



At 16, maybe 17, I went out with college friends to a night out, my first proper night to a club. Throughout the course of the night it would appear that I was spiked as my memories are almost non-existent and I have only been able to piece together the night from what other people told me.

I got asked to leave the club, my friend was told he couldn't wait with me and I was left on my own to navigate my own way home. In that time I rang my Dad who heard me in a taxi with a number of males (none of whom I know) and they were trying to take me back to theirs in a taxi and I was trying to say I wanted to go home. I then apparently put the phone down and my Dad couldn't contact me anymore.

The next thing I knew I had woken up in my bed, almost fully clothed with only a vague memory of a taxi dropping me at home and but not know if I had paid for it or at what time. I spoke to my mum about it and the Dad told me about the phone call.

As I had no recollection of anything, my mum took me to the local sexual health service for a screening (not knowing at the time that it was too soon to identify some infections, but I at least got emergency contraception).

The sexual health nurse asked me lots of questions which I couldn't answer, as well as about the last time I'd had sex. I was an out lesbian and told her this and she became what seemed slightly less convinced by my concerns of the night before - I was extremely worried I had been raped - and started asking me if I would know what it felt like if a man had had sex with me. She wrapped up the session by asking me: if I wasn't a lesbian, would I still have the same concerns, or is it because I'm lesbian I was assuming these men had raped me?

I left feeling extremely unsupported and like I was making a fuss of this because of my identity as a lesbian and that a straight woman may not have had the same concerns. This was 10yrs ago now so I would like to think that this practice has completely changed, but that experience has stuck with me and I have never used a sexual health service since.



Models have been used to protect the story-teller's anonymity