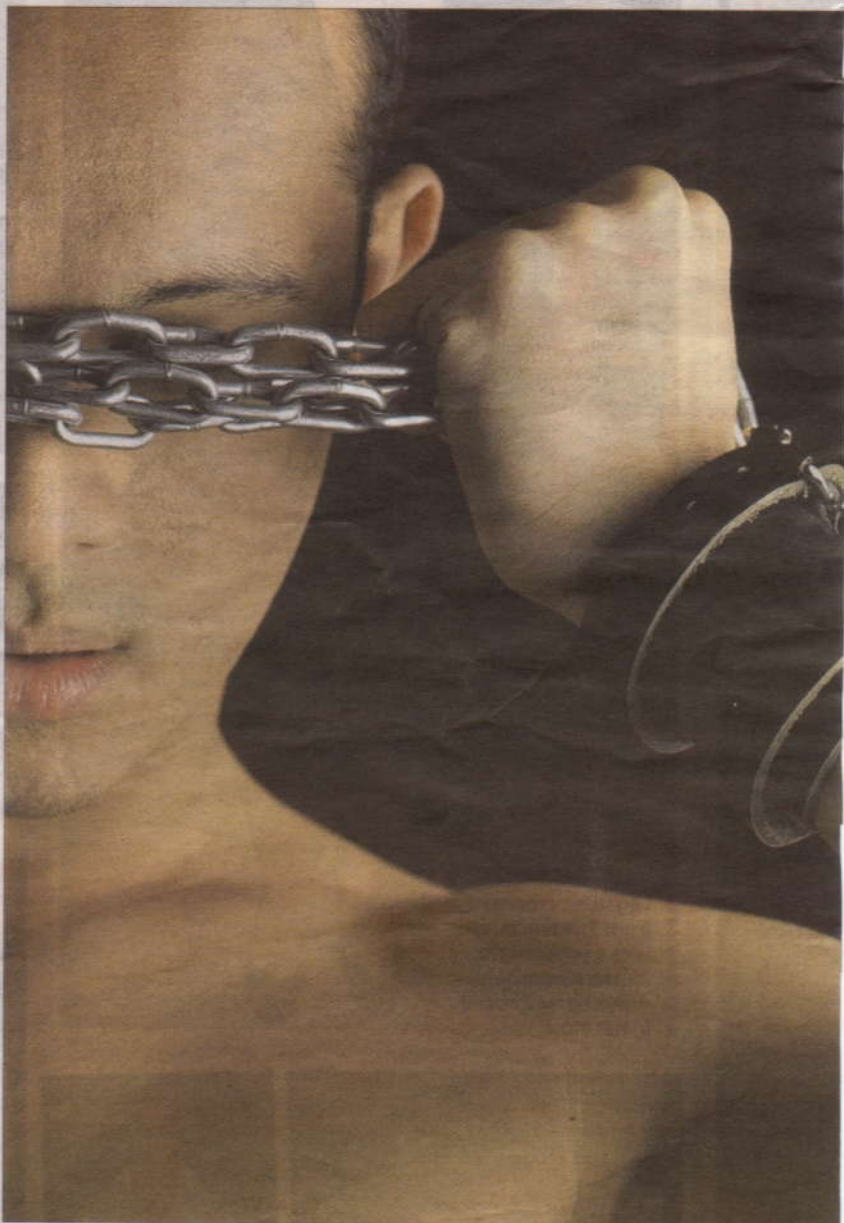
Still, focusing too much on the nuts and bolts of kinky sex probably disguises the fact that it's not that different from any other type (and can be just as tender in its way).

What Saul found so exciting about his wild weekend was how everything he did gave him an intense, visceral connection with his boot-clad banker.

And while many of us might shy away from S&M, isn't an intense bond what we're all looking for? Even though my sexual tastes are relatively rudimentary, I feel just as connected as Saul did with guys I sleep with.

It's that connection – not any particular activity – which keeps sex lively. Might that mean I'm not so boring after all? I hope so.

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