

## **Testimonials from Books**

### **Feminist Book**

The hours spent with my readers meant self-awareness, and it was a challenge to meet curious, open-minded and critical young people who had very specific questions and wanted to get answers and then thanked me very politely at the end of the talks. The intensity and the sincerity of the talks, discussing different points of view, the debates with yourself on what it means in this role for yourself and for others, as well as the reflections themselves – all this means constant learning about each other. However it's not always simple: you have to repeat, explain, deal with provocation, as well as question and discuss formed opinions, and argue. Sometimes you get fed up with your role, even offended in terms of everything that you stand for – and you wish yourself to be again the person with all the other roles you have in your life. But that's what it's all about: reducing people to clichés, and prejudices that disregard everything else. Some people aren't given a chance from the beginning, and it's about the fight against this, and about reflecting on it.

### **Subway Ticket Inspector Book**

My Book, the Subway Ticket Inspector, is also negatively referred to as the 'Subway Cops' and is one of those occupations where you are at a high risk of being confronted with violence, assault or verbal abuse. My job is to check if passengers have a valid ticket to travel with on the subway. As it turned out, it was very interesting to meet and learn about how these young people experienced us (ticket inspectors) on duty in the trains. Some of the most frequently asked questions were 'Do you have to be a bastard to get a job like yours?', 'Don't you ever feel sorry for those people who somehow find themselves in a situation without a ticket but needing transportation?' or 'Isn't it terribly difficult for you to have to do this to other people?'. In several cases they had questions that related to a specific situation they themselves had been involved in. I heard many of the readers' personal experiences with my colleagues, good and bad. But the advantage of the situation was that I was right there, sitting with them and ready to try to answer their questions. I often had to cut the conversation short when the time ran out.

### **Police Officer Book**

One reader actually told me that I had helped them get over their prejudice. And I think I learned something about what some people think of police officers. Most frequently asked question was about my piercings. My readers wanted to know if they really let people with piercings into the Police. It was challenging to represent my organization, but a very honest experience at the same time. I would recommend readers to hire out everyone and books to be honest.

### **Vegan Book**

I learnt more about where my arguments for being a Vegan fall down, but I also realized, that I prefer not to stick to hard and fast rules. And that in itself may be a good thing. I found it challenging to overcome my own prejudices about my readers, and the questions I expected they would ask me. I would recommend future books to just be themselves. You don't need to justify your existence, just relax. Most frequently asked questions: Does it cause problems with your meat eating partner, and how do you stay healthy?

### **Facially Disfigured Book**

I enjoyed the experience very much. Many of my readers told me about their own experiences of prejudice or discrimination, so my sessions were very much about sharing experiences. Future books need to approach the experience with a sense of humor, and readers should not be afraid to ask all the questions, they have always wanted to ask. I was wondering what questions might be asked, nosy or insulting, but I did not get any of that. Most frequently asked questions were: How do I deal with people staring at me, and questions about my views on plastic surgery?

### **Funeral Director Book**

I felt I was able to provide information about my job and to challenge some misconceptions. It also gave me a chance to think about, why I do what I do, and how it affects me and others around me. Most challenging was being honest without being too graphic, and that I did not inadvertently upset someone by using an example that related to their own life. To future books I would say: Be honest and open, and you'll have a rewarding experience. Most frequently asked question: How did a nice girl like me get started in my job.