

Amy

A while ago I was visiting a 22 year old woman, let's call her Amy, in Emu Plains jail for 3 months. Some years earlier Amy was a volunteer who had helped me run a motorbike expo to raise money for Camp Quality and Ronald McDonald House. She was a wonderful, spirited woman who had suffered abuse. She was in jail as a result of being caught driving a stolen car. At the time she was trying to get to Queensland to visit her sick mother. I know that she was also into heroin use and prostitution.

She trusted me as I was the only guy who hadn't tried to sexually take advantage of her. Amy was first abused by her step dad when she was a girl.

I wasn't the only person visiting Amy in jail. I also met a Christian lady who had taken to visiting Amy. This lady once complained to me that Amy was bad tempered and acted inappropriately. The lady said that she didn't understand why someone as intelligent as Amy acting in this way.

A few days after Amy was released from jail this lady took her to dinner in a flash restaurant. Later the lady complained to me that Amy was dressed inappropriately, talked loudly and still had a girlfriend (Amy is bisexual). I tried to explain that Amy had always been a rebel and this was part of her identity.

Amy didn't last long on the outside. She still had a drug habit and was paying for it with prostitution. One night she held up her pimp with a knife and then disappeared.

The lady told me she was very disappointed that Amy had blown her fresh start. I was annoyed at her attitude and said "It was your idea to save Amy - not hers". I said "I plan to be there for Amy throughout the whole of my life. I accept that I am not the key person in her life". I think the reason why Amy liked me was because I listened to her and didn't judge her for her sexuality or whatever. Amy had told me that she felt the Christian lady was judgmental and looked down on her. I don't think this woman ever really saw Amy. She saw a drug user, a prostitute, a victim of sexual abuse, a bisexual, a criminal....