

**MYC05 17.01.1989 RT**

Q: Now I've got to check on how old you are again because of the box.

A: Fifteen.

Q: Fifteen, right so you're still at school?

A: Yes

Q: So what's school like?

A: It's alright. Can be dead boring sometimes but we have a laugh really.

Q: What school are you at?

A: [NAME OF SCHOOL].

Q: Right, and is all this lot at [NAME OF SCHOOL] as well?

A: Yes, most of them are, yes.

Q: Right, so when are you leaving?

A: March the eighth.

Q: Looking forward to it?

A: Can't wait. I can't stand it. Sometimes it can be alright but the teachers have a go at you and that, and classes you can't stand, you don't get on.

Q: When was this, is it the last year you realised you don't like it or was it always like it.

A: No, I used to love school up to being in third year then we went up to the upper school and I hated it and never liked it since.

Q: Why, what was it you didn't like?

A: I don't know. All the teachers. They always say that they treat you better when you go up to upper school and you get treated like young adults they say, but you get treated as dirt. And like we've knocked about in this crowd of us, six of us, from first year.

Q: Which six is this then,

A: Me, [MICHELLE, CARMEL, KELLY, EMMA, JACQUELINE] at school. It's always been us six for the first year. The teachers never like it and tried to split us up, in a gang. And like you get in trouble in school, we've been in trouble in school all the time, you know just like messing about and running around at dinner times and that. You get in trouble for that and they've had it in for us since first year because we've been in a crowd.

Q: You haven't got a chance basically have you.

A: You haven't, no.

Q: So, what are you thinking of doing when you finish?

A: I'm going into the Post Office.

(Interruption)

I've got an interview [IN MAY] for the Post Office.

Q: Right, and what's that to do?

A: All different things really, it's either in the sorting offices, leaning how to cope on the like, send the letters to each base and that or doing the letters to houses and different things, it just depends what they put you on.

Q: So how come you wanted to do that?

A: Working in the post office? (laughter) I used to want to be a police lady.

Q: It's the uniform is it?

A: I used to really like the uniform and then I got in trouble with the police.

Q: What happened?

A: Well, I wanted to be a police lady and then I started knocking about with a lad, going out with a lad and he was a bit of a ? as my Mum would say.

Q: In what way?

A: He used to pinch cars and drive about and I got caught in that once, and then I got in trouble for it, I just got a caution but they really treated me awful and I just couldn't face it. I thought if that's how they like it and then I got in trouble again on Christmas eve night and I got arrested.

Q: What happened then?

A: We was on a street up there, a girl's street and we was all talking.

Q: And who was this then?

A: All the girls, and there was loads of like lads, but they was all 20, you know from like 16 to 23 and all that, a lot older than us, but half of them were the girls brothers like, so we was talking to them and one of the brothers came up and give us a kiss outside this house and I was screaming to get him off and messing about and a fella came out and asked us to move so as we went to move his son came out and smashed one of the lads heads with a glass bottle so it caused loads of trouble and everything and the police come round and I got arrested the next morning and charged me with affray and assault.. morning

Q: Who were you supposed to have assaulted?

A: The lad with a glass bottle, but I never did it because I didn't have any bottles anyway. Which I'm telling you, I am sat down telling you the truth but I never done it, I never like done what I got charged with. And then me friend's, [MICHELLE] down there, her dad's a bit of a big man you know, well a bit hard as you call them and went round to his house and warned him.

Q: I've heard this already. CARMEL mentioned it and JACQUELINE isn't it? I think she mentioned.... anyway?

A: And her dad went and warned him to drop the charges. And I got the charges dropped but they said they could come back up again but I 've not heard nothing since so I don't know whether they will.

Q: Yes, so it is basically that you started hanging about with these blokes then, who were older?

A: No love, like I used to, I stopped hanging around there with these girls about April last year, and I started knocking about with a thirteen year old girl but you wouldn't think she was thirteen, you'd think she was about 25 years the way she goes on, she doesn't even look thirteen she looks about 25, and I started knocking about with them because we used to go in the pub every week, and near enough, drive about with them in a car and I used to go out with one of them.

Q: Were they sort of bad boys then?

A: No they were not bad boys, no, well every lad can be bad when they've had a drink but really they were great lads like not like how everybody makes them out to be, they're not that bad.

Q: And what did these girls think about you when you stopped hanging around with them?

A: It was funny. They never talked to us for a bit, but I can't stay with one person for a long time. I like to, I don't know. Like these it's always us like, there's seven of us like, and it's always us seven and if you go somewhere you've got to phone them and tell them and if you do this you've got to phone them and tell them, they think you do snides on them. But I can't stay like that me, I just get up and go because I can't be like that

Q: You've known them since you were really young then.

A: I've known all of them since junior three, junior four.

Q: And you've known them as a group then.

A: Yes, as a group. It's stamped on our head, 'beware'. That's how the teachers make us out anyway.

Q: Do you live at home then with your parents?

A: With my Mum and Dad, yes.

Q: Have you any brothers and sisters?

A: One sister.

Q: How old is she?

A: She's eight on Tuesday. She a right little..

Q: So you're her big sister.

A: JEAN, yes, she's dead cheeky and everything.

Q: So, will you tell me, I want to know about your history with going out with boys and stuff like that. So tell me when was the first time you started thinking about boys and noticing them being around.

A: Well, really I used to like go out with lads and like go with lads and that, and then me Mum, like we used to be in trouble in school and everything, and we used to get suspended all the time all of us and six of us used to be off from school every..

Q: Exactly how old would you be then?

A: This was like last January, and then... (interruption) and then we all got suspended for a bit and we were off for a bit and then I started going up to my cousins in [TOWN] and one night I sneaked out with her to see a bloke. I sneaked out with her there, but I knew she would find out so I told her when I come home. (interruption) So, I bribed my way round to staying out all the time really. I bribed my way round to being allowed out every weekend with her and I started going out with a 19 year old lad up there.

Q: How old were you then?

A: Fifteen, just like last year.

Q: And was he the first boy you have been out with?

A: No, I've been out with loads of lads but not done anything, just kissed and that but I was going out with him for like four month and we used to get on great and he used to come to our house and I used to go out to his house and I don't know, I used to, to him I was 17 and looked 15.

Q: Did he know how old you were?

A: No, about 17, because I think I was a bit young and he wouldn't have....

Q: Were you scared of him finding out how old you were?

A: Yes, because every time he came to our house I had to take my sister out or make sure she was at somebody's in case she said something.

Q: Did you tell your Mum and Dad then?

A: Me Mum is funny like that but I think she thinks I've got the brains not to do anything but she's wrong. (laughter). I don't know. It wasn't so much being wrong, she used to sit there and tell me every single night, 'what have you done?', and 'what have you been doing with him?', and 'you wouldn't would you?', and I said 'no'.

Q: Did she talk to you a lot about things like that. So you got the facts of life and give you a talking to about that?

A: No. It wasn't me Mam that done it. You know the lad that wanted to come in then, that was my cousin, it was his Mam that told me all that. And like I was going out with him for a long time and then one night I stayed at his house, but I was supposed to stay at my cousins but his Mam and Dad were away and she was like 21 anyway so Me mam knew I would be alright with her but I didn't stay at her house, I stayed at his house and I had sex with him. And I carried on going out with him for another month and then we went to this pub one night but he was in his car because he didn't drink and he said to me, 'wait in the car a minute I want a word with you', and we finished and then I don't know what we finish on because he didn't have a reason he just said he didn't want to get serious.

Q: Did you feel really let down by it?

A: I was dead upset, I was crying and everything but I couldn't go to Butterflies. he had to take me back to my cousin's house and then go back to Butterflies and tell her I'd gone home.

Q: When you decided to sleep with him did you think it was going to last quite a long time?

A: Yes, I think that was the only reason why I did sleep with him really.

Q: Did you want to, were you into the idea or was it him asking you.

A: At first I wasn't, but then I don't know he was dead sweet talking and you know, that type of person. I still see him now and talk to him dead friendly with him.

Q: He talked you into that?

A: No, because I won't do anything I don't want to do. No, I mean like my Mum always says like when we get into trouble at school and they say well she gets pulled into things. I'm not like that, I do what I want to do, not what anybody else wants me to do. I'm not like that at all. I think I wanted to do it but I didn't in a way, but because it was him I did and I thought it would last a long time really.

Q: Did you enjoy it?

A: The first time, no but the second time I wasn't really mithered and it was alright, it was just, I don't know, it didn't seem right, but then after the first time, it hurt on the first time then it was alright really.

Q: Were you doing it for him and not for you?

A: Yes.

Q: And did you think if you didn't do it he wouldn't stay with you?

A: Yes, that's what I kept thinking. If I don't do it with him, he might finish with me and I don't want to finish with him and then he finished with me anyway.

Q: It's a bit of a bummer really isn't it?

A: It was really an eye opener.

Q: Did you tell the other girls about it.

A: Yes, because there's six, like there's seven of us, whatever goes on we always tell each other.

Q: Were you the first one to sleep with anyone?

A: Yes, they used to sit there and ask me questions and everything, well what was it like ... and I think they were missing the experience, well not the experience of doing it, because I've done it now and I wouldn't do it again until I was 18 I really think. Like I did, I went out with this girl's brother after I had finished with GARY and I had an argument with my cousin and never went back up again. And I started mucking about with them again, and there was nothing my Mam and Dad could do really because I was with them all the time at school and then near enough all the time at home and we used never to stay in, we were out every night and we started going out every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night to the Farmyard like a disco and everybody goes.

Q: Is that were you used to go with your ..?

A: Yes, and this girl's brother, I just went with him for one night for a kiss and I gave him a kiss, I used to like him, I thought he was dead nice looking and everything and then I went with him one night and then I started going out with him, this was like three month before Christmas about, three month before Christmas I started going out with him and I was working one night, we carried on all over Christmas when I was working, like and like she didn't know that I was going out with him and she asked me to stay at her house one night and I wanted to stay but I just, I did stay in the end but originally I was scared to stay because I knew he would be there and I thought something would go wrong or I won't do nothing right and someone will say something to me so I went down to her house and her older sister come in and I was sat there and she didn't know I was going out with CRAIG her brother, so she left me there talking to him all night downstairs and she went out with her sister to a friends to pick some stuff up so they was gone about 10 minutes and I thought, I went up upstairs and I was taking to him upstairs and I did what I shouldn't have done with him again.

Q: Why did you do it then though?

A: I don't know .. I think it was because I really liked him.

Q: Did he ask you to?

A: No.

Q: Did you initiate it or did you make the first move?

A: No I didn't but, he made the first move but I didn't stop him from doing it because I think it was. Like they all know what I'm like, I don't know, I get dead upset.. I cry and everything over daft silly things but that's what I'm like really, there's another girl down there like me, she crys over everything, JACQUELINE, she does. And I did it with him and I come back down downstairs and sat like nothing was going on and I was sat watching the television and I had me feet up on the chair like this like nothing was going on and then Christmas Eve he came to our house and brought me a Christmas present. He bought me a chain with '[E]' on it and I bought him a watch so I give him the watch and he gave me the chain and me Mam and Dad knew I was going out with him but it was sort of, 'are you going out with him or are you not', you know they didn't really know but I think they really knew when he give me the chain, she said, 'you must be going out with him' and so I said 'yes', but I said 'don't say nothing to him because like..'. He's nineteen and I don't know it's just..

Q: Because he was 19 does that age gap make a big difference?

A: No, not to me it doesn't. I don't care how old he is.

Q: But to your Mum and Dad?

A: No, my Mum and Dad, it's not so bad with my Mum and Dad because she thinks I'm not stupid (laughter) even now I think she thinks I'm sweet and innocent and dead good (interruption)

Then after he give me the chain I had it on one night when I went out. I was working on Christmas eve at my uncles pub, and he'd gone to Butterflies in Oldham to, you know, a Christmas Eve do and I went out with him on Christmas day night, and I see him again on Christmas day night and then on Boxing day night somebody knocked at our house, one of the girls and they all didn't know I was going out with CRAIG and they said 'Ah, have you heard CRAIG he's going out with that girl from Oldham, from Butterflies', and I just went 'Oh, is he?' and as soon as they went I just burst into tears. (interruption)

Q: Did that break your heart then?

A: Yes.

Q: I'm not surprised.

A: I was in tears really but that was ..

Q: Did it make you feel worse because you slept with him?

A: That's what made it worse I think and I just, every time I looked at him (laughter) (interruption) and then I went to his house and give him the chain back, and I said, 'I don't want it', and then it all carried on as though, I didn't speak to him but he wanted to speak to me but I didn't and then that was it. I didn't go out all over the Christmas because of all the trouble on Christmas Eve night and I think it was New Year's Eve, I went out to town with my Mum and Dad and I made my way back up to Farmyard for last orders and I seen him and KELLY pulled me up, his sister, the girl I knock about with, she said 'Are you going out with our CRAIG?' and I said 'oh no', and she said 'Oh I just found a an initial in his bedroom with E on and I wondered if it were yours' and I said 'It wouldn't be mine - what would he want to give me that for?', you know, as though nothing were going on. And I walked up to these pool tables with his sister and that, and he was with this girl from Butterflies and I just looked at him and I just burst into tears and then I had to go to the toilet right away, I was crying my eyes out, I told her what it was, and then his sister come to the toilet to me and she said, 'There's something going on isn't there', and I said, 'KELLY there is not, honestly', and I tried to make it out to her that there wasn't. And I see you last Thursday didn't I?, and then Sunday night I went in the Farmyard again and I wasn't supposed to see him, I didn't think he would be out because he didn't go out much on a Sunday with working in the morning and then he walked up to the Museum and he pulled, he shouted me over and he said, 'Could I have a word with you', I said 'what?', so he said, 'Will you tell our KELLY that that was your chain because she keeps asking me?', so I said 'Yes', I said, 'it's all got to come out because I'm not keeping secrets from my friends any more'. So I got them all round on Monday night and I told all what had happened and things like that. KELLY was, I think she wanted to kill me really.

Q: Why?

A: I don't know, I think it was just..

Q: Was it because you slept with him. Did you tell her?

A: Yes, I didn't tell her but one of the other girls told her because I couldn't tell her because I thought she would just go mad and killed me. But really she took it dead, she took it calmer than me, I don't know what it is, I think if it were me and it was my older brother I would have killed him because like she's the same age as me and he's older. I don't look at it that way but I think in that situation I would have gone mad really.

Q: Do you wish you hadn't slept with him?

A: Yes.

Q: Would that have made a big difference to how you felt about him?

A: I don't think I would have got as upset but the point that got me really was that he could stand there and go with girls in front of me face and it didn't mither him at all but I just cried, like there's a girl down there now she went with him on Sunday night and I was crying in front of her, just started crying and she said, 'I'm sorry, I didn't even know', and then..

Q: Did she sleep with him?

A: No she just went with him and I was dead upset about that but after that I wasn't really mithered and like on Thursday night, I didn't see you this Thursday I saw you on Tuesday didn't I? On Thursday night I went to a 21st and I went with this other lad there, JACQUELINE, it was her cousins 21st at my uncles pub, so I went with this lad there who's 22 and I knew he was a lot older than me and he knew how old I was, 15, 16 like and he didn't mither really and I seen him on Tuesday night; I didn't come here Tuesday, were you on Tuesday? Another girl was wasn't she. Well I didn't come on Tuesday I went out with him to the Museum and CRAIG was stood there and..

Q: You felt a bit..

A: Yes, (laughter) yes, I really did and as I was going to the toilet he was stood outside the ladies toilets and he said to me, 'Are you going with him?', so I said yes, ...? so I said 'Are you still going with CATH' and he looked at this girl he was with and he said 'No'. And I said 'Oh' and 'see you' and just ran in the toilets. And I was like that in the toilets and I was sick because he wasn't going out with her and I was going out with another lad and I thought well I might have got back with him but, and I was thinking about it.

Q:?

A: Yes, but I wouldn't go back with him again.

Q: Why?

A: Because he treats you like dirt. When I was going out with him he didn't treat me like dirt but after it, it wasn't so much being a mouth to this mates that I'd slept with him but I knew he told one of his mates because like .. (interruption) and his mate pulled me up last night and he'd seen his friend and he was in a car and I was walking up here and I come on Wednesday nights to keep fit upstairs and so I was walking up here and this guy beeped in the car and said 'Do you want a lift, I'm going to the pub', and I said 'It's alright I'll walk up here', and CRAIG said 'No get in', so I got in and he was asking me and giving me all an earful about who this lad is and why am I going out with him and all this and I said 'Because I like him and ....'? and I made it dead clear that he wasn't and he's not, so.

Q: Did you feel bad that he's told other people?

A: No because he only told one of his friends.

Q: Do you think these things get around within your group?

A: No, he must sit but never tells anything, never comes out with it. Like there's seven of us, there's six of us but there's always a girl that comes down on Tuesdays and Thursdays and it never gets about, never, because they'd never be able to be trusted again because nobody would dare to say anything to them again and they won't trust you and I think everybody's got the brains to keep their mouths shut really and I don't think his friend would say anything because he's not like that.

Q: So when you were seeing him did you use any contraception?

A: A condom.

Q: Who suggested it. Who was the one that brought it up about contraception?

A: Me. The first time I was scared of doing it with him and he didn't use anything the first time but I was dead scared and everything, but the second time I went up to the ..? and made him get something.

Q: How did you know what to get and where did you get it. Did you go to the family planning clinic?

A: Yes, and on the arcade market.

Q: Why did you go for condoms, why did you choose that?

A: I don't know, because I couldn't really go on the pill and I couldn't have used a cap or something like that I just don't know and it was easier for him to do it but before I did it with him I made him put it on, I wasn't watching him but I was stood there like that as if to say, make sure you put it on and he did put it on.

Q: Was it a big step to go from what you'd been doing before?

A: Yes.

Q: How far would you go before that happened?

A: I don't know really, I wouldn't have slept with a lad unless I really really really liked the lad, I wouldn't have and I know that myself. I wouldn't have done that, but when New Year come

I said to our KELLY; we was all making New Year resolutions and I was sat there and they said 'what's yours', so I says, 'I know I'm not a virgin but from today until I'm 18 I'm going to be. I don't care if I don't get a lad again, I don't get a lad again', but.

Q: Do you have any regrets of doing it?

A: Yes.

Q: How has it made you feel now?

A: Dirty, yes.

Q: Is that because of what happened afterwards?

A: Yes, because I kept thinking did I do something wrong or was it not right or I don't know, I just kept thinking all things like that. Because I'm a big girl and I kept thinking was I too big or did I do something wrong.

Q: Were you worried about your body and that then. Did you look at his body and think?

A: No, I don't know really. I think I looked at his body and thought because, he's not thin but he's not fat really. I kept thinking I'd done something wrong because he's not very pleased and that's why he finished with me but..

Q: Is that why you thought he'd finished with you at the time?

A: I thought that was why they both finished with me but I'd never do it again and that's it. Like when you go out with lads you all have your busts felt, every lad does that but .. and I've been out with lads and just two weeks and they've felt your bust and that's it really.

Q: So it was a big step for you then?

A: It was a big step.

Q: So why did you use a condom. Was it pregnancy?

A: Yes because if I'd got pregnant I'd run away.

Q: Had you thought about anything else like other diseases?

A: No not really.

Q: Does that not come into it?

A: It does. It makes you think but at the time I didn't think but after it I kept thinking I could have got AIDS and things like that.

Q: What do you know. Did you get stuff about AIDS at school?

A: Yes, you got a leaflet.

Q: What did that tell you?

A: It says like injecting needles, and all sorts, it tells you ways which you could get AIDS.

Q: What did it say?

A: It says like through needles, and you can get it through spit, like a cut mouth anyway, and the blood and that's what it said on this leaflet and through sexual intercourse. That was it really.

Q: When you learnt about it at school did you ever think..?

A: When I was seeing it at school and I knew I'd done that with a lad I kept thinking God, I could have got that or something like that but how I looked at it was, if I'm going to die I'm going to die, but I don't know why, I just look at it like that, I just do.

Q: Do you think you are at risk?

A: I do now, but before I didn't because I kept thinking it's one in a million that get it, wouldn't be me, but it could be you and I'd never do it, I wouldn't sleep with a lad again until I thought I really liked the lad and I was ready to do it. But like before I don't think I was ready, but it was like I thought of losing the lad I liked and I think both of them, I wouldn't say it was as much as a crush on a lad but like you say you love him but I didn't love him, I just thought I loved him, but I don't.

Q: So, in the future, say when you're a bit older and thought about having sex again how would you go about it, would you actually be thinking about something like AIDS or about venereal disease?

A: Yes. I'd think about it.

Q: What would you do. If you imagine it was all happening again would you do think you would do anything different?

A: I think I would because I'd be older then, I don't think I would do it again until I'm old enough and found the right lad. I don't know what I'd do really, when.

Q: If you could choose who you had a relationship with would you think about AIDS like that.

A: I think so, yes.

Q: Would you think about the type of person?

A: Like, I wouldn't go out with anybody who I thought could get it like who did drugs and that.

Q: What sort of person do you think would get it?

A: Queer. Because he could be both and I wouldn't know or, like a drug addict. I don't really know much about AIDS that much anyway but.

Q: The information you have got so far, where have you got it from?

A: From school or from television.

Q: What do you think about the things on TV?

A: The things on television is right, because like the advert on television where the lad has a red dot on him, HIV plus, is that AIDS?

Q: HIV positive, that's the virus that in the end brings on the condition which is called AIDS. Yes HIV is the virus.

A: If I slept with somebody that had HIV the virus and he wore a condom would I get AIDS?

Q: If he wore a condom and the condom didn't break, so no sperm got into you, then there is no way you should be able to get it.

A: But if it did I could get AIDS couldn't I?

Q: You would be open to the risk. It's not a high risk. It is actually reasonably difficult to catch it. But they don't know actually very much about it. Do you think you could identify somebody who was at risk?

A: Could you?

Q: I think it's pretty difficult. What do you know about from schools and television about safe sex. What is it?

A: I would say it's having sex with a condom or some other contraceptive. I would say that's all it was really.

Q: If you were on the pill would that protect you?

A: Yes, I would say so.

Q: And if you had the cap would that protect you?

A: Yes.

Q: When there was a blitz on television about it everywhere did your parents talk to you about it at all?

A: No not really because I think my Mum thought I had the brains to watch it and listen to what was going on and things like that.

Q: So they didn't bring it up, they didn't give you a talk.

A: No. They haven't really.

Q: Have you had a talk at school?

A: We never had a talk on AIDS at school but we had a talk on sex, like sexual intercourse and that but when you're sat with your mates and you're all listening to this talk they just take the mick and don't think you really listen to it.

Q: Did the boys get a talk about AIDS?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you expect them to know as much as you and take responsibility for it?

A: Yes you do, but they don't.

Q: Would you trust a boy to take responsibility for it?

A: If I knew the lad well I would, yes, if I knew what he was like yes, but otherwise no not really.

Q: Safe sex as far as you know is about contraception. Have you been told any other things about safe sex.

A: No.

Q: About sex without having intercourse and things like that?

A: No not really.

Q: You've not really gone into it?

A: No.

Q: Do your mates talk about it, do you hear things talked about at school?



A: No we sit there and talk about it and all. We talk about what's going on. (interruption)

Q: What information do you think you need, what questions would you like to ask?

A: The thing that worries me is like when you have sex with a lad and he wears a condom and it leaks you can still come on a period even if you are pregnant can't you?

Q: Well yes.

A: Well the first time I had sex and I didn't use a contraceptive I came on a period and I kept thinking I can still come on a period if I'm pregnant, and one time I went to the chemist and got a test pregnancy thing but it was not positive and I was really relieved, really really relieved, because I kept being sick in the mornings.

Q: You were worried about being pregnant?

A: Yes, but in the mornings when I got up I'd feel ugh, and then I'd be sick and I kept thinking there was something wrong with me and then one of the girls I know, she went and got one of these tests and we did it at her house and it was alright so I was dead relieved, dead chuffed but that's it really.

Q: Would you be happy to have oral sex. Have you done it?

A: No.

Q: Do you think that you could catch anything from that?

A: Yes.

Q: Would you think that was dangerous to do?

A: Yes.

Q: Is it something you would want to do?

A: No, I don't know really. I have been asked to do that but I said, 'I would not, definitely not'.

Q: Has a boy ever done that for you?

A: No, I wouldn't. Not at all.

Q: Did you have sex education at school. How much did they tell you about that type of thing?

A: Nothing. They don't say anything about going down on a lad, they don't say anything, it's just having sex with a bloke. Sleeping with a lad and having sex.

Q: Did they tell you things you wanted to know?

A: Yes you can ask, but I don't think anybody has got the guts to ask.

Q: Did anyone ask questions?

A: No. I wouldn't ask questions because I'd be embarrassed. In case they said 'Oh, you know a lot about it and what have you done?', and things like that.

Q: At schools is it difficult to...

A: All the lads ask you, 'Are you still a virgin?', and I say 'no, what's it got to with ought, it's up to me'.

Q: Is that important at the moment, the age you are?

A: I think the age I am, the lads that go with you only go to get something out of you. Not every lad's like that, but you get the odd couple that's not like that, but most of them are like that, they want something out of you and that's the only reason they go with you. If they know something about you then they will go with you to see if they can get it.

Q: Do you get worried about getting a reputation?

A: Yes, but I think if I did have a reputation and I've kissed lads that wanted something out of me, but I say, 'You're not getting anything out of me', so that's what I do really but.

Q: Do you think lads want you just to see what they can get out of you or do they want you just as a person?

A: At our age most lads just want you for what they can get ...nobody wants you as a person, not at our age anyway, you might get an older lad you would consider about that but none of our age is like that.

Q: Do you think that happens when you get a bit older?

A: I hope so (laughter). A long time ago when I used to work at my uncle's pub there used to be a football gang come in (interruption) I used to go to my Grans after work and I used to have to get the bus and I went out with him and I was getting a bus one day and he drew up in his car and he said, 'do you want a lift?', he was 26, 27, and I went with him but I didn't sleep with him or anything like that.

Q: Was this in the car?

A: Yes, and then I seen him a few times after that, after work when I was going home and we was in French one day weren't we?, and we was writing letters to each other because he was dead dirty and disgusting and asking if he would have a bath with me and stuff like that, and we started writing letters to each other on pieces of paper and he told me to burn them but I took them home and Mam found them. So she went off her head, and I told her we were just messing about so at first she wouldn't have it and then I think she actually believed there was nothing going on and then I went with him one week. (interruption) And then I went in the pub one day and I was going home and his mate pulled me up and he said to me, 'Are you going with DANNY?', so I said 'no', so he said 'You'd better watch it because he's married', and I nearly died, I couldn't believe it.

Q: Did he not tell you this?

A: No, he didn't. I thought he was single and he was a school teacher as well he told me, I nearly died, I couldn't believe it, but he didn't tell me.

Q: Would you have slept with him?

A: No.

Q: I bet you're glad you didn't now. Did you feel worried being with someone much older or did you feel the same way about it?

A: About the same way really, I don't know. Like I've just found, he's four years older than me, he's 20 this year but he could be like 4 or nearly 5 years older because if he's 20 before August like he could be 5 years older than me.

Q: Does that seem a big gap to you?

A: It doesn't seem a big gap because girls are more mature than lads. I'm not 16 until August.

Q: Did your Mum think 19 was too old?

A: No, because she didn't know. She didn't know a thing about it.

Q: How would it be if she knew that he was older?

A: He'd only be after one thing. But I don't tell her nothing. I tell me Mum most things, not every single thing.

(end of tape)

A: ..... if it was the right lad and I was ready.

Q: What do you think about settling down?

A: I couldn't settle down with anyone, I like to be about.

Q: So you're not looking to fall in love and settle down?

A: If I was lucky to fall in love with one lad which will be impossible anyway so it's a waste of time.

A2: I've not fallen in love but I'm pleased with it, I like different lads but I can't two time so I'd get caught.

Q: Why is it you go out with lads when you know that they're after only one thing and you don't want to do that. Do you have to keep going out with them to keep up?

A: No, not really but, I think it's just the way you are really. If you want to you do and if you don't, you don't.

Q: But if there are girls who haven't been out with anyone or that have gone out and only kissed do they get teased about that?

A: I tease EMILY don't I. EMILY is nearly 17 this year and I think.

A2: I'm nearly 6ft, so's CRAIG, and CRAIG can just get that out of a girl.

A: I was just talking about CRAIG.

A2: Well he didn't with me, well he got a bit but not a lot.

Q: Why is it you tease her about it?

A: I don't know, I think because we're not like that - we don't tease her really, (interruption) we don't really tease her do we. We annoy her sometimes don't we, when I'm in a mood.

Q: Do you think that you have to start becoming sexually active, you have got to start sleeping, well not sleeping with them but going a bit further?

A: No, like I says to KELLY, 'if you listen and you got any sense, don't do it'. I've said that to you loads of times haven't I? No lad is worth that not making you fucking worry anyway and things like that, no.

Q: Do you think they worry about pregnancy?

A: No.

A2: None of the twits round here do.

A: When I was going out with GARY and he did. He used to say to me, 'Tell me when you're going to come on', and things like that. Those two were alright like that but no other bastard does.

Q: Do you see it as your responsibility then, for you to look out for yourself in that way?

A: Yes.

A2: Like with CRAIG with EMMA he always cracks on, he gets nothing out of her, he never tells anyone. Because we were pissing about saying 'Ah, we know what you've been doing!', but what have you been telling me? 'I've had nothing out of her apart from tits once, there'.

Q: Is that how he talks about it then?

A2: We know what he's done because she's told us and we won't say anything and he just cracks on nothing has happened.

A: That's like what I've been telling you, everything that goes on, we tell everyone just us like, us gang.

Q: If he says he's got nothing out of her, is that a way of putting her down in front of people?

A2: It's a way of protecting her.

A: He's got brains.

A2: Because most lads go round and blab it.

Q: What happens when they blab it then?

A: You get called a tart and that. There's a girl we know of 13, who I've just been telling you about, I knocked about with her for a bit, well we heard something about her today at school.

A2: She's slept with two brothers, ones like 19 and ones like 16.

A: 15 when he did it and she slept with a lad of 17, a lad of 16 and a lad's that 19 and she wasn't embarrassed about that but today we was talking with a girl that was with some of these lads last night and they were saying you know, well I won't actually put it that way, but they said she's got a fanny like a bucket, so you can imagine what we said. (interruption) One lad said you had to walk 54 steps to the right, 54 steps to the left, 54 steps forward to find the sides of it.

Q: What do you think about that. Does it scare you when you hear blokes talking about girls like that?

A: They can talk about her like that.

A2: But she shouldn't have done that. She's thirteen!

Q: Why do you think she did it?

A2: She acts old like but she thinks that's part of being older.

A3: She looks older but I think when you talk to her you can tell her age, I don't think you can have..... Do you think you can have a real conversation with CLAIRE?

A: Yes, I can because I've ...

A3: ...not on lads I mean on anything. Like all of us, we always have arguments on, what do we argue on?, we argue on religion everything like that, politics, everything but I don't think CLAIRE could. I've never had a real conversation with her.

A: Yes, that's CLAIRE, when I've been out with CLAIRE we used to talk about lads, lads, lads, that's all it was. She never used to talk about school or out of school.

A3: I think you can tell how old she, you can't have a proper conversation with her you know, like boys is intelligent conversation in some ways, but I mean we argue about religion and politics and everything with the teachers.

Q: Do you think what she has done is wrong?

A2: Definitely for her age.

A: She's wrong.

Q: Do you think it's morally wrong or it's like sad for her?

A: I think it's both. It's sad for her and it's wrong but that's how she is, that's how she is and that's it and you can't put her right. I used to tell her all the time she was getting called a slag and this and that but she didn't really ....

Q: Do you think she will get into trouble?

A: She will get into trouble soon.

Q: Do you think someone like her would be in risk of AIDS?

A: She could have AIDS. (interruption).

Q: Do you think about that when you think about sleeping with a boy. Do you think about how many girls he has slept with?

A2: I wouldn't. I'm not that sort.

A3: The thing is when you go out with an older boy like I know him, but I don't know him really, really well and like I could ask him who he has slept with.

Q: But with an older boy you wouldn't know what their past is and what they have done?

A: No you don't.

Q: Would you be more wary of a bloke like that?

A2: All lads are bastards.

END OF RECORDING.