

Early in the Morning

Last week I got a date with a nice guy. I was very excited because this guy was good looking and had a steady job. That day we went out to see a movie and ate in a good restaurant. He was very funny and I was very happy. When we finished at the restaurant, I invited him for coffee at my place. He accepted right away.

At my apartment, we sat down on the sofa. We drank coffee and started to talk about the movie and the nice dinner. During the conversation, he slowly put his arms around my waist and started to kiss my arms and neck. I was feeling good and we started to hug and cuddle for a long time. We moved around the sofa. It was the only space that we had but it was too small and delicate, we almost broke it. We decided to go to my bed. I really wanted him to make love to me...we walked towards my bed. We wanted each other very much. I found out that I didn't have a condom in my drawer, and he didn't have one in his pocket either. I didn't know what to do. I was so into it, but I didn't want him to go ahead without any protection. Then, I saw my watch. It was near 3 o'clock in the morning. No store was open at that time. What could I do? I asked myself.

Because of my desperation, I called my neighbor for help at 3 o'clock in the morning. She is a good friend of mine. I crossed the hall in my building and knocked on the door. She answered the door. "I apologize for interrupting your sleep, but I have an emergency," I said. "Well, some kind of emergency." Then I told her of my date and my need for protection. Thank goodness she had a few condoms at home.

A few days later, I thanked my neighbor for her understanding and her help. "It was a real emergency. I'm always glad to help out a friend," she said. That's why we called her "The Condom Lady."

1. **Characterization:** She is Latina.
2. **Membership:** Heterosexual female.
3. **Risk behavior:** She is tempted to engage in unsafe sex due to the lack of a condom.
4. **Goal:** Engage in safe sex practices by always using a condom.
5. **Stage of Change:** Maintenance.
6. **Influencing Factor:** She does not want to contract HIV. (Self-efficacy)
7. **Barrier to Overcome:** She did not have a condom available.

Strategy: She borrowed from a friend.

8. **Positive Outcome:** Used a condom.

9. Source: The Lower East Side Health Project Role Model Stories Library; September 1993 – Vol. 3, No.16 (A); Susan Tross, Ph.D., Principal Investigator