

Monica Lewinsky, TED 2015: The price of shame



Monica Lewinsky at TED2015

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German translation by [Sarah Rimmington](#). Reviewed by [Johanna Pichler](#).

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"Öffentliche Beschämung als Sport muss aufhören", sagt Monica Lewinsky. 1998, sagt sie, "war ich die erste Person, die ihren persönlichen Ruf weltweit augenblicklich verlor." Heute geschehen Online-Beschämungen ununterbrochen. Sie hat sie durchlebt – und sie können tödlich enden. In einem mutigen Vortrag sieht sie sich die Online-Beschämungskultur genau an und fordert zu einem anderen Weg auf.

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Recorded
March 2015 at TED2015

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Monica Lewinsky, TED 2015: The price of shame

Subtitles on TED.com

MONICA LEWINSKY

WE HUMANS

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

Mar 27, 2015 / Nadia Petschek Rawls

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

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“As soon as her talk went 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**.”

race, I've seen a slew of racist comments. But none have ever been as bad as the

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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.”

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NATSAL AUDREY CHIEZA