

LJH35 13.12.89

18,8; esw but half french (ma); doing English and Psychology A levels; lives with 1 female friend and 3 males (one of whom owns the house and lets rooms); M is self-employed antique dealer; pa is GP. She is in London, he is in Yorkshire; parents divorced when she was 13 and she does not see her pa now, has older sister 20; she does barwork pt; not religious but spiritual, heterosexual, 8 partners in the past

Rather attractive, thin face, slowish speaking, wearing trousers, dark red polo, big knitted jacket over it in dark red pattern, little black leather cap. Darkish (but not very) hair, short. She suggested coming to talk to me again with some female friends, felt she would get home and find lots of things she meant to say. (I felt that a bit too!!) She took a diary, tho did not know whether she would be able to do it, and a questionnaire for her best friend (18) who has had quite different experiences from her, tho 18, just started sleeping with her current boyfriend, first sex. I said I'd get in touch after she had finished the diary. Might be a good idea for a group discussion, if she's offering.

LJH35 had slept with 8 boys/men, some one night stands, 2 longish relationship (first one for one year, other for 6 months or so). Currently in a relationship (2 months) which she is going to continue with, although she has recently re-encountered her first boyfriend, and found it very nice seeing him again. She said (on the qr actually) that although she had slept with 8 people she did not consider herself "a tart". And although she had not until recently used contraception at all, felt herself an independent and responsible person. She certainly seemed independent. She lived with her mum in London from 13-16, but left home at that point. Did not get on. But sees her mum about twice a week now and gets on very well. But she is independent, dad (who she never sees) gives her £30 a week, and she gets fs and housing benefit. Can manage. She has a close group of friends from school, and a very large circle of less close friends. These are friendships which will last, not like boyfriends. She wants to have children but cannot think of getting married, she has met no-one compatible. The first bf, when she was 16, was a friend, then they were 'going out' for 2/3 months before they had sex. It was a joint decision, just happened, seemed right etc. But it was very painful and not at all pleasurable for quite a long time. In fact it did not get to be pleasurable until the following boyfriend. She said that is an experience that a lot of her friends have had (i.e. painful and not pleasurable). She thinks girls are strung a romantic line and it was not at all like her expectations.

Her pattern is to have boyfriends who have been friends, and who continue to be friends afterwards. She does not have dramatic breakups, and sometimes goes back to one who has been on the scene before. She said she has not been passionately engaged with someone, does not know what it would be like. But I think she also keeps herself separate, tries to prevent getting in too close. Does not like to see her boyfriends too often, nor live with them. Her parents divorce, when she was 13, upset her a lot, and her dad had given her mum a hard time. She felt all men were like that, not to be trusted. But reckons she has been very lucky in the boyfriends she has had, which has helped her to trust them as individuals. She has never been forced to do anything she did not want to. Although she commented that she would like more 'foreplay' and little shyly. Sometimes boys get carried away and you feel you want to say "hey, hold on, there's a human being here".

I forgot to ask directly re safer sex but she was worried re AIDS and reckoned the only solution was condoms every time, tho everybody she knew (specially the men) hated condoms.

She reckoned she was not a person who took risks in any area of her life, was quite responsible, but was surprised that she did so re sex. She had not taken any contraceptive precautions for ages after starting to have sex, and thought, bcs she had been lucky, that "it would never happen to" her. Also, when younger she would have been embarrassed to ask for condom use. She thinks she could ask for condom use (they do use condoms) and for what she wanted in order to enjoy the sex now. She feels most of her friends (again specially the males) think AIDS is not their problem, will never happen to them, a gay disease. Her sister's girlfriend's (I think) father died of AIDS, was gay - so that brought it closer to home for her she said. She felt the mc knew and worried more re AIDS than wc. She smoked tobacco and the other "Everybody does, even middle-aged businessmen, her friends' parents").

She thought her parents divorce (and many of her friends' parents too) was significant in the way she and they felt re these issues and lived their lives. They had a lot of freedom, she did not know whether that was good or bad. They had many boyfriends, could do what they liked through the circumstances often (single parent, working). But she said her elder sister (20) had had a differently trajectory from herself - with a boyfriend for three years and was the only one with whom she had sex. There was also a bit of contradiction re trust, trusted no men bcs of the way her pa was with ma (and certainly defended herself against that kind of closeness) but did trust the ones she was close with, as friends etc.