**J’s Story**

J is 14 and until recently a brilliant student and dancer. She lives with her parents and her younger sister and older brother in a quiet suburb.

Over the summer J started to behave strangely, appearing to be drunk and out of control and was out at all times of the night. Her parents received letters from J’s schools about her attendance and behaviour. When they confronted J they were shocked at the language and abuse that J hurled at them.

J eventually visited her doctor as she was worried about missing periods and an infection. She told the nurse what had happened. J felt the nurse was understanding and helped her to see how badly she was treated by her ‘boyfriend’ and his friends. J went to the police and felt that she could talk to the police officer who was extremely kind. J attended a strategy meeting which was also attended by a social worker and many others.

J revealed that she had met B, 27, a brother of a class mate, and went around with him and his friends. Initially they had persuaded her to miss classes, go to amusement arcades, spending money, playing, eating and drinking. Then they asked her to a party. She did not want to go but B threatened to tell her mother what J did on the day that she had missed classes.

J became desperate for the roll ups that B made especially for her. Normal cigarettes did not make her feel the way they did. B cared for her and she was happy to give him blow jobs in his car to show she cared for him too. One night she got drunk and went into the men’s toilet with B. He raped her while his friends filmed the incident on their mobile phones.

In a later incident she went looking for B but instead was approached by an older man who said he was B’s friend. The older man asked her if she would like to spend the night at his flat. J was horrified and asked him to leave her alone, but he insisted she looked at some pictures on his mobile. J was shocked and shaken to see pictures of that night’s ordeal on his mobile. He told her if she did not do what he wanted, he would put the picture on the internet.

J went with B to different towns. One evening he took her to a flat where she passed out after a drink. She woke to lots of men having sex with her. B said that it was her fault and that she had invited it. The next time they were at his flat, B begged her to do him a favour, saying that she owed it to him. She had sex with his ‘friends’, but in disgust. She felt that B was her ‘boyfriend’ and she needed him, but at the same time she hated him for what he had put her through.

B knew all about her family, the car her mother drove and the route that her sister took to school. J worried that her mother was asking too many questions and was frightened that her mistakes would cost her family all their happiness. She was contemplating B’s advice to leave home and go into care when she went to see her doctor.