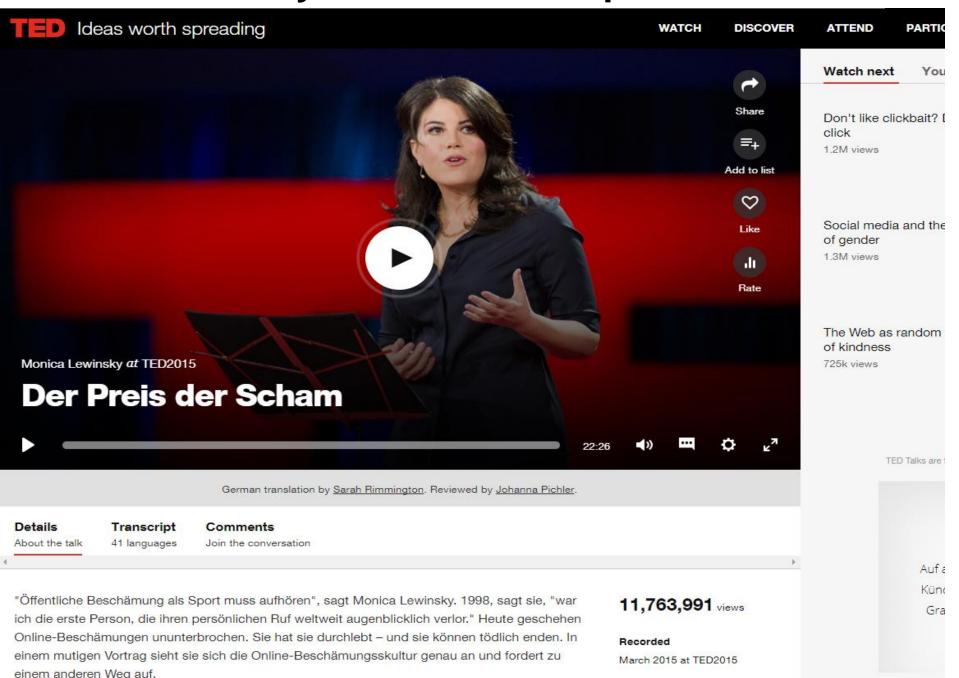
### Monica Lewinsky, TED 2015: The price of shame



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# This is what happened when we posted Monica Lewinsky's TED Talk

Mar 27, 2015 / Nadia Petschek Rawls







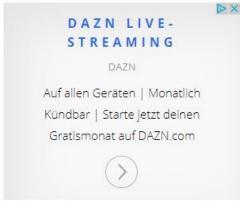








As TED's social media editor, I have seen a lot of nasty comments. I've seen grown men and women deride a 14-year-old girl for her choice of dress. I've seen them say they're revolted by a beautiful transgender woman. On every talk about race, I've seen a slew of racist comments. But none have ever been as bad as the



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"As soon as her talk went up on Facebook, in too little time for anyone to have actually watched the 20-minute video, the **comment** thread was deluged with **vitriol and hatred**.

People called her a **slut** and a **whore**, made **jokes** about sucking dick, and said **she deserves the shaming** because "shaming is an important part of how we shape our culture."

They attacked her character, her appearance, her choices, even her right to live. One commenter blamed her both for Al Gore losing the presidency in 2000 and the 9/11 attacks."

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"But then an interesting thing happened. After hours spent boosting the positive comments and purging most of the brutish ones, the tide **started to turn**. People started to write things like, "Brave woman. My first reaction was negative before I even clicked the link — then I realized that was the whole point and why she was the perfect person to give this talk." Or, "Politics aside, I respect the fact that Ms. Lewinsky is now demanding to write her own story.

Too often we allow shame to silence our stories."

The flood of vitriolic comments dried up to a trickle."