

## Chapter 1 : The Sweetest Ecstasy

*MDMA was initially popular in the nightclub scene and at all-night dance parties ("raves"), but the drug now affects a broader range of people who more commonly call the drug Ecstasy or Molly. 3,4-methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA) is a synthetic drug that alters mood and perception (awareness of surrounding objects and conditions).*

Print Advertisement Susan Merle Gordon, director of research at the Caron Foundation, provides this description of the popular club drug and its effects. Ecstasy is a commonly used name for the chemical substance methylene-dioxymethamphetamine, which is abbreviated as MDMA. Ecstasy is comprised of chemical variations of amphetamine or methamphetamine stimulants and a hallucinogen, such as mescaline. Numerous illegal laboratories produce MDMA and use a wide variety of drug combinations, some of which are more lethal than others. MDMA is produced in tablet or capsule form and is usually taken orally, although there are documented cases of intravenous use [2]. MDMA's acute effects last from three to eight hours [1] and its short-lasting effects include feelings of euphoria, enhanced mental and emotional clarity, sensations of lightness and floating and other hallucinations. Users of MDMA also have suppressed appetite, thirst or need to sleep. Sometimes users who are attending two- to three-day parties suffer from severe dehydration or exhaustion [1]. It is very possible to overdose on MDMA; these overdoses may produce fatality by heart failure or extreme heat stroke [3]. Abuse of MDMA has significantly increased, by percent, from to Likewise, in only 79 cases of MDMA overdose were reported by hospital emergency rooms; in , however, emergency rooms reported 2, MDMA cases [3]. MDMA often is used by adolescents and young adults at dance clubs, all-night dance parties raves and rock concerts. Use by young people sharply increased in from prior years of decline. Approximately one in 20 10th- and 12th-grade students reported they had used MDMA at least one time in MDMA appears to be easily available to young people, especially in the northeastern U. The proportion of high school seniors who think that MDMA is easy to obtain doubled from to [4]. Serotonin is a brain chemical that plays an important role in regulating mood, aggressive behavior, sexual activity, sleep, and pain sensitivity. Some research also has linked a decrease in serotonin activity to cognitive problems, such as memory processes [5]. Research studies on nonhuman primates have found decreases in serotonin activity for as long as seven years following MDMA exposure [5]. Some scientists think that humans may be more susceptible to brain damage than are other primates. Cumulative doses of MDMA that are taken by moderate users over a prolonged time period may have similar negative consequences to the high experimental doses given within short time periods to nonhuman primates[5]. Other naturalistic research studies that assess the psychological and cognitive functioning of people who abuse MDMA also find long-lasting impairments. A recent review of the major research studies on MDMA concluded that there is a body of evidence that links heavy and prolonged MDMA use to confusion, depression, sleep problems, severe anxiety, and aggressive and impulsive behavior [1]. Because many regular users of MDMA also use marijuana, a recent research study compared people who use both marijuana and MDMA with people who use only marijuana and to people who use neither drug. The study found that MDMA users performed worse than the other two groups on complex cognitive tasks of attention, memory, learning and general intelligence. People who heavily used MDMA and marijuana had lower levels of cognitive performance than lighter users [5]. Other research has confirmed that moderate to heavy use of MDMA is linked to impairments in memory [1]. Although MDMA generally is not considered to be an addictive substance, recent reports in the scientific literature suggest that some people may become dependent on or addicted to the drug. Most people who use MDMA restrict their use to weekends because frequent use quickly reduces the positive effects as tolerance to the drug develops [1]. Tolerance is a major symptom of drug dependence. Withdrawal symptoms are also among the necessary criteria for dependence. Another important symptom of drug dependence is difficulty in controlling or abstaining from drug use despite negative social, psychological or physical consequences. A case study of three young, male, heavy and prolonged MDMA users identified these symptoms of dependence. All three realized that their daily functioning had become impaired as a result of MDMA; they each unsuccessfully attempted to abstain from the drug; and during detoxification, they experienced fatigue, low mood, anxiety and sleep disturbances

as withdrawal symptoms. The authors concluded that each of the three cases met criteria for MDMA dependence [2]. Conclusions MDMA is marketed by street drug dealers as a "safe," nonaddictive recreational drug that enhances a persons enjoyment and ability to interact with others. Nothing could be further from the truth. Even occasional light users of MDMA risk overdose and premature death. Moderate to heavy users risk addiction, as well as long-term impairments in psychological and cognitive functioning. All users of MDMA at least temporarily lose their ability to relate to and enjoy being with other people without the influence of a mind-altering, dangerous substance.

**Chapter 2 : Sweet Ecstasy () - IMDb**

*Olivier, a handsome but callow and moody young student, picks up an enthusiastic actress during a theatre rehearsal, and is introduced to her acquaintances -- a group of jaded rich kids who spend their time storming around the Riviera harassing passersby, throwing wild parties and following all the latest trends.*

Giovanni Lorenzo Bernini Sculpture: Her feet are bare, the left one prominently displayed. Her eyes are shut, her mouth opened, as she swoons in ecstasy. Standing before her is the figure of a winged youth. His garment hangs on one shoulder, exposing his arms and part of his upper torso. In his right hand he holds an arrow that is pointed at the heart of Teresa. Cultural Commentary Teresa of Avila was a Spanish mystic who lived during the Counter-Reformation, a period of religious turmoil in Europe. Teresa founded several houses for discalced or "barefoot" Carmelite friars and nuns, who sought to live according to the original rule of the order. This was a more primitive and ascetic form of monastic life than was practiced in Spain at that time. In addition, Teresa was author of numerous books, including her *Life*, a personal autobiography, the *Way of Perfection*, a handbook for her nuns, and *Interior Mansions*, in which she describes the many different steps taken on the path to mystical union with God. In this, she belongs to a long tradition of mystical experience that is known as bridal mysticism: It pleased our Lord that I should see the following vision a number of times. I saw an angel near me, on the left side, in bodily form. This I am not wont to see, save very rarely In this vision it pleased the Lord that I should see it thus. He was not tall, but short, marvellously beautiful, with a face which shone as though he were one of the highest of the angels, who seem to be all of fire: I saw in his hands a long golden spear, and at the point of the iron there seemed to be a little fire. This I thought that he thrust several times into my heart, and that it penetrated to my entrails. When he drew out the spear he seemed to be drawing them with it, leaving me all on fire with a wondrous love for God. The pain was so great that it caused me to utter several moans; and yet so exceeding sweet is this greatest of pains that it is impossible to desire to be rid of it, or for the soul to be content with less than God. Peers, The symbolism of bridal mysticism is found already in early gnostic forms of Christianity, where the central sacrament is called the Bridal Chamber. There the feminine soul of the gnostic unites with the masculine spirit and is in this way spiritualized, that is, liberated from the limitations of mundane existence. Related symbolism is found as well in the writings of the early Christian mystic Origen and the Neoplatonic mystic Plotinus. These three forms of mysticism are related and serve as the foundation for the history of mysticism in Christianity. Probably, the early forms of bridal mysticism were influenced by the myth of Eros and Psyche, which was quite popular during late Hellenism. Indeed, we find a gnostic interpretation of this myth in the anonymous homily entitled *Exegesis on the Soul*, which describes the sacrament of the Bridal Chamber. During the Renaissance, Greek themes and images were rediscovered in Italy and elsewhere in Europe. It is because Eros loves her and wants her for his bride that Zeus is willing to elevate her to the status of an immortal. For Teresa, the moment in which she experiences the spiritual wound is but one moment in a complex drama culminating in the spiritual marriage, when such wounds will no longer be felt but are supplanted by a complete union of God and the soul on an inner level. Archetypal Commentary The word psyche in contemporary analytical psychology has taken on at least two meanings. On the one hand, it refers to the faculty of the human being that is capable of experiencing the imaginary world as well as the physical world. On the other hand, psyche may refer to the entire realm of experience, both conscious and unconscious. In the first case, the psyche is identified with the soul in the traditional sense; in the second, the psyche is the world of the soul. The two traditions that are joined in this image of Saint Teresa are that of Greek mythologystory of Psyche and ErosRenaissance Christian mysticism, in which the soul is awakened to spiritual passion. There is, however, one important variation: In the Greek tale recounted by Apuleius it is not Eros who wounds Psyche with one of his arrows in fact, he wounds himself when he first beholds her ; rather, Psyche accidentally wounds herself when, disobeying him, she takes up a light to see what he looks like. Nevertheless, central to both scenes is the symbol of wounding, the origin of love in pain inflicted from without. Teresa describes this pain as being filled with fire, being inflamed. What is needed is something to quench the fire, to heal the wound. For Psyche, what follows is a

painful period of alienation between her and Eros, until ultimately they are reunited and she gives birth to their daughter, Joy. The marriage between the human soul and the divine lover represents a creative union of the human self with its transpersonal counterpart. The soul symbolizes the subjective capacity to feel and experience realitycapacity for consciousness. By uniting with the god of love, the soul gains a permanent connection with the abiding source of all life and love. In the infant, there is not yet the separation that gives rise to a subjective self. In the symbolism of the sacred marriage, a return to the original wholeness is achieved without a regression to the infantile unconsciousness. Erich Neumann suggests that Psyche cannot truly love Eros in the dark. As Psyche, she requires vision. Her desire to see results in suffering, but also in real love: Psyche wounds herself and wounds Eros [with the hot oil of the lamp, not the arrowed. Saint Teresa of Avila. Amor and Psyche, the Psychic Development of the Feminine: A Commentary on the Tale by Apuleius. Studies of the Spanish Mystics.

**Chapter 3 : Sweet Ecstasy () - Rotten Tomatoes**

*Sweet Ecstasy. 20K likes. Making Burgers Awesome! The classic drive-by experience. Burgers, wings, fries, onion rings, milkshakes, and more! Made with.*

Medically reviewed on Oct 1, by L. Anderson, PharmD Common or street names: Ecstasy MDMA ,3,4 methylenedioxyamphetamine is a synthetic, psychoactive drug chemically similar to the stimulant methamphetamine and the hallucinogen mescaline. It is an illegal drug that acts as both a stimulant and psychedelic, producing an energizing effect, as well as distortions in time and perception and enhanced enjoyment from tactile experiences. Its primary effects are in the brain on neurons that use the chemical serotonin to communicate with other neurons. The serotonin system plays an important role in regulating mood, aggression, sexual activity, sleep, and sensitivity to pain. Research in animals indicates that this drug, also referred to as MDMA or Molly, is neurotoxic; whether or not this is also true in humans is under investigation. The drug can also be lethal on rare occasions. Effects of Ecstasy Use Chronic users of ecstasy perform more poorly than nonusers on certain types of cognitive or memory tasks. Some of these effects may be due to the use of other drugs in combination with ecstasy, among other factors. Research indicates heavy ecstasy use may cause persistent memory problems in humans, although studies are conflicting. On rare but unpredictable occasions, this can lead to a sharp increase in body temperature hyperthermia , resulting in liver, kidney, and cardiovascular system failure, and death. Because it can interfere with its own metabolism breakdown within the body , potentially harmful levels can be reached by repeated drug use within short intervals. Users face many of the same risks as users of other stimulants such as cocaine and amphetamines. These include increases in heart rate and blood pressure, a special risk for people with circulatory problems or heart disease, and other symptoms such as muscle tension, involuntary teeth clenching, nausea, blurred vision, faintness, and chills or sweating. Psychological effects can include confusion, depression, sleep problems, drug craving, and severe anxiety. These problems can occur during and for days or weeks after taking ecstasy. Research in animals links ecstasy exposure to long-term damage in neurons that are involved in mood, thinking, and judgment. A study in nonhuman primates showed that exposure to the compound for only 4 days caused damage to serotonin nerve terminals that was evident 6 to 7 years later. While similar neurotoxicity has not been definitively shown in humans, the wealth of animal research on damaging properties suggests that the chemical is not a safe drug for human consumption. Hidden Risks and Contaminants: Other drugs chemically similar to ecstasy, such as MDA methylenedioxyamphetamine, the parent drug of ecstasy and PMA paramethoxyamphetamine, associated with fatalities in the U. These drugs can be neurotoxic or create additional health risks to the user. Ecstasy tablets may be further contaminated with other substances in addition to MDMA, such as: While the use of this agent by itself or with one or more of these drugs may be inherently dangerous, users might also unknowingly combine them with substances such as marijuana and alcohol, putting themselves at further physical risk. In the Monitoring the Future Study: Trends in Prevalence of MDMA, people age 18 to 25 years had the greatest use of all ages surveyed at 3. MDMA use was also combined with psychotherapy sessions. A month after the second session, a greater percentage in the high-dose groups no longer met diagnostic criteria for PTSD, compared with the low-dose group. In addition, 12 patients were also taking additional psychiatric medications. Side effects occurred with all doses, and included: However, not all experts were convinced. Long-term safety could not be guaranteed with this small group, and there is a risk of addiction and suicide in a population already at risk for these serious outcomes.

## Chapter 4 : The Ecstasy of Saint Teresa | ARAS

*Sweet Ecstasy on Jupiter Street is one of the burger outlets that does a burger right, probably close to the taste of an In-N-Out burger. The al-fresco dining area has a refreshing feel, but may not be comfortable during rainy or humid days.*

Which is a right royal bastard to type as well as read. Many users simply call it E. MDMA belongs to a family of drugs known as phenethylamines. MDMA is also described as an hallucinogenic stimulant, or a psychedelic amphetamine. This a bit misleading, though, as there are very few reports of pure MDMA causing the sort of hallucinations prompted by, say, LSD d-lysergic acid diethylamide, better known as acid. Other ecstasy pills may contain a huge range of substances, including ketamine and added amphetamine speed, while some have no illegal drug content whatsoever. For a start, it would make no economic sense. The pure form of MDMA is a white crystalline powder. The active oral dose of the drug is at least 75mgs, with most pills containing mgs. The body weight, tolerance levels, and general physical health and mental state of the user all have parts to play. So do the circumstances under which MDMA is taken. Without moving the furniture back, either. MDMA acts on a brain chemical called serotonin 5-hydroxytryptamine, also known as 5-HT, a neurotransmitter which transfers messages across the synapses or gaps between adjacent neurons nerve cells. Serotonin is thought to play an important part in shaping mood, thought processes, sleeping patterns, eating patterns, reaction to external stimuli and control of motor activity. Many medical experts believe that low levels are associated with depression. The chemical is produced by one neuron and released into the synapses, transmitting information to another neuron before being absorbed back into the first in a process known as reuptake. An MDMA pill takes effect after 30 to 45 minutes, starting with little rushes of exhilaration. These are sometimes accompanied by feelings of nausea and disorientation. Some users also find their stomach starts churning. The peak effects of MDMA are felt 60 to 90 minutes after ingestion and last for two to four hours, followed by a gradual comedown. MDMA enhances physical sensations. The sense of touch is heightened, food may smell and taste different to normal, and many people say that music sounds better. Inhibitions are loosened, egos are softened and people experience a close emotional bond with others empathogenesis. Everyday social defences are weakened and communicating with strangers is no longer taboo. In short, MDMA produces an overall sense of well-being, a feeling of happiness edging on euphoria. No wonder E culture hoisted the smiley symbol up its flagpole. It merely unlocks feelings which are already present but held in check on a day-to-day basis. There is, however, a consensus among users that, whatever the exact shape of the experience, it is usually controllable. The sense of well-being generally associated with MDMA can last for days, weeks and even months after taking the drug. For some people, it seems to help them to deal with enduring problems in their lives, such as understanding their sexuality, calming their aggression or coping with a childhood trauma. For others, it simply makes them feel better about themselves. In other words, it helps them come to terms with who they are, with many accounts of vastly improved personal relationships as a result. Other effects of MDMA are less pleasant. For a start, the drug can cause a loss of body temperature regulation, leading to a rise in body temperature or a perhaps fall. Or first one and then the other. There are changes in blood pressure and heart rate, too, usually upwards. Users may also find they have a dry mouth, blurred vision, wiggling eyes and the chills. Involuntary muscular activity and muscular tension sometimes occurs, resulting in twitches and cramps. The lower face muscles are especially prone to this, causing jaw clenching and teeth grinding. This paradoxical relaxation effect also makes physical activity seem easier, with minor pains and fatigue not noticed. Many people feel tired or depressed in the days immediately after taking MDMA. A lot of clubbers put the tiredness down to several hours of ballistic behaviour on the dancefloor, but fatigue is also a common after-effect for those who take pills at home. People who suffer post-MDMA depression generally find that it peaks three or four days after they have taken the drug. This has led to a midweek blues syndrome within the weekend-focussed club community. In a few cases, depression becomes a long-term problem, sometimes of a severe nature. The blues are by no means all that users have to worry about. According to some research, the involuntary jaw clenching may cause damage to back teeth. More seriously, there have been numerous cases of MDMA-induced hepatitis and, more seriously still, liver failure.

Those who repeatedly take the drug may also suffer from a range of post-MDMA psychological problems - paranoia, anxiety, panic attacks, insomnia and nightmares, to name just a few. At the time of writing, the latest research into the neurotoxicity of the drug suggests that it decreases the density of serotonin neurons in the brain. Moreover, it seems that the extent of this decrease is linked to the extent of MDMA use. But while some medical scientists believe that this is proof of brain damage, others are not so sure. It is also presently unclear whether or not the effect on serotonin neurons is permanent. And how, in terms of functionality, the effect might be exhibited in users. Having fiercely debated MDMA neurotoxicity for a number of years, the medical world looks set to continue to do so well into the 21st Century. What is certain is that taking MDMA can prove fatal. A few people are particularly chemically sensitive to the drug and just one dose may be enough to kill them. Some of those who have suffered liver failure have required liver transplants, but the transplants have not always been successful. Other fatalities associated with MDMA have been due to an overdose, the signs of which include vomiting, dizziness, head pains and strong muscle cramps. The most common cause of MDMA-related death, however, is due to the drug inducing a rise in body temperature to the point of hyperthermia overheating. The potential danger of hyperthermia is all the greater for clubbers. But in doing so they are pushing their body temperatures up further. The loss of body fluids through sweating and the often crowded, perhaps airless environment are factors, too. The result can be extreme heatstroke. Some of those who have died of MDMA-induced hyperthermia have registered body temperatures as high as 43 degrees C almost degrees F. Normal body temperature is 37 degrees C As the body starts to overheat, small clots form in the bloodstream, leading to a condition called Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation DIC. A depletion of coagulation agent can be extremely dangerous. If bleeding occurs in the brain, for example, it can lead to a stroke. Clubbers taking MDMA should replace body fluids lost through dehydration by drinking plenty of water. Water is not an antidote to MDMA, it just helps combat dehydration and overheating, and a large intake can produce an imbalance in body fluids, including a dilution of the salt in the blood. Salt holds water in the blood system and, with a reduced level, water is lost into the surrounding body tissue. The tissue then swells. The brain is unable to swell, though, because of the skull. In some cases, the result is a dangerous compression of the brain. With this in mind, isotonic sports drinks are also recommended as they help to replace lost body salts. Alcohol, however, is best avoided because it can cause further dehydration. Other advice is to take regular breaks away from the dancefloor every 30 minutes, say and wear light, loose clothes. Keep in contact with your friends and tell them if you start feeling unwell or even just uneasy. A fair few of the deaths associated with MDMA have involved another substance. New users should also consider taking half rather than a whole pill. Almost all doctors would advise anybody with heart, liver, kidney or blood circulation problems to stay away from MDMA. The same goes for those suffering from hypertension, epilepsy, asthma, diabetes or glaucoma, anybody who is prone to panic attacks and anybody with a history of mental illness. Taking MDMA while on certain anti-depressants can also be dangerous. This is especially so of anti-depressants which are MAOIs monoamine oxidase inhibitors , as the combination invites the risk of fatal hypertensive crisis. Anybody not wanting to break the law should also stay away from MDMA. The manufacturing, trafficking and possession of the drug are outlawed pretty much worldwide. In the UK, the maximum sentence for possession of a Class A substance is seven years in prison and an unlimited fine. The maximum sentence for trafficking is life in prison and an unlimited fine. Other Class A drugs include heroin, acid, cocaine and speed which has been prepared for injection. MDMA is not addictive in the same way as, say, heroin. There are no heroin-type physical withdrawal symptoms. There have, however, been cases of users becoming dependent on the drug. This is probably why most people who take MDMA say their first experiences were more enjoyable than later ones. It may also be why some users complain about the purity of ecstasy even during those times when police analyses indicate that a lot of unadulterated MDMA pills are in circulation. Some suggest it could be psychological, it could be that the novelty simply wears off. The lack of certain knowledge in so many areas is further complicated by the endless misconceptions surrounding MDMA. The one about it being a designer drug, for instance. Another is that designer drugs are modelled to produce a particular set of effects - yet this could be said of any synthetic or part-synthetic drug.

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### Chapter 5 : DrugFacts: MDMA (Ecstasy/Molly) | National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

*The words 'Sweet' and 'Ex' shouldn't ever exist in one sentence nor phrase but for Sweet Ecstasy's case do make an exemption as it is really really worth it.*

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