



THE RUB

CREATED BY
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When a teenage girl becomes obsessed with a sex podcast, she manifests an imaginary heroine to help her navigate the world of adolescent desire, but discovers there's nothing easy about being the subject of your own life, in a world designed to objectify you.

“If you keep doing that, you’ll never be able to have children.” It was impressive how my mother flung her warnings about masturbation in a way that was both nonchalant and deep cutting. While they failed to squash my obsession with her “back massager” they were not without impact. Twenty-five years later, I’d think back to this admonishing when I found out I was unable to conceive. Irrational as I knew it was, I’d blame my body’s inability to generate a thick uterine lining on my lifetime of **excessive masturbation, insatiable lust, and promiscuity**. I would accept this blame despite my consumption of generous helpings of Judith Butler and my extensive research, both pedagogical and perverse, of the female anatomy. I would accept this blame because I had grown up a girl in a world that reminded girls constantly that expressing a desire for sex, or worse acting on it, would be punished. And not with a kinky spanking by an anonymous stranger in a fetish club. No, this punishment comes in the form of slut shaming, in the form of loneliness, in the form of ‘she asked for it.’ **So in order to protect ourselves, we learn to erase ourselves**, we accept the invisibility of girlhood. We trade our sexual curiosity for a mythology of safety and an avoidance of shame.

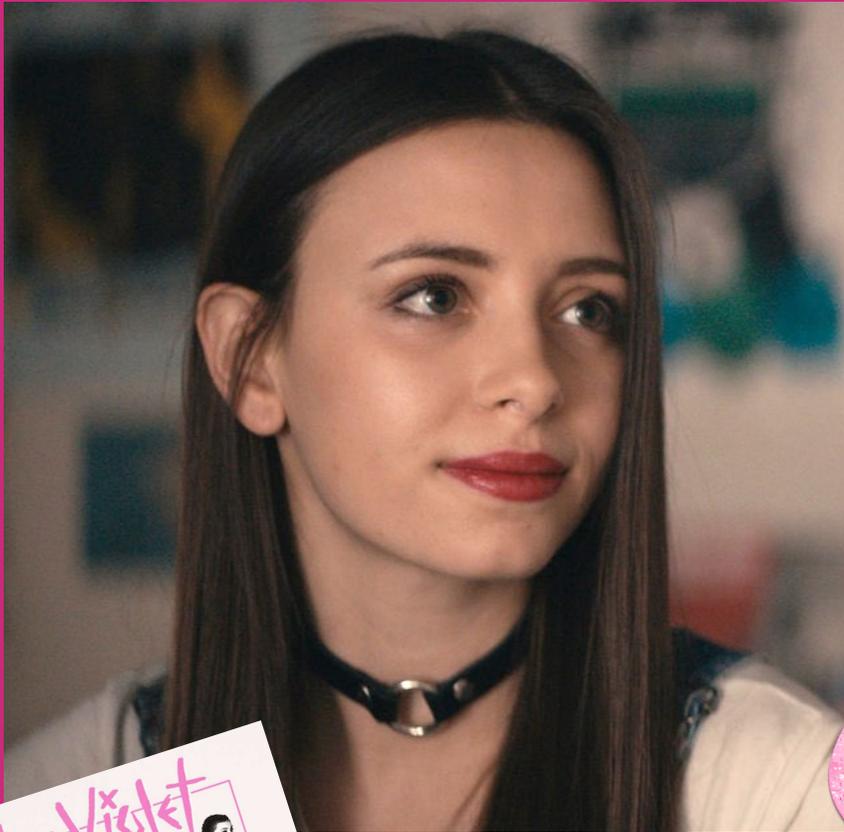


ARE YOU LISTENING?

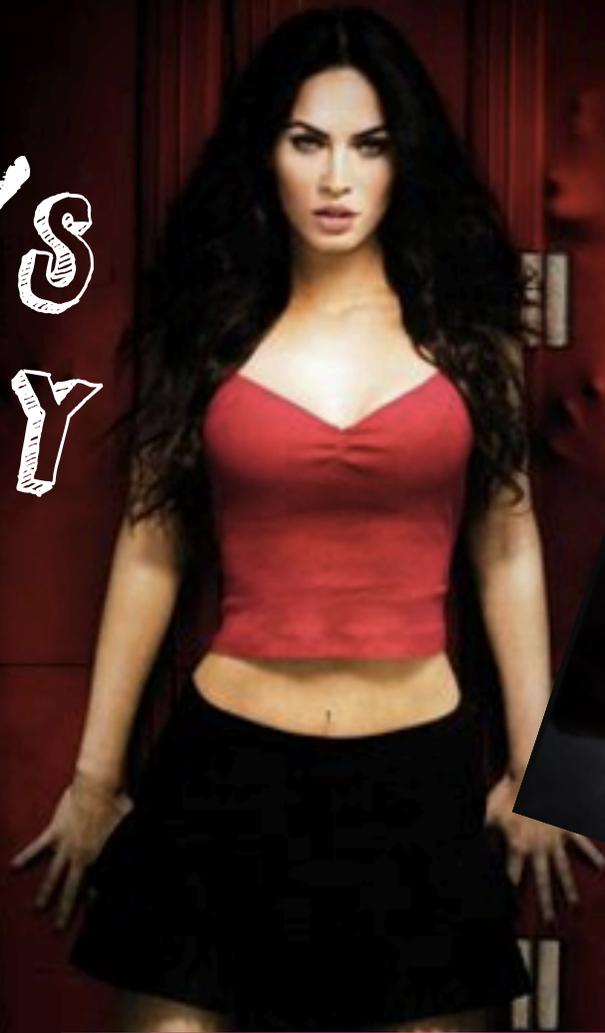
Women have never been more vocal than they are at this political moment. The world was shaken when America elected a president who bragged about being a sexual predator, who repeatedly insulted women publicly, who threatens our rights daily. Then came the exposure of decades of sexual harassment and rape by powerful men. The result is **a resistance to the silencing of women and girls**. The “mythology of safety” has been revealed as just that, a myth, folklore designed to keep us complacent. The most powerful weapon in combating that myth is to tell our stories, to refuse to be erased. The Rub offers us that opportunity - to give voice and truth to the experience of adolescent girls, to understand what it takes to survive the world young and female.

The Rub follows a teenage girl, Amber Bailey, exploring her growing sexual desires and the anonymous sex podcast host who unknowingly becomes her mentor. Think **Angela Chase meets Jessica Jones**, angsty introspective adolescent meets badass sex warrior. Seen through the eyes of our young heroin Amber, the series exists in two worlds, the real world - of homework and heartbreak, of parents and pimples, of first loves and first times - and the fantasy world - of flirting and fetish and liberated fucking. But where our series really gets exciting is in the space betwixt and between those worlds, in the cracks, where they seep into each other, forever altering the lives of our characters.

AMBER



AMBER'S FANTASY WORLD



AMBER'S REAL WORLD

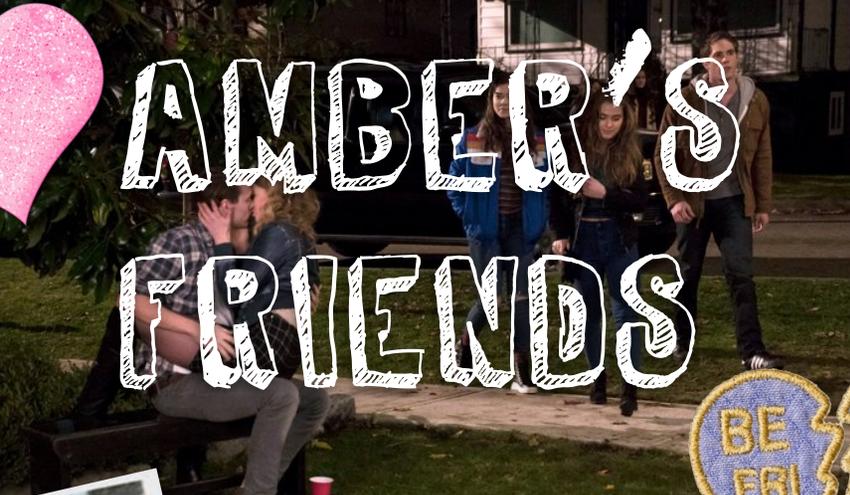
AKA RIDGEWOOD, NJ



AMBER'S FRIENDS



JEREMY



IZZY



SASHA



JAY



ROSS



SEASON ONE

In our first season we will follow Amber through her first romantic relationship as she and Ross explore each other sexually and emotionally. As her experience grows so does her obsession with The Rub. Week-to-week we will see Amber take inspiration from the podcast and weave it into her adolescent existence. Those stories, and the Brunette who embodies them in Amber's fantasies, will lead Amber and Ross on titillating adventures, some a little too dangerous. But despite Ross's willingness to match her sexual appetite and his endearing love for her, Amber will find herself hot for someone new and will cheat on Ross. Making her escapades more risky is the Snapchat account dedicated to slut shaming the girls of Ridgewood High School. As we watch Amber try to juggle two lovers, heartbreak will feel inevitable. Amber will end season one alone and questioning whether she is capable of the emotional repercussions of her sexual relations.



For Izzy season one is a game of cat and mouse with her budding lesbian identity. A few nights of heavy petting with Jay end with the disappointing reality that aside from their shared sexual orientation, they don't have much in common.

But when Izzy's brother Mateo takes her to a college party, she meets a self-proclaimed dyke, Becca, and experiences lesbian sex for the first time. Convinced she is in love, Izzy sacrifices everything (grades, soccer, her parents' trust) to try to form a relationship with Becca and will be crushed when she discovers Becca has a girlfriend.

Sasha's sex-capades will become the prime subject of the slut page that has taken over Ridgewood High and we will watch her friendship with Amber tested until together they decide to expose and take down the anonymous troll. Jeremy may be gone from Ridgewood, but he still plays a leading role in Amber's life and fantasies as the power of their digital relationship will be explored and tested. And Amber's parents struggle to repair their relationship after Diane confesses her affair to Brett, but it will be their needed role as parents of a sexually active teen that ultimately brings them back together.

As important as these characters' individual stories will be, more important will be their interdependent stories, especially those of our teenage leads. These are characters who want to feel something real in a world that feels virtual.



AND THEN...

In our subsequent seasons, we will follow Amber through the trials of balancing her heart against that aching twitch between her legs. Amber will gain more than simply fantasies from The Rub, she will also gain confidence and a feminist identity. She'll question the status quo and find her voice. Amber will also take greater risks sexually. After a particularly frightening episode where she aims to recreate the Brunette's experience with multiple men in a porn theater, Amber's parents will try to shut down The Rub podcast. And as Amber is battling her parents, her friends, and her image...Jeremy Jacobs will return in our final season to help her find the real Brunette.



If you talk to teenagers about social media, you will undoubtedly hear them describe it as “their whole life,” “a full-time job”, or even “a second world.” The last one rings especially true. In their world, social hierarchy is built based on followers, likes, comments. Yes, they are on Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat where girls are constantly being evaluated on their hotness and beauty - vying for comments like “Gorgeous” “Perfect” and “Flawless.” But they are also on platforms most of us have never heard of like Kik, [ask.fm](#), Yik-Yak, and Whisper where they exchange nudes, dick pics, and videos of themselves and each other in sexual acts. And they are on slut pages (the media calls them sexting rings) where hundred of photos of naked girls are shared. They have unfiltered access to pornography. Teenage boys trade nudes the way we traded Garbage Pail Kids. And they worship Instagram and Youtube stars like contoured, glitter-adorned deities. How in a world, real or digital, where girls bodies are so commodified and hyper-sexualized, can a girl understand, much less express, her own desires? Can girls feel safe and empowered when social media and online pornography demands that they “be flawless” and “love facials”? How can girls be subjects of their own lives in worlds built to objectify them? These are the questions we’ll be asking. And in the world of The Rub, social media will be both a primary antagonist and a nexus for our stories.

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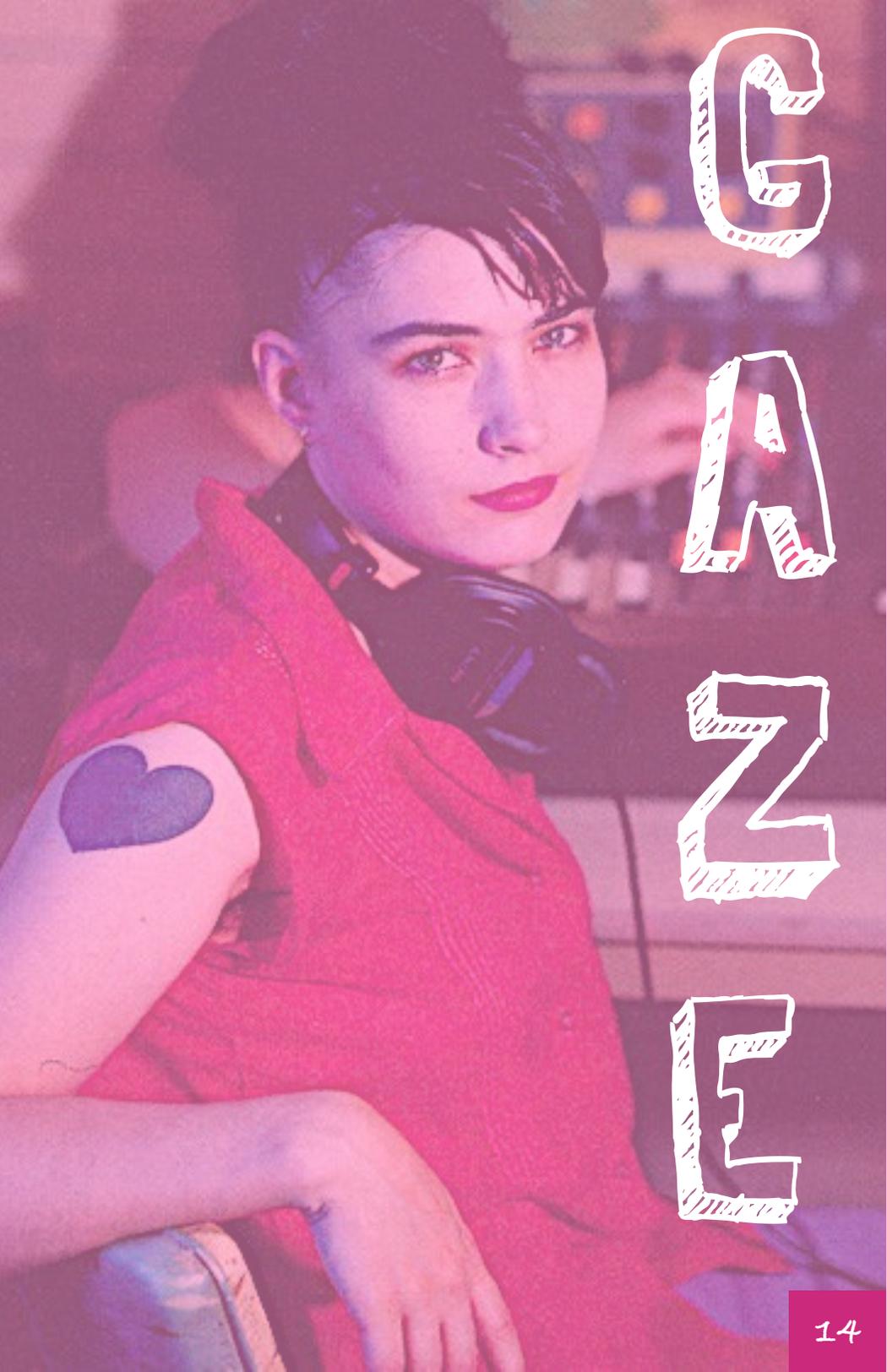


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In the beginning of our series, Amber's fantasies are seen through the only filter she has been exposed to, that of the "male gaze." We are introduced to The Fucking Hot Brunette in perhaps the most ubiquitous execution of that gaze - the catholic school girl fantasy. But as our series evolves so does Amber's understanding of sexuality and self. **She strives for more**

pleasure and more intimacy. With the Brunette as her guide she begins to critique the world around her and as she does, her gaze transforms. What we see in the execution of her fantasies is a growing awareness and ownership of what is sexy and powerful. The

Rub joins a wave of **television exploring the "female gaze,"** but it does so not as a cinematic exercise nor solely as a political righting of Hollywood wrongs, but as our main character's central journey. The challenge is to explore female exploitation without actually exploiting, to investigate the intersections of teens and pornography without making teenage pornography, to celebrate the sexual desires of girls without condoning the desiring of girls sexually. To do this women **MUST** be at the helm of The Rub!





TONE



HEY VIOLET



At its core *The Rub* is a coming of age tale. It is a pervy *My So Called Life*, a raunchy *Wonder Years*. As those shows were reflections of the times they were set in - the angst and directionless-ness of the 90s and the end of American innocence in the 60s - so is *The Rub*. It is a meditation on this moment of over-connection and isolation, of **what intimacy feels like in the age of anonymity**. Like its central character, it will be quiet and thoughtful one moment and volatile and provocative the next. **It will examine the heartbreaking realities and throbbing fantasies of female adolescence with truth and tragedy**. Whether through Amber's pulpy dreams or piercing realities, she offers us a window into the complicated, cruel, uncertain world of being a girl.

