

## NOT IN OUR COMMUNITY

Protecting us and our friends against  
sexual exploitation.

# Morgan's Story

Morgan's trip to the shops takes an unexpected turn, influenced by a new friend into taking a risk that doesn't turn out well. A short story of sexual exploitation.

It's not okay for someone to manipulate you into doing sexual things for their own or someone else's benefit. If you're under 18, this is called child sexual exploitation and it is against the law.

Grooming takes many forms and many abusers will gain the trust of their victims over time.

Do not ignore the warning signs if you or a friend are at risk of sexual exploitation. See <http://notinourcommunity.org/get-help/> to understand the options for help.

1) I first met Tess at the back of station waiting for my bus. I had some time to kill so decided to go outside, I've always liked the cold breeze. Tess was smoking, she offered me a cig that's how we got talking I said no at first but then I was worried she'd judge me so I said I was joking and if she wouldn't mind I would.



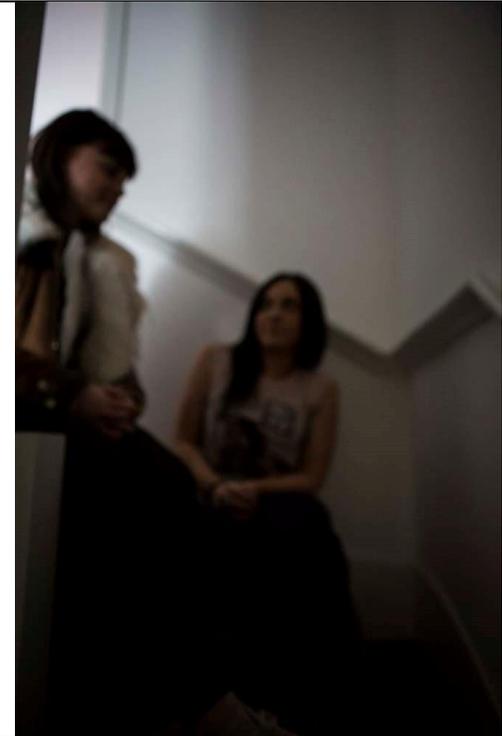
2) Few minutes later a car pulled up and she said that's her ride, she offered me a lift, said it'd be quicker than waiting for the bus, and I was cold so I said thanks and accepted. Tess smiled and told me we're just making a quick stop before we went home.



3) They took us into this house just past the theatre not far from station. Me and Tess went in, I was scared at first but she said we'd be ok. I was given a drink and chilled, after that I don't remember anything. I don't remember what happened there. I must have fallen asleep?



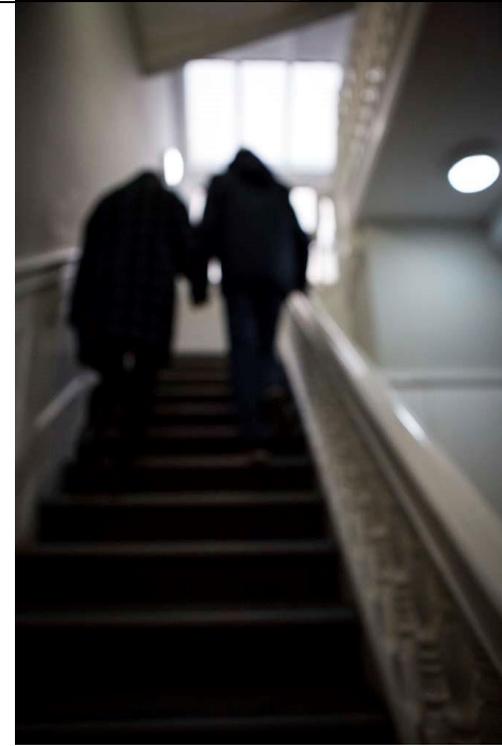
4) When I woke up Tess was sat next to me, she looked hurt, she'd been crying. I asked her what'd happened and she told me we had to stick together that we couldn't tell anyone. She had told me I'd been raped. I could see and feel the bruises on my body, my bits hurt. I couldn't even remember it all, couldn't tell my mum.



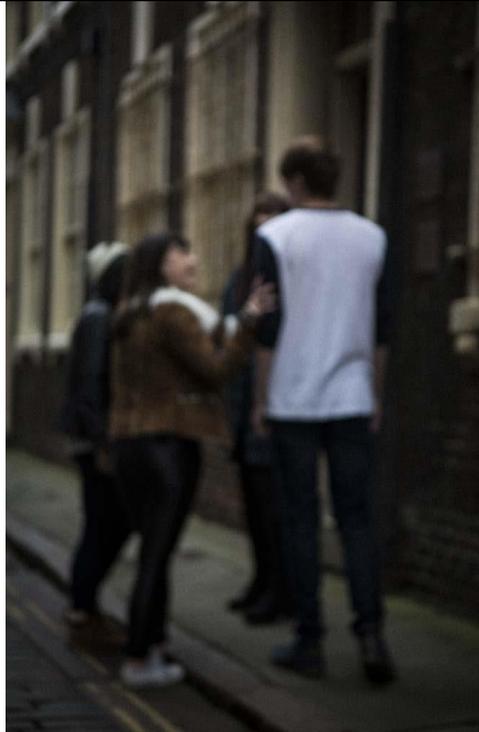
5) I knew Mum would be worried I hadn't gone home for the night; she'd be going crazy. I asked Tess if we could walk to the shopping centre clean ourselves up and head to the chill out zone, they have a charging area for your phones up there. We took pants from the supermarket, I felt bad but I needed them, I needed to be clean. I didn't count on security staring at us the whole time, we must have looked like shit.



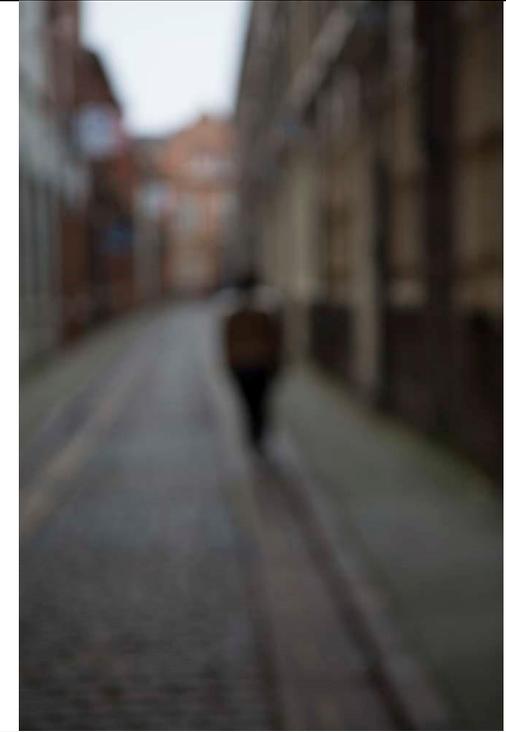
6) I knew once I'd charged my phone I could calm my mum down plus the chill out would give me enough time to think of the lie I had to tell. I was really upset and worried so Tess gave me her necklace she said as long as I wore it she'd be with me. Tess really had my back, I knew I could trust her.



7) I went home that night and well Tess rang me. It's crazy that she was a stranger yesterday and now she is the only one I can rely on, she'd become my big sister within a day. Anyways she rang and we decided to meet up just outside the shopping centre by the benches between the little stalls and mini fair. It was so cold.



8) Mum was still mad at me, I'd told her I'd fallen asleep at my mates house by accident, she bought it. I'd hid all my clothes under my bed, no way would she go under there.



9) Tess looked really scared when we met up, it made me scared. She explained what was going to happen now, that we we're stuck. They took pictures of us she said. They needed us to go back there. They needed us together. Can't run; they know where I live, Can't hide; they have pictures, they told Tess they would hurt mum if I said anything.



10) Christmas is the best time of year. That's what Tess says. She said it will be quieter, as long as we go with it, we won't get hurt as much, she said we will have a laugh once it's done. Plus 'we get loads more alcohol because they can buy it cheap' Tess always looks out for me.



11) I found out about a place we could go for help, but I was too scared to go alone... I told Tess that we can go together, but she is being really weird about it. She says we can't trust them. I don't want to go back to the places Tess takes me. We need this help.



Morgan's story is just one example of sexual exploitation and how the grooming process works. Often the grooming process is long and drawn out at the victim is immersed in a world by an abuser or an enabler they trust or even love.

In this story the character of Jess is a victim, but is probably also recruiting Morgan for other abusers. Morgan and Tess are in immediate danger and if this was your friend in a real situation should call 999 or alternatively, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

If you are a child or young person who needs help, please call Childline on 0800 11 11. Alternatively, please call 0808 800 5000 to discuss your concerns with the NSPCC 24 Hour Child Protection Helpline.