

## SH1 - If Chlamydia Could Talk

### 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..............