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So my name is Lily and I'm 18 years old and I would love to be a dancer. And that is a big reason why I do not want to have a child right now. I always thought that it was quite hard to get pregnant because I know there's the whole thing about having to do it at a certain time of the month. And like you see couples all the time who struggle to have children. Like they try and they try and, you know, years on end and for some reason they can't get pregnant and they can't have a baby. So I never thought that this would happen. I always thought it would be too hard. I'm on the pill, but I didn't think that taking the pill every single day was/is important as it is. I thought, you know, because my boyfriend is at uni and I don't see him that often if I miss a day it's fine. Now I realise that it's not fine.

I was visiting my boyfriend and you know what it's like when you haven't seen them in ages and then when you do see them you go out, you have a bit to drink, you come back kind of crazy about seeing each other, you're all over each other, and one thing leads to another and, you know. And I had actually forgotten to take my pill with me when I went to see him. So I said it's fine, just I'll ask him to pull out, it'll be fine, you know. There are other ways to not get pregnant. So I did actually ask him to pull out but in that moment I think even I didn't care. You know, in that moment I was just like not thinking about anything apart from being with him. Yeah, I wasn't bothered.

Well the night that it happened I was like it's fine. I'll just go and get the morning after pill, I'll be fine. And then in the morning, even though it should've been the first thing on my mind, it wasn't. And I was too busy and. Also I've missed the pill before and I haven't got pregnant then so I just assumed that I would be fine. I didn't think it would matter. The whole missing my period thing didn't really faze me because like I've had irregular periods ever since I was younger. I did speak to my friends about the fact that I hadn't taken the pill every single day and I just thought I wanted a bit of advice. And they were like oh no, you know, you'll be fine. I mean the pill stays in your system. So even if you've missed a day or two it's fine. But it was constantly, in the back of my mind I just had to be sure, and so I got a pregnancy test. And, you know, the whole thing you've got to do, went to the toilet, waited the three minutes and then, you know, it came back positive.

I felt that I couldn't go to my boyfriend because, you know, he's a few years older than me and more mature than me and, you know, he would've wanted, like he wanted to keep the baby. But that would've, no. We weren't ready. It's not just that I wasn't ready; I mean we weren't ready to have a baby. We would've fallen apart. You know, I wouldn't have been able to cope. I went to my mum for support. I didn't know where else to go, because you know what people are like, they just judge you straightaway. Even people who you think are your friends, you know, they never really understand. My mum was the only person who I could go to.

So obviously when I made the decision that I was going to go through with the abortion, I went to the clinic with my mum. And when we got there, you know, obviously I was nervous. You know, I was scared. I didn't know what was going to happen. You know, it's a scary process. But the staff were, you know they were lovely. I didn't feel like I was being judged at any time. I suppose, you know, they have people like me who come and go all the time. And, you know, they know it's a big thing. So they made it as relaxed as possible so that I wasn't freaking out the whole time.

You know, when it was first all done and dusted I was quite relieved. And then after a while when it, you know, when it hit me, it kind of, yeah, I'd say it changed me, definitely emotionally a different person to who I was before. They

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offered me counselling but I was like I have to get through this myself. You know, I've got myself into this situation. I need to grow up a bit and sort it out myself. I mean even though, you know, it's kind of hard to talk about and it's hard to think about like what I've done, I do think it was the right decision. I'm not ready to have a baby. I'm 18 years old. You know, I'm young. I'm still a kid in some people's eyes. You know, I want to go out and I want to be able to live before I had children. I'm not financially, emotionally stable to have a child yet, you know, I've still got some growing up to do.

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