

LJH41 17.2.90

21,5; Caribbean ([WEST INDIES], but she marked ESW of Caribbean descent on qr, born here, parents there); 6 O levels, 2 A levels, working as [ACCOUNTANCY ROLE]; lives with family, ma ([HEALTHCARE ROLE]) pa ([TRANSPORT ROLE]) and elder sister, younger brother; not religious but very strong moral convictions, hetero, but totally inactive sexually.

Black, glasses, medium hair in wet look style, but not 'stylish'; plump but not fat, wearing black track suit type outfit, with a low key image on the front, flat shoes, anorak type coat. Something odd happened with this young woman, and I don't know whether to blame myself or not. She was not sexually active, and this was what she wanted to talk about (what brought her to the interview). She had not talked about it to anyone else, but felt it was a problem because she was completely 'green' (her word) did not know what to do if someone were to ask her out, did not know how to kiss (what would she do if he put his tongue in her mouth, ugh) or what to do, or the correct social response, and felt it was only going to get worse as she got older, how could she say she was a virgin at 25, at 35, and how was she going to feel when she reached those ages and had no-one, no relationships. We talked for about one and a half to two hours, and I asked everything I had to in the context (I hope) but I also gave her her head and let her ramble on, in what seemed to me to be a quite boring fashion. I had sort of been thinking maybe there was child abuse or something dramatic behind it all when I saw the questionnaire, (maybe she was dreadfully ugly or the like) she had said she had no relationship and did not expect to have one and was organising her life accordingly. She had been terribly depressed last year, and had been trying to change her job, it had taken her nine months. And I had sort of wanted to ask whether it was bcs she was black, I somehow felt that the fact that she was black was important.

When the tape came to an end, I had asked all I wanted to, and so I did not put another tape in, but felt I would gently wind her down and say goodbye, so we chatted for a bit. Then she said, something like "I'll tell you something, and you won't have this on the tape" and went on for another hour of the most interesting stuff. I don't know whether I should have put the tape on anyway, regardless of the fact that I was finished (which is what I normally do) even tho she was also not a prime case, not sexually active, I got her out of interest that she was not at that age. But I also do not know whether she would have told me the things she did if the tape had been on! So basically I concentrated like crazy, recorded what I could in the car on the way home, and am trying to put as much of it here as possible, although it will not be in her words.

[REST OF FIELD NOTE REDACTED]