

Gloria V

Rudy called me again. He said that he really missed Alicia and I – that he wanted to see us again. I didn't know if I wanted to see him but he sounded so unhappy and depressed. I told him that he could come over to have coffee the next evening.

The doorbell rang a half hour early but I knew that it was Rudy. He apologized for being so early, saying that he couldn't wait to see us. I asked Rudy to watch over Alicia while I prepared the coffee. He looked very happy to have some time to play with our daughter.

Alicia seemed comfortable with Rudy so I went into the kitchen to get our coffee. From the living room I could hear Alicia giggling and Rudy laughing which made me feel great. When I brought the coffee over, Rudy got up from the floor and sat on the couch. I was a little nervous and I think that Rudy was as well. We watched Alicia for a while and then talked about our old friends. He asked if I had seen any of his old running partners. When I told him that quite a few of them had become sick, he got very quiet. For a while there was silence, and then he took my hand in his. This was the first time that he had touched me since I had asked him to leave. I couldn't control myself and I began to cry. I missed him so much but I was also afraid. Rudy took me into his arms.

After Rudy left so many thoughts ran through my mind. I wondered what it would be like if we got together again. How would I feel to sleep and wake up with Rudy next to me? Is Rudy HIV positive???? Then, I remembered what I had learned from a good friend; that using condoms would protect me from the AIDS virus, but could I get Rudy to use them? I stared out at the night streets feeling empty inside, knowing I would have to make some tough decisions.

1. **Characterization:** 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:** Her partner conceals his drug use and she fears her partner's reaction to being asked to use a condom.

Strategy: She confronted her partner about his drug use and took a firm position about what changes she wants to occur within their relationship. Her partner leaves the relationship but is satisfied because she is no longer at risk of contracting HIV.

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

9. Source: The Lower East Side Health Project Role Model Stories Library; February 1992 -
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