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So, now what are your assumptions? / GMFA.**

Contributors

Gay Men Fighting AIDS (Organization)

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Age: 30
Occupation: Fireman
Lives: Bromley
Likes: Eastenders
Abba
Leather
Shagging his boyfriend
Being rimmed
Fantasies...

Age: 30
Occupation: Sales Manager
Lives: Soho
Likes: Fashion
Tai Kwon Doh
South Park
Threesomes
Being tied up
Rimming

So, now what are
your assumptions?

Ever thought you were wrong?

All of us make assumptions about a variety of things everyday. Usually when we've assumed wrongly, we simply learn from the experience and there's no harm done. However, sometimes we have to live with the consequences of our assumptions.

The problem is, when we're having sex our ability to make correct assumptions is often impaired and we can tell ourselves things that we normally just wouldn't believe. Some of us believe our partners will act differently because of their status, some of us believe that we are always right about a guy's status because of the way he looks.

Two assumptions that guys sometimes make when they're having sex are, "He wouldn't be fucking me without a condom if he was positive" and "He wouldn't let me fuck him without a condom unless he was positive."

Some of the reasons why we make assumptions about each others HIV status are fairly clear. It's not always easy to talk about our HIV status before we have sex, and there's the risk that you may lessen the excitement and spoil the sex. So it's understandable that we could make assumptions about our partners HIV status, but the consequences of getting it wrong can affect the rest of your life, or that of your partner.

If you don't want to deal with the consequences of making a wrong assumption two of the things you can do are;

- 1) Always practise safer sex so that the HIV status of you or your partner won't effect the outcome of the sex that you have, or
- 2) Be certain about your and your partners HIV status. This will involve both of you getting an HIV test and honestly disclosing the result of that test.

If you find yourself about to fuck without a condom, ask yourself if you are prepared to deal with the negative consequences of the assumptions you are making - that you allow yourself to become infected, or that you infect someone else. Before that fuck think of the assumptions that you make and remember that you read this card - and that when the sex is over, you may not believe those assumptions.