

## The 24 Year Old Virgin

From billboards of women's boobs to lads magazines offered up next to the *Beano*, I don't need to tell you we're always bombarded with sex. The message is clear: everyone's having it and if you're not, then there's something very wrong with you. So here's the shock: I'm 24, still a virgin and actually I'm very happy with that.

Some at this point will be wondering if a) I'm just asexual b) some kind of freak or c) so unattractive I've never had an offer in my life. The answer to all of these is no (well at least to a and c). I'm really looking forward to one day having sex, know a lot of guys and get plenty of offers - it's not for lack of them that I'm saying no. I was in a relationship from 20-23 and chose not to have sex. You guessed it: I'm one of those weirdos that is saving sex for the wedding night.

Why would anyone in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century possibly want to do that? Yes there is a religious element to my decision – I'm a committed Christian. But actually, I think I would come to the same conclusion even if I wasn't. I don't have to worry about pregnancy or STDs, terrifyingly on the rise and likely to leave a lot of women infertile. I've never met a woman who can really have sex that doesn't involve emotions. Instead I know many women who have been deeply hurt by casual sex and left feeling used, cheap and regretful.

It's not just casual sex that carries a price. No matter how committed a long-term relationship may be, there's no guarantee the person will stay with you (ok, so sadly there's not in marriage either, but it's a far stronger commitment). The relationship I thought was going to last didn't. And I love the idea of being sexually intimate with only one person – I won't have anything to compare it to, I won't have regrets and it's something spectacularly special to give the person you marry. What's more it builds trust and respect. If I've managed to save sex for marriage, I'm a lot less likely to run off with the next hot guy I meet. Most guys are surprisingly respectful of my decision. I've been told, "Good for you love," more than a few times.

Far from feeling a freak I actually feel empowered by my decision to save sex. I'm free from many of the worries and hurts often caused by sex outside of marriage and I believe it will be well worth the wait. And I certainly don't fear my future husband will think any the worst of me for saving sex – I reckon he'll actually be totally chuffed.