



If *Chlamydia* Could Talk

I'm sorry Sarah but I'm not to blame. **You picked me up** when you had sex with that guy two weeks ago at that party. Remember? You'd fancied him for ages and **didn't use a condom**. I'm very grateful indeed. Little did you know then that you had been infected with me, chlamydia! **I'm silent** but don't confuse that for **weak** because I'm nothing of the sort.

Hi! Yes that's right, here I am. **Passed on to** you through **bacteria** in Mark's **semen** and as long as I keep quiet, it's easier for me to make myself **at home in your body**. Mark's semen stayed in your body after sex allowing me to **start spreading myself around**. Because you're young it's particularly easy for me to infect your body. Like I said, I'm very good at keeping quiet. So good in fact that I'll be with you 24 hours a day and you'll have no idea.

Although some do sadly become aware that I'm there, most don't, allowing me to **linger for months**, even years **undetected** and let's be honest, I **prefer it that way**; I can cause the most **damage** then you see. In the beginning I **live** and start to cause **problems** in the cervix and urethra. Once I've entered your body I **multiply massively**. Together we're **strong**, like an **army**, making our way to your **fallopian tubes**, they're our favourite. Yes, that right, an important part of your reproductive system where **babies** are formed. Oh yes, I know you're **not worried** about babies right now, well that's just **perfect for me** because that way I'll have **plenty of time** to get on with my work. I'm really good at **blocking** the tubes at both ends by causing a build up of scar tissue. **The result?** You could experience **painful** inflammation of your fallopian tubes and ovaries, and **struggle** to have children in the **future**.

So now you know the **reality** of living with me **undetected** and untreated. **Another bonus** of you not knowing about me is that the **next time** you have **unprotected sex** you'll **pass me on**. More of me! Isn't that just **great news?**! I can stay a **secret** in men too you know, but sometimes I like to show them I am there every **now and again**. He might find a **nasty discharge** coming from the tip of the penis. **Hi, yes that's me!** I can cause pain too while he's peeing... **OUCH...** Oh and **just for fun**, I can even cause his **testicles to swell up!** To walk around like that feeling so bad... On the other hand, I **may just decide** to **keep quiet** inside him too and then in the **future** he might find he **can't have children either**.

Anyway, must go. I've got important work to be getting on with.....

