

SS310 RT 16/08/89

INTERVIEWER: First of all, can you tell me what you are doing at college, it sounds interesting?

INTERVIEWEE: It's not.

INTERVIEWER: It's not? That's a shame. Is it drama and music?

INTERVIEWEE: Theatre studies, dance and English Language.

INTERVIEWER: And it's not

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: What is it like, what did you want it to be like?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know, I'm just lazy really. The theatre studies is a bit trendy and it's putting me off the whole thing.

INTERVIEWER: In what way, it's all about.... type of thing?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And do you feel you don't fit in?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Is it mostly girls that are doing the course?

INTERVIEWEE: No, it's a mixture.

INTERVIEWER: So why don't you feel you fit in?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know, they are all really loud, well maybe they are not loud, but I think they are.

INTERVIEWER: What. very confident?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: That's my impression of drama students, a bit too confident for me. So how long have you been doing it?

INTERVIEWEE: Just a year.

INTERVIEWER: You are not very happy with it?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: So why did you take the course?

INTERVIEWEE: Just because I did drama at 'O' level and passed and I liked it.

INTERVIEWER: Had you wanted to do something, had you lots of ambitions?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I did when I was in school, I wanted to be an actress, but not anymore.

INTERVIEWER: Why, what's changed?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I don't like acting, I get really embarrassed.

INTERVIEWER: That's a serious problem there. Do you enjoy it but you've got stage fright or is it that you don't actually enjoy it?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't enjoy it because all the rest of them are getting into character and I just think 'I wish this was over with'.

INTERVIEWER: You've come to a full stop there. So, do you think you will see it through?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, well I had a talk with my teachers and they asked me if I wanted to drop it but it's only a couple more months.

INTERVIEWER: And you finish the whole thing?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Is it 'A' levels you are doing?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Have you taken your exams?

INTERVIEWEE: No, just my mocks.

INTERVIEWER: So, you've got another year?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, but it's not a full year.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think you will do when you've finished then?

INTERVIEWEE: I'm going to be in a band.

INTERVIEWER: Are you, tell me about this?

INTERVIEWEE: Well it's with my boyfriend and he's learning guitar at the moment and I am going to play percussion and do backing vocals.

INTERVIEWER: Great, what sort of music is it?

INTERVIEWEE: Like Aztec Camera, a mixture and

INTERVIEWER: So have you been doing this for long, or is it a new idea?

INTERVIEWEE: No, we have had the idea for ages, years but he didn't start learning the guitar until last September so it's progressing slowly.

INTERVIEWER: Do you actually like singing?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So are you into music generally, you are interested in it?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Has that always been so?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I wasn't really. I only had about two records before I met my boyfriend, he introduced me to it.

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about your boyfriend, and how long you have known him?

INTERVIEWEE: I've known him for four years and I've been going out with him for three.

INTERVIEWER: That's quite a long relationship already isn't it? Does it feel like a serious relationship?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. It's like I've known him forever.

INTERVIEWER: How did you meet him?

INTERVIEWEE: Through school.

INTERVIEWER: Did you go to school together?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So, is he your first and only boyfriend?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Well tell me about it, what the relationship is like?

INTERVIEWEE: It's nice.

INTERVIEWER: I suppose it's a difficult question. I was wondering in terms of a long relationship, what sort of things do you do together, what sort of relationship is it, do you see each other a lot?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, so my mum says.

INTERVIEWER: Why, does she think you see each other too much?

INTERVIEWEE: Well, no, she just says we are never away from each other. She says I might as well live in his house.

INTERVIEWER: Has it always been like that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Right from the beginning?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about when you first met him and how the relationship has changed?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I met him at a party that another friend of my mine was having and my best friend at the time fancied him and went out with him for two weeks.

INTERVIEWER: You were waiting.....

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, and then she said she hated him, and she split up with him and we were friends and we did things together and went to town and all that. We played spin the bottle one night and had our first kiss and then the day after he asked me out and I said yes.

INTERVIEWER: How old were you then?

INTERVIEWEE: Fifteen.

INTERVIEWER: So that was the beginning and how has it changed, how has it progressed over the three years - it must have gone through some difficult stages?

INTERVIEWEE: Well in the beginning I was dead embarrassed, but now it's dead sort of natural and I know everything about him and he knows everything about me and I can talk to him about anything at all. I can't normally with other people, not even my friends at college.

INTERVIEWER: You mean like girlfriends That's really nice. What sort of person is he, what's he like?

INTERVIEWEE: He's dead nice. He is always buying me presents.

INTERVIEWER: That's pretty good.

INTERVIEWEE: He's dead sensitive and wimpy; he's always crying.

INTERVIEWER: So he's not a bloke?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: That's really nice. Has he always been like that or is it something...

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Because you must have grown up together in a way as well because of that. Is he a quiet person?

INTERVIEWEE: Sort of, but sometimes he can switch and if people expect him to be joking and everything he can do it, but that's not really him.

INTERVIEWER: Were you his first girlfriend?

INTERVIEWEE: Well apart from my friend.

INTERVIEWER: Your friend, so you didn't get him first. Does that ever seem strange to you, it must be that you've seen your friends go through dozens of boyfriends since the time you have just been with the one, does it ever seem strange to you?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I feel it is weird for them, I think, 'why don't they find one boyfriend and settle down like me'.

INTERVIEWER: Do you ever feel that you would have met more different people or had different types of experiences?

INTERVIEWEE: Well no, not really.

INTERVIEWER: You don't feel you have missed out?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Why is that, how do you feel about your girlfriends going through a string of boyfriends?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know, I don't really see them that much now. I just think it's really weird. How can you like someone and then go out with them and then not, but that's only me, everyone is different.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that you are a certain type of person, a person who likes to have long relationships?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Why is that?

INTERVIEWEE: I just think when you are younger, and you have all these little gossips and they say 'well I have one night stands me', and I say 'no I want to go out with someone for ages but not get married'.

INTERVIEWER: But you always wanted to have long term relationships, you are not into experimenting?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Well you have obviously got a much closer relationship than most people would have at your age anyway. How long do you see it going on for in the future?

INTERVIEWEE: Forever.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think so. Is that mutual?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Well I think you are unusual, a happy couple - it must be nice. You were saying that you don't see much of your friends anymore, why is that?

INTERVIEWEE: No. Not the ones that I was at school with, because there wasn't many of us. There were four of us altogether and then we went to college and the friend I'm with now, she went to [NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL] and I went to with these other two girls but they started getting into all this Irish heritage and things and going to Irish clubs and things.

INTERVIEWER: Were they Irish?

INTERVIEWEE: No. Their families are, but they're not. My family is Irish, but I'm not. I wasn't into that, so then they started shouting at me and I was denying my heritage and things like that.

INTERVIEWER: Were they into it in terms of politics as well?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, and that annoyed me as well. They really hated JOE, that was my boyfriend, because he was pretty sarcastic with them because he thought they were a bit silly and so then they decided that they hated him and they were always bitching about him and things, so we just grew apart, slowly. We had our arguments but then I left anyway and came to ... with my friend from [NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL].

INTERVIEWER: Do you prefer it here at the moment?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So, tell me about your girlfriend at college, what is she like?

INTERVIEWEE: Oh, she's nice. I am mad at her at the moment.

INTERVIEWER: What has she done?

INTERVIEWEE: Well she said she was going to come to Blackpool with me yesterday and Sunday night at 8.00 o'clock she rang me up and said I'm not coming because I'm going for an interview and I've bought a new pair of shoes for it so I can't afford it.

INTERVIEWER: So, you were a bit disappointed, did you go anyway?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Did you have a good time?

INTERVIEWEE: It was alright, it's a bit tacky in Blackpool.

INTERVIEWER: It is. So, what does your boyfriend do?

INTERVIEWEE: He's on one of those employment training things because he was on the dole for ages because he was at college part time learning guitar, so they sent him on one of these courses and now he's got like a placement in a [RECORD SHOP]. He doesn't get paid for it, he just gets some dole.

INTERVIEWER: Does he not want to go to college full time?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Did you want him to go to college?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I wanted him to go to my college because we went to last year and it was fun.

INTERVIEWER: You were at college together?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And would you have liked to have gone to college together again?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. At first I was really sad and thought 'I wish he was here doing 'A' level', but I would rather him learn guitar and get a band together really.

INTERVIEWER: Don't you think that would have been spending too much time together if he'd done that?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Is there nothing such as too much time together?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Oh goodness, that's really in love isn't it. Is it always like this or have I picked you on a good day?

INTERVIEWEE: No, it's always like this.

INTERVIEWER: Well there is no reason to question it, if it's going well. Both of you are looking to this band as a future, would you think of doing that professionally or just try and get it off the ground?

INTERVIEWEE: No, we want to do it professionally.

INTERVIEWER: Have you ever played in a band before?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: So it's all completely new. Will you have to buy all the equipment?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So is that your one ambition, or have you any other ambitions?

INTERVIEWEE: No, that's it really.

INTERVIEWER: Is it recent that you decided to set up a band?

INTERVIEWEE: About a year ago we decided properly. We have always messed about and said, 'I'll come and do backing vocals for you', but then I decided about a year ago, 'Hey, I'm going to be in your band'.

INTERVIEWER: So he was going to have a band anyway?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: I will change the subject a little bit now. Have you always lived in Longsight?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I lived in Longsight when I was little and then when I was six I moved to AMERICA, the whole family, and then we came back when I was ten.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember it at all?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: What was it like?

INTERVIEWEE: Oh, it was brilliant. I want to go back and live there.

INTERVIEWER: So that's what you would like to do?

INTERVIEWEE: Oh yes, that's another ambition.

INTERVIEWER: So why did you move to AMERICA?

INTERVIEWEE: We had family out there and apparently (I only found this out the other week) my dad when he met my mum said 'well if you marry me I'm moving to AMERICA so you've got to come with me'. So that was that and we moved and then my mum was really homesick and depressed, so we came back.

INTERVIEWER: Do you wish you hadn't?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, well apart from my boyfriend.

INTERVIEWER: You wouldn't have met him, but you would quite liked to have been an American girl. It's a good place. Tell me about what your mum and dad do?

INTERVIEWEE: Mum's a [WAITRESS] and my dad's a [MANAGER], or something. He works in this big [STUDIO] anyway.

INTERVIEWER: How do you get along with them?

INTERVIEWEE: Sometimes OK, sometimes not. Well my mum, I don't really talk to my dad.

INTERVIEWER: What, at all?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Why is that?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know, I just don't.

INTERVIEWER: You don't have that much in common?

INTERVIEWEE: No. We are not nasty to each other or joke and things, we hardly ever meet really.

INTERVIEWER: Is he working all the time?

INTERVIEWEE: Well he works and then he comes home and goes to bed and I work in the evenings, so. Mum's a bit childish sometimes. Stubborn.

INTERVIEWER: In what way?

INTERVIEWEE: Well when she gets angry she will sulk for ages and there is nothing you can say will snap her out of it.

INTERVIEWER: And you think she shouldn't be allowed to do that, you should be allowed to do that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you have a close relationship?

INTERVIEWEE: Well, sort of. We did before I met JOE, but not really anymore.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think she resents that at all?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't think she knows. I think she thinks we still do but I don't think we do, not as close as before.

INTERVIEWER: Would you like it to be closer?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I like it like this. I don't like getting close to people really.

INTERVIEWER: Apart from your boyfriend?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Why is that?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know, I feel embarrassed.

INTERVIEWER: Even with your mum?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: I wonder why that is, do you think you are quite a private person then or is it that you are putting all your energies into your boyfriend's relationship?

INTERVIEWEE: I think I'm quite private and there are some things I just don't want to talk about and my mum likes to talk about everything.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, I see, so she has quite a different type of personality than you. And what sort of things does your mum like to talk about?

INTERVIEWEE: She always says 'now when you want to have sex I want you to come and tell me and we will go to the doctor and we will sort out everything', and I think 'yes, sure'.

INTERVIEWER: So she is very open then, she tries to be really open and you don't want that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: It's probably the opposite way round for most people, they are dying to get their parents to talk about sex. So, does she bring these things out into the open a lot then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you talk to her about it at all?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: You never answer her questions?

INTERVIEWEE: I just go 'umm'.

INTERVIEWER: Do you feel that you can look after yourself in that respect, you don't want any help from her?

INTERVIEWEE: I wouldn't want anyone to know anyway.

INTERVIEWER: You feel that it's your own business?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think she wants to know, do you think she is being nosy or..?

INTERVIEWEE: No, she just wants to be like friends, rather than like mum and daughter type of thing. We are apart from things like that, that I don't want to talk about.

INTERVIEWER: How about your brother, how old is he?

INTERVIEWEE: Only ten. He is just a pest.

INTERVIEWER: You don't have much of a relationship with him then?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: I would like to know about the type or what sex education you got from your parents, how much they told you. Maybe your mum told you not what you wanted to know, but was it very open at home?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I never learnt about it from them.

INTERVIEWER: Not initially, when did you first hear about it?

INTERVIEWEE: At school I think, listening to other people talk, friends and things like that.

INTERVIEWER: Did you have any formal sex education at school, was it part of the curriculum?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, we had this lesson called PSE and we did it about sex for half an hour one afternoon and that was it.

INTERVIEWER: That was it for the whole time you were at school?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Can you remember what they talked about?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I know we didn't have a video.

INTERVIEWER: Right, everybody else did. But you can't actually remember what they talked about?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: So when you say you learnt it at school you mean you learnt it in the playground rather than the classroom?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think the information that you got from that was good, do you think you learnt facts or was it myths?

INTERVIEWEE: No, it was all myths.

INTERVIEWER: What type of things can you remember that you found out weren't true?

INTERVIEWEE: Things like a woman didn't enjoy it, she just had to sort of lie there.

INTERVIEWER: Is that what you heard at school?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: That definitely sounds like fun, doesn't it.

INTERVIEWEE: But also I read a lot of books like Jackie Collins books and things so I got lots of it from there, and I thought 'God, that's really kinky'.

INTERVIEWER: I was going to say usually in Jackie Collins books the woman usually does enjoy it, doesn't she. I think quite a lot of people learn from reading books or magazines, the sort of man and woman magazines and things like that, was that where you got most of your detail from?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So you are into completely kinky sex and that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Did they ever talk to you about AIDS at school at all?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Nothing at all. What school did you go to?

INTERVIEWEE: It was [NAME OF SCHOOL], but it's [NAME OF SCHOOL].... now.

INTERVIEWER: Is that a Catholic school?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that's part of the reason why you didn't have much sex education?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Was it run by nuns?

INTERVIEWEE: No, it wasn't, but people who did PSE were religion teachers so.

INTERVIEWER: Are you religious yourself?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I'm not really religious. I pray for things, but I don't go to mass every Sunday and stuff like that.

INTERVIEWER: Were you brought up to be ... in terms of your family?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: How do you think things like sex before marriage and contraception, how do you see those fitting in with what you believe in?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I think they are right, because religion is a bit funny now anyway, it's dead old and it doesn't change at all. If it meant being non-religious then I would rather do that.

INTERVIEWER: So you don't take on church rules and things?

INTERVIEWEE: Oh no.

INTERVIEWER: It sounds as though your mum doesn't either?

INTERVIEWEE: No, she doesn't. Not really religious, she goes to mass at Christmas and that type of thing.

INTERVIEWER: Right, so it's a ritual rather than the If you didn't hear about AIDS at school where did you first hear about it, can you remember?

INTERVIEWEE: It was only recently really with all the publicity and things. Because I didn't know a thing about it before then. It was reading it in the paper and adverts on the telly.

INTERVIEWER: When was the first time you can remember hearing about it?

INTERVIEWEE: I think it was about a year ago when it first all came out.

INTERVIEWER: And what was your reaction to it?

INTERVIEWEE: Nothing really, I just thought 'oh'.

INTERVIEWER: Did you not think it was relevant to you?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think it's relevant to you now?

INTERVIEWEE: No, not really.

INTERVIEWER: You don't see it as important to you?

INTERVIEWEE: Not to me. I know it's important, but I try not to think about it.

INTERVIEWER: So presumably you wouldn't expect yourself to be at risk?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Have you slept with your boyfriend?

INTERVIEWEE: Sort of.

INTERVIEWER: So at least whatever you have done with him he's the only person you have done it with?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And mutual likewise?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So you don't see yourself as being at risk?

INTERVIEWEE: Not really.

INTERVIEWER: What sort of people do you think would be at risk?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know. There are all sorts of people. Because at first everyone was saying it was just a disease for gay people, and then you get blood transfusions and everything so I suppose it's everyone really.

INTERVIEWER: So it's not just gay men that would be at risk?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think heterosexuals would be at risk?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think any particular type of heterosexuals or just anyone?

INTERVIEWEE: Anyone really.

INTERVIEWER: It's the best way to think about it, it's the most sensible way to think about it. I think a lot of people say it's people like them and people like them and definitely not people like me.

INTERVIEWEE: No, it's stupid.

INTERVIEWER: It's a bit dangerous. Have you really not taken much notice of AIDS education and the publicity around it because you don't think you are at risk?

INTERVIEWEE: No. Only if I had a blood transfusion or something like that, but I don't think about having an accident and needing blood. I don't use needles or anything, so the only way I could get it maybe would be sex. That would only be with my boyfriend and I can't see how he could have it. It's just all this stuff about wearing a condom, that's all I have heard really.

INTERVIEWER: So you wouldn't think you would need to with your boyfriend?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: You say you sort of had sex, do you mean that you haven't had intercourse? I find this very easy to talk about because I talk about it all the time, is that the difference sort of?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know. You see when we first started going out with each other after about a year we got into this big passionate frenzy and sort of did it but not really and then I got really scared and went to the doctor and had the morning after pill and all that and since then we have sort of done it once or twice. But he's always saying 'forget this, it's not that good'.

INTERVIEWER: Right, so, do you feel it's not a very sexual relationship?

INTERVIEWEE: No, not really.

INTERVIEWER: Is that for both of you?

INTERVIEWEE: It's just because we can't really do it properly because it would mean like in the living room or whatever.

INTERVIEWER: So you haven't got your own space for it?

INTERVIEWEE: No. I can't be bothered going out now and sorting out contraception and stuff because it would be dead rushed and sneak the things, so I said let's wait until we move out.

INTERVIEWER: And then you can do it in your own way and in your own time. I think that's quite good because I remember trying to have sex when I was living at home and it's definitely listening out for the door and completely paranoid the whole time. Does your boyfriend feel the same way?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: So he's not that bothered. That sounds pretty sensible. When you say about contraception, it would be a pain, what sort of contraception would you expect to use?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know. That's another thing I would have to sort out, or we would have to sort out. Because I always thought I would go on the pill or whatever but it's pretty iffy now and I am not really that sure about the others. I have heard about them, but I am not really sure.

INTERVIEWER: Have you heard much in detail about them?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Right so you don't really know what the choice is. How would you find out about it?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: It's not that straightforward is it?

INTERVIEWEE: I think I might go to the family planning clinic because that's where I went to get the morning after pill and they were dead nice and my doctor is really horrible, I hate him.

INTERVIEWER: I think it's probably a good idea, they are usually better because they do it all the time and that's all they do, and doctors generally they don't have to do anything that sort of thing, so they are not very practiced. So it's not a problem, it doesn't seem to be a problem to you?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think other people think you are sexually experienced because you've had a long relationship?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: It must be quite funny?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, it is.

INTERVIEWER: What do you say to people if your girlfriend asks you about your relationship?

INTERVIEWEE: No, she doesn't really. She asks me if I have done it and I will say 'well sort of'.

INTERVIEWER: When you say sort of, what do you mean, this is intriguing. If you find it difficult don't go into detail. I will tell you why I'm asking and it will make more sense to you. One of the things we are interested in is that what people know about safe sex, generally they think that safe sex for heterosexuals is using a condom and that's it, the beginning and end of it. Whereas the idea of safe sex first came from the gay community because they were the first having to deal with AIDS and for them safe sex meant a lot of different things; having different types of sex rather than just the risky parts of sex, which for gay men would be anal sex and for heterosexuals would be intercourse. So one of the things we were interested in is whether people have sex which doesn't include intercourse, which most people don't count it as. They sort of say 'well, that's what you do,

the fumbling around, the things that you do before you start having sex and once you have had intercourse that's all you do from then onwards'. But we are quite interested in all the things people do before they start having sex, it is actually quite a good form of safe sex because it's not risky. That's why I'm asking. Is that the type of thing that you mean?

INTERVIEWEE: No. It is intercourse, but it's just like put it in and jiggle it about a bit and then say forget that.

INTERVIEWER: Do you not enjoy that when you do have sex with your boyfriend?

INTERVIEWEE: It's alright, but nothing spectacular.

INTERVIEWER: Do you ever think, well I'm not trying to sow seeds, but have you ever thought that sex might be different with different people?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, but we do other things that are nice like kissing and stuff like that. I find that nicer and I've told him. And he says, 'well we'll work it out when we do it properly'.

INTERVIEWER: Well it's difficult, you need your own bed, you really do. Do your parents let him stay with you?

INTERVIEWEE: No, they are dead funny. I was saying recently was what I would rather do is just sleep with him; just go to sleep and then wake up and I think that would be really nice, but you can't even say that to your parents. 'I just want to sleep with him', they wouldn't have it.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think they wouldn't.

INTERVIEWEE: No. Dad would have a fit.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think your mum wouldn't mind?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I think she would. Sometimes she pretends she's liberal and young but I think she would mind.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think your dad would get angry?

INTERVIEWEE: He's dead strict. He's very protective, a typical Irish dad.

INTERVIEWER: So, your honour is at stake here. So you must be quite looking forward to leaving home then?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: When do you plan to do that?

INTERVIEWEE: At the beginning of this year I went through this phase saying to JOE 'let's find somewhere to live quick, I want to move out'. But it's a bit impractical really when you think about it. And now he's going off to SCOTLAND for about a year.

INTERVIEWER: What's this for?

INTERVIEWEE: Well he's not really learnt guitar as much as he wants and he thinks I'm a bit of a distraction and I am because I never let him learn it. I want him to come round to my house. So he really likes Scotland so he is going to go up and live with his mate in SCOTLAND and hopefully, because his mate can play guitar as well, and he will learn quicker.

INTERVIEWER: What do you feel about that?

INTERVIEWEE: Well we are both dead sad that he's going, but I know that it's right really. I have told certain people and they sort of look at me as if to say, 'oh, he hates you', but we know.

INTERVIEWER: Do other people think that you are actually splitting up?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, but we are not because I know it's best really because it's what we want and we have got to make a sacrifice.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think the relationship will change?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Why, are you going to go up and visit him?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I will go up and visit him. I have thought about it and there's no chance that we will split up and find different people. I just can't think of anyone I really like better than him. So it doesn't scare me, I just can't wait for him to come back playing guitar.

INTERVIEWER: Were you angry when he brought it up?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: You never thought when other people say oh it's did you think that when he first suggested it?

INTERVIEWEE: No, because he said 'where are we now and what are we doing and what do you think we should do', and I said 'well, I don't know'. He said 'well I was thinking of going to Scotland'. So we talked about it and decided it was probably the best thing really.

INTERVIEWER: Within your relationship, who would you say is the one in charge?

INTERVIEWEE: He says it's me.

INTERVIEWER: He says it's you and, what, you say it's him?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I guess it's kind of me I suppose. He does everything I say. I don't rule him or anything. He sort of babies me a bit, he takes care of me and things and whatever I say we do.

INTERVIEWER: But in a way of babying you because you are allowed whatever you want, your wish is my command, sort of thing. Do you like it like that?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you are a stronger person, a stronger character?

INTERVIEWEE: No, I am not definitely.

INTERVIEWER: You think he's stronger?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: In what way?

INTERVIEWEE: Well I tend to let my family rule me a bit and he doesn't. Because he was with his parents and his brothers and he makes his own decisions about things. For example, this summer we were supposed to be going to Florida, my family and me, and I didn't really want to go because I didn't want to spend my money because of the band and he was saying 'just tell them you don't want to go' so I skirted round it and in the end I did tell them but he would have just said from the beginning, 'well I don't want to go', whereas I..

INTERVIEWER: Is that your dad that you find it difficult?

INTERVIEWEE: No, my Mum

INTERVIEWER: It's your mum.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. It's very hard to explain, it's this really strange upbringing I've had. I feel dead funny about answering them back and contradicting them and I should do.

INTERVIEWER: But they have brought you up to do that, thing is often it's not your fault the patterns of behaviour that you fall into. So they expect you to do what they say and you end up doing it. Do you ever feel you want to rebel against your parents?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you will?

INTERVIEWEE: I hope I don't because I would like to keep it at this level, but I think when I move out I will probably like them and get on with them better because it's hard to live in the same room. It's like living with someone you don't really like.

INTERVIEWER: Do you feel they are trying to stop you from becoming an adult in a way?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, sometimes. That's it you see, they don't baby me all the time, they split it and I can't stand that. I can't stand being given the responsibility to babysit and doing the ironing and cleaning and then I have to ask every time I go out type of thing.

INTERVIEWER: Is it still like that, you have to ask them if you can go out?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: They tell you what time to get in?

INTERVIEWEE: Not if I go out to a club, they say what time will you be in, but if I say I'm going up to JOE'S, well when will you be in, be in for 9.00 o'clock or whatever.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think that is, they ought to trust you by now?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: It must make you furious, I can imagine. Do you think your friends of your age get more freedom?

INTERVIEWEE: Not really. My friend is in pretty much the same boat. It's a bit strange in her house as well.

INTERVIEWER: It's always the way, a certain age you get to and in the end it's impossible for different sets of adults to live together especially when they are at different stages of their lives. Do you get on well with JOE'S family?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, his brothers are nice and friendly, but they are a bit strange.

INTERVIEWER: In what way?

INTERVIEWEE: He's got this brother and he is always going out with these different girls and he has got a new girlfriend every month. But he is always saying when he first starts going out with them, this is it, it's love. And you think, oh, because you know that by the end of the month he will be fed up with them. And his other brother is always losing his temper and he thinks the whole world is against him.

INTERVIEWER: What about his parents, do they give you a bit more freedom?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. In his house we can go up to his room because it's not like his bedroom, it's just like a living room and they let him go out and he just says I'm going out and I will be in later on, dead cool in some ways and really silly. They will talk to you for ages about really boring things and you will sit there.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, I know what it's like with boyfriends' parents. You've got to be nice and polite.

INTERRUPTION IN RECORDING.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think, obviously you don't feel that you are at risk and you are not planning to be in the future, you are going to be staying with one person and you are not too worried about yourself, but do you think that friends of yours and people of your age are taking precautions?

INTERVIEWEE: No. The people I was telling you about from school I see them and say hello to them now but JOANNE, my friend at college, she sees them quite a lot and so is bringing me gossip back. Like one of them, SALLY, she has settled down now with this guy she has been going out with for ages, but before that she would go out and she would do it with anyone. Down entries and things and I would just think 'oh, god'. With no precautions and with these people who she hardly even knew and she was going to get pregnant or get a disease. Well, no-one else really that I know.

INTERVIEWER: What was your reaction to her doing that in the first place?

INTERVIEWEE: That's awful.

INTERVIEWER: You never imagined yourself being like that?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: It sounds like your boyfriend is not that typical of young men your age. He sounds a lot nicer to start with. Is he quite different from most people?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Give me a comparison in what ways he is different and nicer. You say he is sensitive, whereas most people aren't?

INTERVIEWEE: I think a lot of them pretend at being sensitive, the sensitive arty types, but you wouldn't think my boyfriend was sensitive if you met him because he would be going 'hi, how are you' and everything but he is really, he hides it and I like that. Also he doesn't drink, which I think is pretty rare. He did, but it's just because I don't drink. I like that and the fact that he's not bothered about going out to clubs all the time and which I'm not bothered about.

INTERVIEWER: And most people your age are going out. Why is it you are not in to going to clubs?

INTERVIEWEE: Well sometimes I like to go, once a month or whatever, but I would rather just be with my boyfriend and by myself. You can't talk in clubs and it's dead expensive. Sometimes I want to go because I like to have a dance and that's it really.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think other people go to basically?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, or to be seen.

INTERVIEWER: If you go out where do you go, to Irish Clubs?

INTERVIEWEE: I've only been to the Hacienda.

INTERVIEWER: That's alright.

INTERVIEWEE: I like it in there, it's nice. It's a bit trendy.

INTERVIEWER: Is that where most people you know go?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: I think a lot of people from go there. It seems a very fashionable college.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, it is.

INTERVIEWER: You're not into that side of things?

INTERVIEWEE: There are lots of groups in the common room and people going 'hi' and hugging each other and they think me and my friend are a bit strange I think because we just sort of walk around by ourselves.

INTERVIEWER: Not everyone is into that. Do you sometimes feel that you are older than they are?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Well that's got quite a lot to do with having a serious relationship as well, it's a different experience when you have a more serious relationship, you grow up a bit more. Will you probably stay at home when you finish, because obviously when you finish you are not going to be working full time?

INTERVIEWEE: Hopefully by the time I finish my exams and get my results and everything JOE will be back from Scotland because he is going in September and he will be ready and then we can start getting a band together.

INTERVIEWER: And do you think you will move in together?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: You said on the questionnaire that you think you wanted to get married. Do you still want to get married or have you changed your mind?

INTERVIEWEE: No. Sometimes I would like to get married, but I don't know why. Because I'm going to live with him and sometimes I get soppy and think it would be really nice to be MRS. SMITH. Sometimes I don't. He is just saying wait, so we will. It's not really important.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that the relationship is more likely to last if you got married?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: So it's not for various reasons. Is there anything you believe in marriage for in any way?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: It's just something you could do, but it wouldn't make any difference, but it would be a married type relationship.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: What do you feel about in terms of faithfulness and fidelity, is that important to you?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, very.

INTERVIEWER: What would you do if you found he had been unfaithful. For example, when he'd been in Scotland or something?

INTERVIEWEE: I don't know. I would probably forgive him. It depends if he wanted to call it a day really.

INTERVIEWER: Would you understand that, or would it be a big betrayal?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: You don't expect that to happen?

INTERVIEWEE: I hope it won't.

INTERVIEWER: In one way I suppose you have put all your eggs in one basket haven't you, that if it doesn't work out and something goes wrong you will be a bit stuck won't you?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes. That's alright, I'll just be a loner for the rest of my life and become very famous by myself.

INTERVIEWER: That's good.

END OF RECORDING.