

Mark's Story

Mark is your favorite cousin. You're both seniors but at different high schools. Mark is obviously upset. When you ask what's wrong, he says "nothing" in a way that let's you know there IS something wrong. With a lot of probing, he finally tells you what's going on.

It all began two Fridays ago. He made a mistake at work and was worried about losing his job. He had the whole weekend to worry about whether or not his boss was going to fire him on Monday.

Mark decided not to trip about it because there was a party that night. He was expecting to see his ex-girlfriend, Anitra; he and Anitra had been broken up for a while, but he was ready to ask her for another chance. He got to the party and was nervous, so he had a drink, waiting for Anitra to show up. Meanwhile, a young woman named Sonia began flirting with him. Sonia was cute but Mark found her to be silly and immature.

Unfortunately, when Anitra did show up, it was with a new guy, Akeem. Mark was really upset and proceeded to have several drinks all at once. He began to flirt back and dance with Sonia. Then they went over to Sonia's house and had sex.

Monday, it turned out his boss wasn't mad. He just gave Mark some suggestions on how to improve his job performance. A week later, Anitra called him and told him it was over with Akeem; she was just trying to make Mark jealous. They got back together.

"That's great," you tell Mark. "So what's the problem?"

Mark explains that just last night Sonia called (how did she get his number?) and said she might be pregnant. She also said that she thought she may have a sexually transmitted infection and was going to the clinic to find out. They had a big argument — about who gave what to whom, whether he's the only one, etc. He was mad on the phone, but afterwards, he realized that he had been too drunk to use protection when they had sex. Mark is now worried that Sonia may be pregnant by him. He's also worried he may have given a sexually transmitted infection to Anitra, which could easily break them up again.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the reasons that Mark chose to drink?
2. What are some negative things that came out of mixing sex and alcohol?
3. If Mark decides to keep mixing sex and alcohol, what can he do to protect himself from some of those negative things?