

## Gloria II

When I confronted Rudy about his getting high, he went off! He made a fist, struck the table, and began yelling at me. I stayed cool and replied “I can’t take this anymore!” I told him that I still love him but what if he gets busted or contracts AIDS and what of our daughter, Alicia...he put his head down.

I wanted to go home so I got up and sat by the cashier. Rudy came beside me and said I didn’t know the pressures of being jobless, of not being a better provider but mostly my constant nagging were the reasons for his habit...I just looked at him, then headed for the door – we walked home without a word.

When we got home, Rudy went to bed. I needed to talk to someone so I called a friend whose husband is also a drug user. She told me of a support group for women in our situation. We made a date to meet the following night for the group’s next meeting.

I was surprised to find out other women were once in the same exact situation as I was in. They helped me sort out my feelings and gave me advice for coping with my problems. It was such a relief to know that I was not alone.

After the meeting I felt much better. My friend reminded me not to make any decisions until I could think more clearly. She gave me the dates for the next two meetings and said she would be happy to join me if I wanted her company.

In the past few days I’ve been through so much. If it wasn’t for the group, I don’t know what I’d do! I hadn’t realized that confronting Rudy in public was a smart idea. I learned ways to deal with Rudy, whether he’s high or sick, if he continues to steal or tries to come with me. After all, it’s not just for me but for Alicia and our future, with or without Rudy.

1. **Characterization:** A 30 year old Latina female with a child and a boyfriend who is an IDU.
2. **Membership:** Female sexual partner of an IDU.
3. **Risk behavior:** She has been engaging in unsafe sex practices with her partner.
4. **Goal:** Increase condom use with her partner.
5. **Stage of Change:** Contemplation.
6. **Influencing Factor:** She fears that she may contract HIV from her partner. (Perceived risk).
7. **Barrier to Overcome:** Her partner conceals his drug use and she fears her partner’s reaction to being asked to use a condom.

**Strategy:** She confronts her partner about his drug use and takes a firm position about what changes she wants to occur within their relationship.

**8. Positive Outcome:** Risk behavior is reduced.

**9. Source:** The Lower East Side Health Project Role Model Stories Library; June 1991 – Vol. 1, No.2 (B); Susan Tross, Ph.D., Principal Investigator