

Captions:

INCONVENIENT NUDES

Photographic documentary by

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After an initial e-mail or telephone call by way of introduction, a clear explanation of the project and how it would evolve, it sometimes took several weeks, even months, to win the trust of the different subjects. We would then make an appointment for a photo shoot, occasionally meeting on the eve or the morning of the shoot to get to know each other. The photos were taken in the space of one day, with three or four hours spent in the intimacy of the bedroom.

Aurélie and Mickaël



«Aurélie and I attended the same Rehabilitation Institution in the Loir-et-Cher area of France. That is where we met, eight years ago. Despite my handicap – I suffer from brittle bone disease – I am able to do most daily tasks on my own. But in our intimate moments, Aurélie has to treat me very carefully. However, because of her cerebral palsy, she can sometimes have problems controlling her movements – especially in the heat of the moment! This mutual adaptation to each other's handicap is maybe what constitutes our strength: we talk a lot and are able to make concessions. Nothing exceptional, at the end of the day. But we wanted to demonstrate what few people imagine possible: you can have a totally normal love life even if you are handicapped. »

Alex and Alixia



Alex «When I was 18, I had a brain hemorrhage following a fall in a staircase. It took me five years to start talking again. It is impossible to express what it feels like when you start to be able to communicate again. It is not only the words...but the regards, the caresses... The body has its own language and I have managed to learn its alphabet again. I'm still in a wheelchair. With all this, do I have to put up with sexual frustration as well? »

Alixia « I met Alex three years ago: being a model, I wanted us to pose naked together. Today she is a friend and a lover. I too am handicapped after an accident, even though it doesn't show as much. Our right to a sex life bothers a lot of people, just like the right of homosexuals to having a family. We have to create the image of a universe apart, beyond handicaps and norms, our unique reality. »

Catherine and François



«François was born with myopathy. His muscles were atrophied and he underwent a tracheotomy aged fourteen. He was confined to a wheelchair. Meeting him in 2004 changed my life. François was a fighter, and generous. We were happy together. United, tied, either of us would be lost without the other. We lived each shared moment intensely because we knew that François didn't have much time left.

François' handicap wasn't a problem, but his illness was. Our intimate relations were infinitely soft and tender because his problems with moving made us reinvent our approach to sex. He had learned to « love » his body through the way I looked at him. Myopathy is disease that evolves over time. François left us at the age of 46. We fought together, right up to the end. We are still together.»

Daniel and Aminata



Daniel « *I suffer from a genetic disease called Friedreich's Ataxia, and the only way that I can enjoy any sort of sex life is with outside help. Since she has helped me to live the most magical moments, Aminata is now like a good fairy in my life. The illness had made my body into my worst enemy, and she managed to help me to come to terms with it through the softness of her touch. I say thank you to her!* »

Aminata (sexual companion) « *I lived a long time without being touched: as a child, I had little contact with anyone. I understand what that leads to: a lack of self-confidence, not really feeling like a whole woman, loneliness... I myself felt handicapped from that point of view. Today, I help handicapped people to attain a degree of autonomy through sexuality, but I also learn a lot from them, on a human scale.* »

Julie and Thomas



« *Its destiny that deals the cards, but it is for us to play them.* " Randy Pausch.

« *It takes two to build and develop a loving relationship. Sometimes our relationship is a bit complicated, but – whether handicapped or not – it is the same for everyone. Each of us has learned to live with the qualities and faults of the other. It is true too that when there is trust, the handicap disappears, and for four years now we have learned to discover each other, live together and especially to be sensitive to one another's feelings. And that is the case every day, even still today. Apart from the fact that Brittle Bone Disease has now spread to all my limbs, making them vulnerable, this fragility has not yet reached my heart, because Thomas treats it with care.* »