

LSFS11

Went to pick her up from the block of flats where she lived. She was slim with short blonde hair tied back in short pony-tail. She said she'd just been writing an essay on Jean Rhys' Wide Sargasso Sea, and she was dressed in her sloppy house clothes - T-shirt and leggings. It was a very nice airy flat, three bedrooms, in a refurbished block (Islington). She changed into her jeans and sweatshirt and we went back to D. Road. On the drive over she was very curious and interested in the project, asking lots of Qs, like who was funding it, what it involved, whether lots of people had responded etc. She was quite confident and chatty. By the time we started the interview she'd already told me quite a lot about how her brother had moved to and fro between living with her mother (+ herself) and her father(+ his girlfriend). There was a lot of conflict between her brother and herself and they could no longer live in the same place. She was concerned that her name should not be attached to her responses. Then in the interview she talked at length and quite easily about her family and about her relationship. She is 17. Had had a couple of casual relationships, but now had a steady relationship with her boyfriend, aged 23, for about 18 months, and her boyfriend regularly stays in the flat with her. She often went into great detail about incidents or about friends that were quite interesting but not always directly relevant, but I didn't feel inclined to stop her flow. She's been on the Pill but now used condoms. Seemed to have quite a close relationship with her boyfriend, which she saw as continuing, maybe even marriage. Her mother and father had split up year before and her mother had had lots of relationships, and the latest one seemed to SFS11 to be based mainly on sex. She seemed to be more worried about AIDS with respect to her mother than for herself. She is taking English and other A-levels at the Sixth Form centre. Said she enjoyed the interview and would be willing to do the same sort of thing next year. If she was not at that address, could contact her at the Sixth Form Centre.