Sex, Power and Consent: Youth Culture and the Unwritten Rules draws on the real world stories and experiences of young women and young men – as told in their own words – regarding love, sex, relationships and negotiating consent. Judicious reference to feminist and sociological theory underpins explicit connections between young people’s lived experience and current international debates. Issues surrounding youth sex within popular culture, sexuality education and sexual violence prevention are thoroughly explored.

In a clear, incisive and eminently readable manner, Anastasia Powell develops a compelling framework for understanding the ‘unwritten rules’ and the gendered power relations in which sexual negotiations take place. Ultimately Sex, Power and Consent provides practical strategies for young people, and those working with them, toward the prevention of sexual violence.

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...a terrific book: really well-written and very engaging, full of useful, cogently expressed ideas about what is going on with young people and sex right now and how things might be improved. I think it has the capacity to make an important intervention and a strong impact, in part because it moves so well across fields and therefore would have a wide readership, and in part because it addresses so many pressing current issues"

- Anita Harris, Associate Professor, Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, University of Queensland

I started seeing this guy and he knew I hadn’t had sex before and I wanted to wait and I wanted to, you know I wanted it to be special and everything ... And in the end, I can only just remember before and then remember seeing him on top of me and then after it was over, I panicked...

‘Grace’ a 21 year old woman living in metropolitan Melbourne

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