

## Supporting disclosure of a rape – scripted role play

Two people – Ruby and Layla - each to read a part. First, read the description of the situation.

Ruby has come to visit her friend Layla. She has been worried about Layla who has been quiet and withdrawn since a night out.

Ruby: How are you feeling now? The last time I saw you, you were very upset but you were unable to talk about it. You have been extremely quiet and you haven't seemed your usual self for a while now.

Layla: I am feeling so lost but to be honest I don't think I have the words or energy to explain. I wouldn't know where or how to begin.

Ruby: Oh honey, I hate the fact that you're struggling so much. You can tell me anything, it won't change the way I think about you. I am always here for you no matter what. If you want to talk about it you can start anywhere that's easiest for you and I will just listen.

Layla: Thanks, that means a lot although I still don't know how to explain what happened to make me feel like this. I will probably just get upset and make myself look even more stupid.

Ruby: If something has upset you this much you won't look stupid. You can tell me as much or as little as you won't and it will be kept between us and won't go any further unless you say otherwise. It doesn't matter how you explain it, I'm sure I will understand and if I don't I will say.

Layla: Okay, I will try to explain but I haven't told anyone yet so bear with me. Do you absolutely promise you won't say anything no matter what I say?

Ruby: I promise, take as much time as you need I'm not going anywhere.

Layla: Do you remember that night out we had with the girls on a Monday when we went to the Hothouse Club?

Ruby: Yes, the one where we went to the Pool Lounge after?

Layla: Yeah that one, in fact the Pool Lounge was where it all went wrong for me.

Ruby: I don't remember anything going wrong in the Pool Lounge; did I do something to upset you?

Layla: No, it wasn't you. I will try to explain.... I actually had an alright time in the Hothouse when it was just the three of us having a drink and a dance. It all started to change although I didn't realise it at the time When Rose started talking to those guys and they joined us.

Ruby: Do you mean Will and his friends? I have just remembered the drama at the end of the night when your phone was taken, sorry I should have remembered that.

Layla: Yes I do mean them; there is more to it than that... When we left the club and started walking to the Pool Lounge I was talking to Will, he seemed nice and mentioned we had a lot of friends in common. I had seen him out before but never really talked to him properly. He was acting normally as far as I could tell. I keep going over and over it in my head as to what I could have done differently or whether I should have realised something was up or if I did something to make him be like he was.

Ruby: Honey, are you okay? What happened?

Layla: Well when we got to the Pool Lounge we all had a game of pool, Rose was a tad drunk but the rest of us were fine so you took her to get some air, do you remember that?

Ruby: Yes

Layla: After you went outside Will seemed upset, I asked him if he was alright and he asked if we could talk away from his friends. I thought his friends had done something to upset him so I agreed and we walked towards the back of the club near the toilets.

Ruby: Okay, then what?

Layla: He pushed me into the toilets which confused me and I asked what he was doing and tried to walk straight back out but he put his arm across the door and said he was worried about his friends hearing. I felt really uncomfortable straight away and everything got out of control so quickly after that. I don't think I can explain in detail it is just too difficult.

Ruby: Did he hurt you?

[Nods]

Ruby: You don't have to explain anything if you don't want to, would it help to just tell me the outcome or if I ask questions? We can stop at any point if this is too much for you.

Layla: He locked the door and then I started to panic as I felt trapped he was getting closer and closer to me and started running his hands all over me. I asked him to stop and tried to push him off..... I don't know how to explain it.

Ruby: Did he rape you? I'm sorry this is so difficult.

Layla: I don't know if I would call it rape because he didn't actually come, because he was interrupted by the bar staff knocking on the door saying that only one person was allowed in the toilets at a time. He had his hand over my mouth and said we would be out in a minute. He pushed me to the floor, unlocked the door and went back out. The worst part was the bar staff gave me dirty looks until we left. When I came out you guys were back and were laughing and joking with him, I just wanted to leave but then realised my phone was missing too, you know the rest.

Ruby: Oh my god, I had no idea. I am so sorry, I can't imagine what you must be going through. You might not want to hear this but it's irrelevant whether he came or not, it is still rape. It was definitely a rape. You poor thing. Are you going to report it?

Layla: I don't know what to do anymore.

Ruby: I will help you whatever you decide. There are people you can talk to who can help you decide, and who can help you recover from this. It took real courage to tell me about this, it must have been so hard for you. I believe you. This is in no way your fault and you didn't deserve this to happen to you. I will do whatever I can to help. Would you like me to find a list of organisations who can support you, and we can go through the options together?

