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Lured into Prostitution

1. One night after leaving work, I was waiting at the bus stop when a car drove up to me.
The driver told me his name was Alex. He said I looked cold and asked if I wanted a ride. I was hesitant but he smiled at me and seemed very nice, plus it was freezing outside, so I accepted. He drove me home.
2. After that night, Alex and I started dating; at least, I thought we were dating. He paid a lot of attention to me. He was the first man who ever made me feel really special. I was proud that he wanted to be with me. He drove me to and from work every day for about two months. I spent time at his apartment with him and he would come over to mine.
3. I didn't know what Alex did, but I knew he didn't have any money. He said he used to have a job, but that his boss was a bad guy so he quit. I didn't ask him a lot of questions. He made me feel like I shouldn't, and I wanted him to like me.
4. Once, we went to a party together with some friends of his home town. His friends were flashy and you could tell they made a lot of money. Alex and his friends talked about "the life," which I understood had something to do with money. I could tell how badly Alex wanted to be like his friends.
5. Soon, Alex started talking about us being together in the future. But I understood that I had to do something to make more money if he was going to stay with me. I was already giving him most of the money I made at work. He told me that we needed to make money so we could move in to a nice place together.

Trafficked for Three Years



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6. Eventually, Alex said that he thought we could make a lot of money if I started engaging in prostitution. I realized this was what he and his friends meant by “the life.” Alex said we could have a great future together if he could prostitute me, and then he said, “You’ll like this work anyways, as much as you like to have sex.” Because I had been promiscuous in the past, it made me feel really guilty and worthless.
7. I didn’t want to engage in prostitution, but I didn’t want to lose Alex, since he made me feel that he loved me and promised me a future with him. He said I wouldn’t have to do it for that long. Putting my belief and faith in him, I agreed. I could not have imagined when I first met Alex that he and I would live the life that we did, but for the next three years he trafficked me almost every day. This was a very difficult period in my life that I regret very much.
8. Before my first night, Alex told me I had to use condoms, where to put my money, and gave me an address to use if someone asked me where I lived. Most importantly, he told me I was never allowed to tell anyone I had a pimp. He told me that if I told anyone I had a pimp or told them who he was, I would be killed. He said that I had to give him all the money that I earned. I was terrified, but I had nowhere else to turn. I felt like I had to do what Alex wanted.
9. The first night I went out, a man picked me up on the street and took me to a hotel. He was very drunk and mean. After everything was over, he was so nasty to me. He called me a whore and then he refused to pay me anything at all. I got in so much trouble from Alex that night because I didn’t get the money first. Alex made me feel disgusting for just giving myself away for free.



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10. Those first few weeks were terrible. I had two different men pull guns on me and one forced his gun in my mouth. I was terrified every night that I went out about what would happen. Alex was the only thing I had in the world and I believed in the life together that he promised me if I did what he wanted. I felt like I had to go on.

Physical Abuse

11. Eventually, Alex turned violent. After I had been engaging in prostitution for about two months, I remember not wanting to go out one Thursday because I was feeling sick to my stomach. Alex told me I still had to go. I refused and Alex beat me for the first time. He told me if I didn't go out that night he would hurt my family back home. That was when I first started to understand how trapped I really was.

12. After that day, Alex would beat me for seemingly arbitrary reasons. I was always scared because anything I did could set him off. Once he hit me because I had been in the hotel longer than he thought I should have been after I finished a date.

13. Sometimes I felt like I wished I could get away, but I was afraid to leave him. Part of me felt guilty for even wanting to leave him. I felt that I loved him, and he would still talk about our future and one day buying a house together. I thought I only had to do what I was doing for long enough to make us a little bit more money and then we could move and start a new and happier life together.

14. At this point, about six months into Alex prostituting me, I was out every single day and had up to eight dates a night. Alex would beat me for falling asleep.

15. I ended up getting arrested a few times over that first year. I was arrested for solicitation twice and once for trespassing. Whenever I got arrested, Alex prostituted me even more



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to make up for the time I wasn't out on the street. Sometimes I had to go out in the daytime and stay out around the clock. I hated every second of what I was doing, but I still hoped Alex and I were heading toward a better future.

16. Over the second year of engaging in prostitution for Alex, he became even more controlling and violent. He had so many rules and I was so scared to break them. I had to do drugs with him, but I wasn't allowed to do them any other time. He made me sniff cocaine every day when I came home, and gave me Quaaludes before long nights out. I had to wear certain heels and my dresses had to be specific lengths. He made me keep my hair blond, and would question me if I changed the color of my nail polish. I wasn't allowed to talk to anyone or have any friends.

17. Alex gave me a quota for how much money I had to make each night. This was the strictest of his rules. I had to make \$500 a night before I could come home. Alex always kept all the money that I made. He gave me a cell phone, and I wasn't allowed to go home without texting him first. He made me text him every hour so that he knew where I was.

18. The punishments for breaking the rules were harsh. Alex beat me up all the time. If I didn't make money fast enough he beat me. If I came home after going to jail instead of going back out he beat me. Even if I followed all the rules, Alex would find some reason to beat me. His anger was unpredictable and whenever I started feeling comfortable or like I had a routine he would beat me and change things up.

19. Eventually, I found out that Alex had a lot of other girls that he was also prostituting. I had thought I was the only one. It turned out that he kept other girls in other apartments



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around the city and made sure we didn't know about each other. When I found out I tried to kill myself because I finally realized my future with him was all a lie.

20. Even after finding out I wasn't Alex's only girlfriend, I still had no way to escape. I knew I had no other way to make money and I thought I could just start to save some of the money I was making without Alex finding out. One night, a man named Jeremy picked me up for a date and paid me to stay the full night. I was excited to have made a lot of money with just one man. For about a week, I saw Jeremy every day and I was making really good money.
21. It turned out Alex didn't like me spending so much time with only one date. After that week, when he found out I had been with Jeremy each night, Alex became incredibly violent, kicking me in the head until I blacked out.
22. After that, I still saw Jeremy every few weeks but could never tell Alex. After almost ten months, Jeremy picked me up for one of our "dates" and asked me to go to Orlando with him. He said he understood Alex was my pimp and that if I went to Orlando with him I could never come back. He said that was fine and he would take care of me. I saw that this was my way out so I said okay. I didn't even go home that night so all I had was the clothes that I had on.
23. Even though I had gotten away, I started to feel bad for Alex. I called him and he was so mad at me. He said a lot of threatening things over the phone, like, "When I see you I'm going to kick your ass," and "People know you're supposed to be with me so you're going to get your ass kicked out there." I thought he would come kill me for sure, but he



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didn't know I was in a different state. Jeremy helped me change my phone number after that and I never heard from Alex again.