



The Waiting Game

Sadia Ashraf (Edited by Logan Cochrane)

Noah and Orene are not virgins, but they have never had sex with each other. Noah feels ready to have sex with Orene, but Orene wants to wait.

Noah: Orene, we've both had sex before, what is stopping us from having sex with each other?

Orene: Nothing is stopping us. We've *chosen* to wait. Choice is what matters.

Noah: Do you not want to have sex with me?

Orene: I do...I am curious. But I want to wait until I feel ready.

Noah: What is there to feel ready about? You're not a virgin.

Orene: It doesn't matter. I am choosing to wait. I've made this clear to you before. Sex is a big deal. I want to wait. You need to understand perhaps I won't be ready until marriage.

Noah: But isn't sex the best way to show how much we care about each other.

Orene: (Looks concerned) Who told you that?

Noah: (Shrugs) Some of my friends.

Orene: (Shakes her head) Well they are mistaken.

Noah: But they said...

Orene: The way you respect my wishes and wait for me to be ready shows how much you care. There are many other ways to show how strong our feelings are. Sex is not the best or the *only* way to show the depth of our feelings.

Noah: It isn't?

Orene: (Laughs) No! You know how much I care about you, don't you?

Noah: (Smiles) Yes. You may have made it clear once or twice.

Orene: (Nudges him) And we haven't had sex have we...?

Noah: No.

Orene: (Smiling) Exactly.

Noah: So we wait?

Orene: (Holding his hand) So we wait.

Talking about sex is the best way to find out about another person's feelings about sex and share your own feelings. Like Orene you have the right to make your feelings clear. Talking to someone you are comfortable with - like a close friend - about sex can help you to express any concerns or fears or even pressure you might feel to have sex. If you have had sex before this does *not* mean you must feel comfortable to have sex again, even with the same person. Never feel pressured to do anything you are not comfortable with.



Smart Thinking

Sadia Ashraf

After seeing Noah, Orene is walking home and bumps into Benjamin – a friend of Noah's. He is jealous that she is in a relationship with Noah. Benjamin mistakenly believes that having sex with many girls is a smart thing to do.

Benjamin: Wait, Orene!

Orene: (Turns around) Oh hello, Benjamin. I didn't see you.

Benjamin: (Runs to catch up with her) Nice surprise seeing you here.

Orene: Oh yes. I've just come back from Noah's house.

Benjamin: (Links Orene's arm) Oh right. I never did understand why you like Noah.

Orene: (Laughs) Why not?

Benjamin: There are just better boys than Noah.

Orene is beginning to feel uncomfortable in the company of Benjamin. She does not trust him.

Orene: (Trying to free herself of Benjamin's arm) I don't understand what you mean.

Benjamin: Boys like me.

Orene: (Laughs)

Benjamin: (Laughs) I'm only joking. Lighten up!

Orene: Very funny. I must be getting home now.

Benjamin: What's the rush?

Orene: (Removes Benjamin's arm from hers) My brother is meeting me and I'm going to be late.

Benjamin: (Kicks stone on the floor) Am I not good enough for you?

Orene: Benjamin what has gotten into you? I'm going to be late that's all.

Benjamin: (Trying to take Orene's hand) Spend some time with me. (Stops walking and begins to back Orene into a corner)

Orene: (Scared) Benjamin what are you doing?

Benjamin: Showing you how much I like you. *Much* more than Noah.

Orene realises that she is in a dangerous situation. She knows she needs to distract Benjamin.

Orene: (Smiling) I already know how much you like me. That is why we're friends.

Benjamin: (Smiling back) Yes.

Orene: (Pointing and waving over Benjamin's shoulder) Oh Thomas. Thomas! Hi Thomas! Benjamin, my brother...

Benjamin: (Turns round)

Orene escapes. Her brother was not there at all. She runs all the way to a busier part of town where she is safe.

Despite making your feelings clear, sometimes people don't listen. If the person does not listen you have the right to say no to sex; it is your right to remain unwavering with your feelings. Quick thinking like Orene is essential in distracting somebody that is trying to force you into doing something you do not want to do, for example having sex.



Ready, Set, Go

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Time has passed, and Orene and Noah are engaged to be married soon. Orene is feeling ready to have sex now and is looking forward to their wedding night. Noah has waited patiently and is happy he did not disrespect Orene by trying to force her. He thinks sex will be more special now they are both ready.

Orene: Noah...

Noah: Yes?

Orene: I think I'm ready to have sex with you.

Noah: (Laughs) Well that is good seeing as we are to be married soon.

Orene: (Smiling) Yes. We have proven we are committed to only each other. I'm ready.

Noah: I'm glad that you told me you were not ready before. It's important to share our feelings.

Orene: Yes, it is. Thank you for understanding. Our wedding night will be wonderful.

Noah: (Taking her hand) Yes it will be.

Orene: Are you nervous?

Noah: A little.

Orene: Me too. But I'm glad we can discuss how we feel, if we didn't I would be more nervous.

Noah: (Smiling) I know. Sex is a big step. If we aren't ready to talk about it I think we aren't ready to have sex.

Orene: (Smiling) You're right.

Noah: I'm always right!

Orene: (Laughs) No! Not when you asked if sex was the best way to show we cared for each other.

Noah: Ok, ok. I'm not always right...

Orene: So, because we are committed to each other we won't need to use condoms will we?

Noah: (Looking shocked) Orene, we should always use condoms when we have sex.

Orene: Why?

Noah: To protect us from diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Condoms will keep us healthy and safe.

Orene: But...children...you said...you said you wanted children. We...agreed...we agreed we wanted children.

Noah: I haven't changed my mind Orene, I still want children. That's why we need to promise that we'll get tested regularly too.

Orene: Tested? Noah what's going on?

Noah: Sex isn't the only way we can get HIV. We could get it from the blood of someone who has HIV, if their blood mixed with ours – if we cut ourselves or through a needle. Accidents happen. I love you Orene – I don't want you to get sick. Promise me we'll get tested regularly to make sure we're healthy.

Orene: I love you too, but we don't have HIV...we're both healthy. We're faithful...

Noah: Yes, we are faithful. And yes, we're healthy. Don't you want to make sure we stay that way? With regular testing we can make sure we're still healthy. Promise me...please...

Orene: Ok...I trust you Noah. I'll get...I promise we'll get tested.

Noah: It's not just for *our* health. It's for our future. If a mother has HIV she can pass it on to her children. We don't want to risk that do we?

Orene: No! I want to have lots of *healthy* children with you. I promise Noah. I promise to get tested.

Noah is right, sex isn't the only way you can get HIV. But, if you and your partner have discussed sex, and decide to have sex, then you must ensure you always use condoms to protect yourself and your partner from diseases such as HIV/AIDS. It is also important to get regular testing for HIV to make sure you and your partner are safe and healthy.

Noah and Orene used *Ready, Set, Go* as their rules:

Ready

Never rush into sex. Waiting to have sex is not a bad thing – in fact it is the best way to keep you safe from HIV/AIDS. Make sure you are comfortable with the idea of having sex; talk about it; and don't feel pressured – make sure it is what *you* want to do.

Set

If you decide to have sex, make sure you use condoms to keep you and your partner safe. Sex without condoms puts the health of you and your partner at great risk. Also, regular testing for HIV is always an important step in staying healthy and safe.

And finally, Go

If you decide to have sex, you should only go ahead if you feel *both* ready and set.