

Non-Stranger Sexual Assault: *An Interior Dialogue*

Developed by LeeAnn Borton & Kate Rudy, Cornell University Peer Educators, 1989.



Woman: He took me to a new ethnic restaurant I'd been dying to go to. It was really expensive but he paid for everything. We had a carafe of wine with dinner and we laughed continuously on the walk home.



Man: We had a great dinner. It was expensive, but she was worth it. She's the first girl I've met this semester who could really make me laugh. We really hit it off. She laughed at all my jokes.



Woman: We just kind of ended up at his house. That was okay because I really wanted to spend more time with him anyway. There were a number of guys hanging out in the living room. He offered me more wine and poured each of us a glass. We sat down on the couch to talk with them and he put his arm around me. The guys were nice but it was pretty loud, and I really wanted to talk with him alone, like we had over dinner, so I asked him if we could go someplace quieter to talk.



Man: We went back to my apartment and a bunch of my apartment-mates were there. I was glad they got a chance to see her. She wanted some more to drink, so I got us both some wine. After a while we got restless, and I was relieved when she asked to go someplace more quiet. As we got up to go to my room, one of my friends slapped me on the butt and said, "Go for it, man!" I apologized to her for my friend's crudeness. She laughed it off, luckily.



Woman: We went up to his room and I looked around for a place to sit down. All the chairs and most of the other horizontal surfaces were covered with books, papers, and dirty laundry. Although I didn't feel comfortable, I sat on his unmade bed. I felt embarrassed about asking him to move his stuff. He sat down next to me, smiled, and kissed me. I relaxed again.



Man: As soon as we got in the room, she sat on my bed. I felt very excited. I had been waiting for this all evening. I smiled at her and she smiled back. As I kissed her, she seemed to melt in my arms. It was apparent we both wanted the same thing. After we kissed for a while, I thought we both would want some privacy, so I got up and locked the door. She seemed slightly

tense when I came back, so I put my arms around her and kissed her to ease her back into the mood.



Woman: I was really enjoying kissing him, but when he got up to lock the door, I began to feel uncomfortable. I thought about saying something, but decided against it, because I was embarrassed and I didn't want to spoil the wonderful evening we had been having. I liked him and I wanted him to ask me out again. When he was kissing me again and holding me so gently, I was glad that I hadn't said anything.



Man: She seemed to be enjoying herself and I could tell she really liked me. She looked great. I got very aroused kissing her and holding her close. I knew there was no turning back now. I started kissing her neck and I reached down to unbutton her shirt.



Woman: I was aroused, but I wasn't sure how far I wanted to go with him. When he started to unbutton my shirt, I felt unsure but it felt nice, and I decided to let him.



Man: She seemed very receptive, so I decided to unbutton and take off her pants. She protested as I unbuttoned the first button, but didn't seem very serious. I felt she didn't want me to think she was too easy. I knew she would agree eventually. She was as excited as I was... I started to take my pants off.



Woman: He started unbuttoning my pants. I knew I didn't want him to go that far on our first evening together. I told him to stop, but I felt bad about arousing him then stopping. We fell back while he was kissing me. He was on top of me, and I couldn't move, and I told him "no".



Man: I took my pants off after mine. She continued to protest, but I stopped listening after a while. She had sent me all the right signals before, so it didn't seem likely that she wanted to stop now. As I entered her, she started to struggle and cry. I wondered if it was her first time. As I neared orgasm, she stopped struggling but continued to cry. After I pulled out, I lay beside her and fell asleep.



Woman: Even though I said no, he continued to pull my pants off. I couldn't stop him. I stopped worrying about what he would think and I say, "No!" loudly over and over, but he wasn't listening to me. As he forced himself into me, I tried to push him off. I tried to scream

but all I could do was cry. I couldn't believe he was doing this to me. After a while, I was exhausted and I stopped struggling. I just wanted it to end. I lay there feeling numb. After he was finished, he rolled off of me and fell asleep. I was afraid to move. I didn't want to wake him up. I didn't want to have to see him or talk to him. Eventually, I put my clothes on and walked home. I felt so dirty that I spent an hour crying in the shower.



Man: When I woke up, she was gone. I wondered why she didn't say anything before she left. I had thought we had had great time. When I called her a couple of days later, however, she hung up on me. Maybe I pushed things too far.



Woman: *This is possibly the worst thing that ever happened to me. I feel empty and depressed. I can't concentrate on my work; I can't have fun. I worry about a possible pregnancy, or having to see him as I walk through campus. My friends are worried and ask me why I'm depressed, but I feel I could never tell them what has happened. I've even thought of killing myself.*