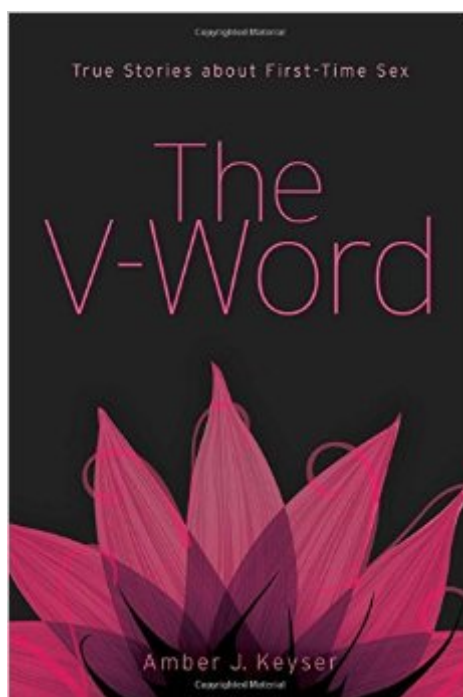


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# The V-Word: True Stories About First-Time Sex



## 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

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 *ACTUALLY* 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 *ACTUALLY* "hot, meaningful, cringe-worthy, gross, forgettable, magnificent, empowering, and transformative. Whether you *ACTUALLY* re diving in or whether you *ACTUALLY* 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!

For the full version of this review as well as other reviews and features, go to [sleepsontables.com](http://sleepsontables.com). \*I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. \*I want to start this review off by saying that I am not the biggest contemporary fan, lately I've found myself bored with them and reaching for the fantasies. However, there's one aspect to contemporaries that I am a sucker for and that is the real life and real issues brand of contemporary novels. These novels can best be described using authors like Jay Asher, Ellen Hopkins and Christa Desir. These books involve the real difficult parts of life that people seem to want to push under the rug. That's why I was immediately interested in The V-Word, because of the attention it calls to something that's generally hushed up. Even better about The V-Word is that it's not a fiction book about real life but it's a nonfiction book featuring real stories from real people about their experiences with this topic. Sex and virginity is such a loaded topic when it comes to young adults. Often times in high school if you're a girl and you have sex, you're automatically considered a slut. However at the same time you could be a girl and not have sex and you'd be labeled a prude. Now if it's a guy who's having sex, he'd probably be congratulated and a guy who's not having sex might be the butt of all the jokes. The V-Word brings to attention the different situations that every person goes through when they have their first sexual experience. It shows you the good, the bad, the sad, the happy, and the unexpected. The V-Word is very important because of its focus on showing that there really is no normal to this sort of thing. As teenagers we grow up seeing movies and TV shows where the first time is romantic and sweet and perfect, just how we imagined and this becomes something that can be harmful to our psyche. We go into things expecting this grand thing but something else entirely happens and we're uncomfortable and don't know what to do. Some of the stories in The V-Word

tell how the unexpected things happened and how you can deal with them. Another great part about The V-Word is that it shows us the different types of sexual experiences between different types of people. These stories are all very LGBTQ friendly with multiple authors sharing their personal experiences that are way outside of the norm that aren't often presented to teenagers through either media or education. No one really teaches about gay sex or trans sex and so the stories in The V-Word that deal with this are ground-breaking in informing young people who identify with these categories how varied their experiences can be as well. The V-Word is very empowering. It teaches that the word virgin isn't as important as the word voice. Once you find your voice, you can determine how and if you want your experience to happen. If you find your voice and don't let the word virgin control you, you can find what you want and do what you want not just as it pertains to this experience, but also as it pertains to any and every other life experience. Each and every short story in The V-Word will mean something to you in one way or another. You will find yourself identifying with different things and different people. You might even find yourself relating to something that you didn't expect. The knowledge that The V-Word bestows upon its readers is priceless. I think that this is a book that all teenagers should read. It can teach so many lessons to so many people and it can even just open a teen's eyes if their education is lacking. This is an important experience and even though it doesn't have to rule your life, it should still be given a semblance of significance because it has multiple potential negative outcomes if it's not taken seriously. Review in Review: I really liked The V-Word. It's a book that I think teenagers should read. Too often young people get a grand idea built up in their head about how something is supposed to turn out, but when reality hits and it happens, they're not sure what to do. This book shows the vast variety of possible situations out there and it teaches how to be ready and different ways to handle it using real life experiences.

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