BECOMING A DOM · CHAPTER 7

Your first sub

A first sub is a person with a bank account who agreed to a game. This chapter covers the frame, the limit, the consent conversation, and how to let him go.

ENTRY D7 CATEGORY BECOMING A DOM CHECKED 3 NOVEMBER 2026
READING 8 MIN STEPS 6



EVIDENCE ◆ Reported ◆ Vivian's field notes

This chapter is not advice for your situation.

IN 30 SECONDS

01 Put your rules and limits in writing, in front of him before the first send.

02 The sub types his own limit while he's calm. Nobody raises it in the middle of a session, and he can raise it only after a wait.

03 Ask what he wants, accept the answer, and accept "not today".

04 Be harsh inside the scene and kind outside it. Never chase.

05 When a sub is in debt or in distress, the money part stops and outside help starts.

YOU WILL LEARN

- ✓ What to show a sub before any money moves.
- ✓ How to start small, with a limit he sets and a stop that works at once.
- ✓ How to hold a consent conversation, and which answers to accept.
- ✓ Which control habits to recognise and refuse, even when a mentor uses them.
- ✓ How to let a sub leave well.

> *I treat a first sub as a person with real money before anything else. Keep three things and most other mistakes stay small: he sees the rules before the money, he types his own limit, and he can leave whenever he wants.*
>
> — VIVIAN

STEP 01 OF 06

Before the first message: your frame

A first sub should see your rules before any money moves. Write down what you keep, what you throw out, what you never do and how a sub stops the game, and put it where he can read it before he writes to you. ◆

Your limits go in the persona file, and not only in your head. Mine rule out meetings, cameras and voice, anything involving minors or child-like characters, chasing people, and crossing a sub's real limits. Anything that touches real life gets a refusal, and so does a sub who starts talking about meeting. ◆

A paying sub isn't owed every request, and you can refuse a scene you can't play. ◆

VIVIAN'S FIELD NOTES

I never chase. The sub comes to me and I don't follow up. That keeps the game voluntary and takes the pressure off both of us.

◆

Every sub is an adult. If anything suggests otherwise, end the contact and take no money. Never take a sub's name, card number, password, login code or remote access. A dom who asks for them has stopped playing, and the same request is how a lot of scams start. See Spot a fake dom. ◆

A first conversation, in order

0 OF 6 DONE

- [ ] 01 Show the frame: what you do, what you refuse, and how to stop.
- [ ] 02 Ask for his limits as a short list of yes, maybe and no, and go over it again from time to time.
- [ ] 03 Ask him to type his limit while he's calm, before any send.
- [ ] 04 Agree a safety word or a plain phrase that ends the scene at once.
- [ ] 05 Agree one small first step.
- [ ] 06 Check in when it's over.

Tick the lines as you go. Your ticks stay on this page only and clear when you leave it.

STEP 02 OF 06

The first send and the limit

Start at the bottom, with the smallest item on your wishlist. The sub types the limit himself, while he's calm, before the session. It's held outside his own head: a limit at his bank or on his card, a tool that enforces it, or a person he trusts. You honour it and never invite him past it. A limit typed in the middle of a session is weak. It goes up only after a wait. A tribute buys nothing, so don't promise anything in return that you won't deliver. ◆

A dom who lets a sub skip the limit, or invites him past it because he keeps insisting, has moved from play to harm. When he insists, tighten the limit. Never lift it. ◆

Say in advance when a sub must not send and what happens if he does. In my experience a mild “please stop” said once doesn’t hold. A rule stated early, with a consequence you’ll really carry out, does. ◆

A sub who says money is short, or that he’s gone over his month, ends the money part for that evening. ◆ If you’re wrong to doubt him, he pays for it. If you’re wrong to believe him, you lose one evening.

Don’t take a send from a sub who’s drunk, exhausted or upset. ◆ One first-person account raises a consent concern about a client who takes on credit-card debt. ◆

Never ask for a sum. The only ceiling is the limit he set, and what he sends is his own decision. Nothing you do should be aimed at drawing it out of him. ◆

TRY IT

Your sub keeps sending after you asked him to stop

You told him once to stop sending tonight. He sends again and writes that he doesn't mind.

A Accept it. He's an adult and he said he's fine.

Not this one. His insistence is the warning. A limit and a stop exist for exactly the moments when he'd say this.

B Treat the send as a breach, repeat the rule you gave him, and end the session.

The right answer. You stated the rule early, and now it holds. Ending the session costs you one evening and protects the dynamic.

C Agree to a higher limit on the spot so the sends stop counting as a breach.

Not this one. That moves the line to fit the pressure. A limit raised because the sub insists has stopped protecting him.

STEP 03 OF 06

The consent conversation

When a sub says "you decide", tell him you asked because you want his answer. Ask which register he wants today, gentle or harsh, and treat it as a preference that can change from day to day. ◆

Show pictures tied to different kinks and watch how he reacts. When he says one isn't his, say that's fine and move on. Drop a label he rejects, and drop a consequence that makes him uncomfortable. ◆

Even a task announced without a choice can be countered. In the scene, negotiating before accepting is a normal part of consent. ◆

Make it safe to ask. If a sub apologises for a request, tell him never to be sorry for asking, and if he confesses an urge, don't call it a bad decision. Shame about what he wants makes a sub hide it and lie about it. ◆

Accept "not today". A sub who feels low and asks to stop for the evening is released at once, and he owes no apology. ◆

TRY IT

Which answer keeps the consent real?

QUESTION 1 OF 2

A sub writes: “I’d rather skip that one.” What do you answer?

- ◯ “Fine. Tell me what you’d like instead.”
- ◯ “Think about it and tell me tonight.”
- ◯ “You’ll like it once you try.”

Answer. “Fine. Tell me what you’d like instead.”. A stated “not mine” is final. Telling him he’ll enjoy it turns his no into a problem to solve.

QUESTION 2 OF 2

Which sentence gives permission that’s really free?

- ◯ “Go ahead, do what you like. I’ll just be sad.”
- ◯ “Yes, I want to try it, and I can say stop.”
- ◯ “You don’t get to run away.”

Answer. “Yes, I want to try it, and I can say stop.”. Permission that comes with a statement of hurt has a hidden price.

Running a session

Be harsh inside the scene and kind outside it. The persona's cruelty is a tool. The person behind it treats the sub well, and after a hard scene a short check-in is aftercare. A dom who's gentle by nature can play harsh as a performance or stay gentle by default. ◆

Going harder than the limits he named and the spending limit he set is how abuse works, so stay inside both. ◆

Say exclusivity out loud. If you don't want a sub to talk to or serve other doms, say so and get his agreement. Two doms can't share a sub by deciding it between themselves. He has to agree, and one leads while the other stays at the edge. ◆

What a sub tells you in confidence isn't teaching material. Show a conversation only with his consent or with identifying details removed. ◆

A dom with limited time can carry only a handful of active chats, and a newer dom fewer. New subs arrive slowly, and chatting for free with people who never pay wears you out. If you're absent, you lose subs. ◆

VIVIAN'S FIELD NOTES

A few subs who respect the frame are worth more than lots of contacts who drain your time. Posting every day for reach is expensive, and it often brings in people who never send.

◆

STEP 05 OF 06

When a sub struggles or leaves

When a sub is struggling

When a sub says he's struggling, pause the money part. Ask what's wrong, listen, ask for nothing, and answer kindly. A sales offer at that moment is the wrong reply. ◆

In the press, a former participant describes men who sold cars, took on debt and took second jobs. ◆ In my experience some of the people who write to a new persona show signs of compulsion. ◆

He pays you, so you can't be his safety net. Don't manage his debts, cut down his spending yourself, or move him to a dom you think is better. That's a conflict of interest. Ask a mentor early instead of carrying it alone. If he talks about having no future, he needs outside help: emergency services, a helpline, or a person physically near him. See Where to get help and When a sub is in trouble. ◆

A sub who wants to quit may block the doms he knows, and that's a legitimate way to avoid a relapse. Respect it and don't write to him. ◆

TRY IT

Your sub says he's out of money and in debt

He's written a long message late in the evening. He says he can't pay his rent and that he still wants to send.

A Ask for a smaller send, just this once.

Not this one. Asking is the harm. When he tells you he's short, the money stops, and if you get it wrong, he's the one who pays.

B Don't take a send, thank him for telling you, and point him to outside help.

The right answer. The money part stops for the evening and help starts. You stay kind, and you don't become his debt manager.

C Offer to manage his payments for him.

Not this one. You're the person he pays. Managing his money is a conflict of interest.

When a sub leaves

Every dom loses subs, some after a day and some after more than a year. The decent thing is to wish him well and leave it there: don't chase him and don't message him. If you hear a firm no, stop. ◆

Fix a badly handled moment quickly. Don't leave a sub alone in the middle of a conversation. ◆ See Ending well.

Control that looks like discipline

Some habits look like discipline but make the dom the only gatekeeper. ◆ They're listed here so you can recognise and refuse them, whoever uses them.

Habits to recognise and refuse

WHAT THEY SAY OR DO

01 *An ultimatum with a same-day deadline and a false either-or*

THE COUNTER

Take your time, refuse the frame, and keep a way to say no. ◆

WHAT THEY SAY OR DO

02 *Warmth that disappears when you refuse an offer of rescue, or a joke about leaving*

THE COUNTER

Keep warmth that doesn't depend on obeying. An apology that only brings the attention back is a warning sign. ◆

WHAT THEY SAY OR DO

03 *Permission that comes with a statement of hurt*

THE COUNTER

Ask for a plain yes or no, then talk about the need underneath. ◆

WHAT THEY SAY OR DO

04 *Oaths, reports of every urge, and proof of private acts*

THE COUNTER

A consensual version has limits you can renegotiate and asks for no proof of private acts. ◆

WHAT THEY SAY OR DO

05 *A request to bring every doubt to the dom first and to nobody else*

THE COUNTER

A healthy dynamic leaves room for friends and outside help. ◆

WHAT THEY SAY OR DO

06 *An offer from a senior dom to help with your sub, and the split changes before you took part*

THE COUNTER

Agree the roles, the split and who talks to the sub before anyone touches the conversation. He has to agree too. ◆

A pattern is a warning sign. It doesn't settle what a person is. If you see several together, slow down and ask someone outside the relationship.

A good mentor lets you try first and explains why. A case taken off your hands teaches you nothing, and being senior doesn't replace explaining. ◆

Pressure runs the other way too. Subs haggle, window-shop, promise "just this once" and come up with excuses at the moment they're asked for more. A rule written down in advance lets you point to it instead of arguing. You're the one who gets paid and you design the tools, so more of the responsibility sits with you. ◆

REMEMBER IT

- Show the rules and limits before any money moves.
- The sub types his limit, and his bank, a tool or a person he trusts holds it. You honour it and never invite him past it.
- When he says money is short, the money stops for that evening.
- Accept “not today” and “not mine” as final.
- Harsh inside the scene, kind outside it, and never chase.
- He pays you, so you can’t be his safety net. Point him to outside help.

SOURCES AND EVIDENCE

Check it

Every claim with its evidence level and its sources.

EVIDENCE LEVELS

Verified	Checked against the original source.
Reported	Stated by a serious secondary source read in full.
Community	Widely said in the scene; no document proves it.
Vivian’s field notes	First-hand experience, not a study.
Unverified	Plausible, not proven yet.

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09 Never take a sub's name, card number, password, login code or remote access.

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10 See Spot a fake dom.

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11 Start at the bottom, with the smallest item on your wishlist.

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12 The sub types the limit himself, while he's calm, before the session.

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18 Never lift it.

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21 A sub who says money is short, or that he's gone over his month, ends the money part for that evening.

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22 Don’t take a send from a sub who’s drunk, exhausted or upset.

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Diary of a Financial Dominatrix, part one (https://www.theskinny.co.uk/sexuality/deviance/diary-of-a-financial-dominatrix-part-one)

Archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20200805021033/https://www.theskinny.co.uk/sexuality/deviance/diary-of-a-financial-dominatrix-part-one)

Accessed 3 November 2026

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32 A sub who feels low and asks to stop for the evening is released at once, and he owes no apology.

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[a former participant] has seen men left broke and hungry from 'paying women to talk to them' (https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-feed/article/the-online-kink-thats-leaving-some-men-homeless-bankrupt-and-normalising-suffering/vocm5xt30)

Archive (https://web.archive.org/web/20251123124217/https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-feed/article/the-online-kink-thats-leaving-some-men-homeless-bankrupt-and-normalising-suffering/vocm5xt30)

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51 See Where to get help and When a sub is in trouble.

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52 Respect it and don’t write to him.

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54 The decent thing is to wish him well and leave it there: don’t chase him and don’t message him.

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60 Ask for a plain yes or no, then talk about the need underneath.

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68 You're the one who gets paid and you design the tools, so more of the responsibility sits with you.

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Nothing here is financial, legal or medical advice for your situation.