

High School Sweethearts Narrative

High school sweethearts Cameron Clawson and Riley Roberts go to same college, Corona College. It is a small-residential College an-hour outside of New York City that requires all students to live on campus for their first two years. The Parties started dating during their senior year of high school. They were king and queen at their senior prom. They lived in different dorms during their first year, but formed a fairly large, common friend group between the Parties. The parties decided to stay in their same dorms surrounded by their friends for their sophomore year.

The friend group would frequently hang out together in the quad, go to movies and enjoyed big outings to the local Italian restaurant, Lucca's. The parties were really central to the friend group and everyone looked up to their relationship. During their junior year, when both parties were 20, they decided to move in together in an apartment off-campus, but run as student apartments through a public-private partnership with the College. At first living together was fun and exciting, but they soon realized that from living separately in the dorms, they did not see how each other behaved domestically. Cameron was a very tidy person and more of a home-body. Riley was working part-time to get pay rent and living expenses while going to class and did not spend much time at home nor help with chores.

Around December, Riley lost their job and started to rely on Cameron to pay more of their joint expenses. They started to fight as the money got tight and their relationship started to break down. In an effort to save the relationship, Riley planned a nice dinner date out to Lucca's. They both brought convincing fake IDs and split both a bottle of red wine, a bottle of white, and a couple beers. Cameron was not very hungry that night and only had a small salad while Riley had Lucca's signature dish of chicken cacciatore which is breaded chicken in a thick, Italian sauce.

The couple caught a rideshare home and inside the car, Cameron caught Riley texting one of their mutual friends a number of hearts and what Cameron thought to be flirty messages. The couple had a quick argument in the car and soon decided to stop talking. They silently walked from the apartment parking lot up to their shared apartment which was on the third floor with no elevators. Cameron struggled a bit to walk up the stairs, but refused Riley's help.

The couple made it inside when Cameron sat down on the couch and Riley sat down next to Cameron. Riley apologized and stated that what Cameron saw was a misunderstanding. Cameron eventually forgave Riley, thanked Riley for the nice dinner, and they started kissing heavily on the couch with Riley fondling Cameron above their clothes. After about five minutes of kissing, Cameron quickly stood up and went to the restroom. Riley thought that this meant Cameron might be freshening up for them to have sex, which they had not done in a while due to all the fighting. Riley hurried to the bedroom to get the bed ready, turn the lights off, and light a few candles to set the mood. The bedroom was positioned in a way that Riley could not hear what was occurring in the bathroom.

Cameron ran to the bathroom and vomited twice. Cameron was experiencing blackout at this time and only remembers vomiting but nothing after that. Eventually Cameron gathered

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themselves enough to wash out their mouth with water and then mouthwash. Cameron then went to the bedroom where Riley was waiting. Riley started trying kissing and fondling Cameron again, and Cameron was lying there not being very responsive to the affection. Riley decided to remove Cameron's underwear, use some lubrication and a condom, and try to have sexual intercourse with Cameron. Cameron was not asleep and seemed to be into it by Riley's understanding because Cameron spread their legs while lying on the bed. Riley was excited and didn't last long. Riley ejaculated in the condom and then threw it away in the bedside trashcan. Riley fell asleep next to Cameron shortly after.

Cameron woke up first the next morning and noticed their genitals were sore and slightly sticky. They realized they must have had sex with Riley but did not remember ever talking about it or engaging in any part of it. Cameron was freaked out because they only remembered vomiting and nothing else. Also, the ride home and getting into the apartment was blurry. Cameron stood up and saw the used condom in the trashcan which confirmed they had had sex.

Cameron confronted Riley that day about not knowing they were having sex and it how upset it made Cameron. Cameron told Riley that they had a nice evening but they were still upset with all their fighting. Cameron said that this was the last straw and they needed to break up. Riley was shocked to learn that Cameron didn't have knowledge about the sex and thought Cameron was lying. Riley ended up driving to his parent's house a couple hours away.

Cameron ended up moving out of the apartment that week and moving into a house with some friends. A few weeks later Cameron learned through a friend that a sex video showed up on a snapchat story and on a chat board for a large lecture class which seemed to be Riley having sex with Cameron but you couldn't make out Cameron's face very well. The video was taken down from both platforms before anyone could save or record it. Cameron believes it was a video of the sexual encounter that they did not remember, and Cameron believes Riley posted it to get revenge on Cameron for breaking up. Cameron had never agreed to be videotaped during sex.

Cameron was very upset but did not want to report. Cameron is not sure who reported, but thinks their friend, Wyatt, is the person who reported. Wyatt is the person who told Cameron about the video. Cameron has been depressed trying to deal with the stress of the break up combined with the painful experience of having a sex video posted online. Cameron is starting to have suicidal thoughts, but does not want to seek therapy because they cannot afford it and they do not want to tell their parents about what happened.

Investigator Script and Questions

I. Initial Interview with the Claimant: The Introduction

Hello Cameron, I appreciate you taking the time to meet with me today. My name is _____ and I am an investigator working with Corona College's Title IX office to investigate an anonymous report that was filed regarding a video that appeared to depict a student named Riley Roberts having sex with you. According to the report, this video was shared online without your consent and knowledge. I know that you were contacted by the Title IX Coordinator who explained what supportive measures the College can offer and how the investigatory process works.

I want to ask you some questions about these events to have a better understanding of what occurred and work with the Title IX coordinator to determine what sort of response the College wishes to take. Are you okay with proceeding?

I want to start with some general background questions before I get into some of the specific allegations that bring us here today.

- How are you doing? (can discuss how supportive measures are going)
- What year are you at Corona College?
 - Junior
- What is your major?
 - Make up whatever you want
- Do you know Riley Roberts?
- Tell me how you know Riley Roberts...(try to go through a normal back and forth with questioning that you would actually ask if you are the investigator and answers from the scenario--if you don't know, make it up) -- go through background

[Cut off after 5-10 minutes: And discuss with attendees

- Introductory script that explained who investigator was, what investigator's role was, allegations, and roadmap for how questioning would proceed
- Discuss starting out with some background questions, giving them a heads up that you aren't going to dive in just yet/warm up.
- Discuss attentiveness of follow up questions

II. Initial Interview with the Claimant: Getting the Allegations Out

- Okay, Cameron, I understand this is very difficult for you. Tell me what you know, if anything, about a video online involving you and Riley? (Cameron should go on about the breakup because of sexual assault and this is revenge and didn't know about any recorded sex)
- Can you tell me in your own words what happened surrounding the video?
- Can you confirm that you are the person in the video Riley is having sex with?
- Did you consent to Riley filming your sexual encounter that night? Have you ever consented to Riley filming a sexual encounter?

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- I want to make sure I am understanding you correctly, you are saying that the video depicts a sexual encounter that was non-consensual?
- Okay, you've stated a few things I'll want to come back to. First, you stated that Riley sexually assaulted you. Can you tell what happened?

[stop and discuss sometimes you have to take a release-valve approach--get some of the details of the assault out before going back to collect some of the background pieces]

- It would be helpful for me to understand more of the context surrounding your relationship before the day of the incident in the report. Could you tell me more?
- So you and Riley had been in a long-term relationship, were you sexually active during your relationship prior to the night of the reported incident?
- Can you remember what occurred during the day or evening when the non-consensual sex took place? I am interested in knowing the events that led up to that night because it will help me gain context of the incident.

Part III: Initial Interview with Complainant:

- While you were at Lucca's having dinner did you have any alcohol? I know that you are 20 years old and I am not asking about this because I want to get you in trouble. Corona College has an alcohol amnesty policy and the College values learning more about sexual misconduct more than getting you in trouble for underage drinking. Your alcohol consumption is important because alcohol can have effects on memory and possibly your ability to consent to sexual activity.
- Do you know what brand or type of wine you had?
- So you also had some beers, do you remember how many? The type of beer? Do you remember the ABV or what the label on the bottle looked like? Was it a dark or light beer?
- Do you know how much alcohol Riley had to drink?

*Important part to include: Cameron informs the investigator that they have a picture on their phone of the Riley drinking a red wine, and then another drinking a white wine while at Lucca's. Have the investigator follow up with stating that they will have Cameron send those pictures to the investigator then and will not close the interview until they are received (example of capturing physical evidence).

[Pause to discuss other scenarios for capturing evidence in interviews with phone and taking pictures if necessary]

- What happened after leaving the restaurant?
- Were you able to walk upstairs by yourself? Did Riley help you?
- What happened once you were inside your apartment?
- So you remember some kissing and then you went to the bathroom? Why were you using the bathroom? Did you vomit? Do you know how much?
- What happened after you vomited?
- Do you remember anything else that night?

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- Have you and Riley drunk together before? Would he know how you react to alcohol? Would he be able to hear you vomiting in the bathroom from the living room or bedroom?
- Can you tell me more about what occurred when you woke up the next day?
- How did you know that you had Riley had had sex with you?
- When you confronted Riley, how did he react?
- It sounds like you and Riley separated and you moved out of the mutually-shared apartment. The Title IX Coordinator explained that the College can introduce supportive measures for you and Riley; is there anything that you think you might need to feel safe?
- Did you contact the police or seek medical treatment? I need to let you know that if you did seek medical treatment and you want those records to be included in the case file, you must sign a written consent form for the College to receive them. However, it is optional and if you do wish to submit records, Riley will have a chance to review them during the investigative process.
- Can you tell me where the video was posted? Do you know for how long or how many people have seen it?
- The report states that Riley posted it, do you agree with that viewpoint?
- Do you know who made the report? We make very sure not to force people to participate in investigations, and, as you discussed with the Title IX Coordinator, there is a provision against retaliation so participation is optional. However, the person who reported may have helpful information to explain where the video was posted and how they learned about it.
- I know that you weren't the person to report this incident and you seem a bit nervous in the interview. I want to remind you that did file a formal complaint after the report was made, but you do have a right to request that College stop the process. The College has the option of moving forward or dismissing, but typically tries to respect a complainant's wishes.
- With all of that, could you tell me about how this incident has impacted you and your educational experience?
- Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today. I will continue with the investigation by interviewing Riley and reaching out to witnesses. I will also keep you updated on the case progress. Please reach out to me or the Title IX Coordinator if you need support or have questions.

[allow to go on until the entire interview of Complainant has proceed for approximately 25 minutes and identify pieces that were challenging or that you want to underscore]

Part IV: Initial Interview with the Respondent with Attorney Take 1

Hello Riley, I appreciate you taking the time to meet with me today. My name is _____ and I am an investigator working with Corona College's Title IX office to investigate an anonymous ...

Riley: Um, my attorney should be joining.

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[Enter bombastic and angry attorney that interview started interviewing client without attorney present (interviewer didn't know an attorney existed or would be present prior to now) and attorney tirades on how this process is biased and unfair and any questions have to come through the attorney]

Interviewer needs to regain control with reminder that (1) was unaware Riley was represented by an attorney (2) unaware attorney would be present and (3) while the attorney may be present in the interview, the attorney is not permitted to speak on behalf of the client or speak during the interview. If breaks are needed for them to discuss matters, just request.

Attorney: I know you--I've read all about you so you can stop right there. I'm just here to officially let you know that Riley is not going to answer any of these witch-hunt questions and the next time you see him will be in a real court.

[both Riley and attorney turn off their cameras]

Part V: Initial Interview with Respondent with Attorney Take 2

Hello Riley, I appreciate you taking the time to meet with me today. My name is _____ and I am an investigator working with Corona College's Title IX office to investigate an anonymous report that was filed against you. I understand that you are joined today by your attorney, Alex Arthouse. I will remind both you and your attorney that, while advisors may be present in these interviews, advisors are not permitted to speak. However, if you need to confer with your attorney, I can take a break at any time and place the two of you in a private meeting room.

Attorney: Oh, I'll speak when I need to, don't worry Riley. It's illegal to prevent me from advising my client or to protect my client--if I need to step in I will.

Interview: Okay, again, I'm happy to take a break at any time if you need to talk, but I'll remind you both of the expectations of this process.

Riley, as the Title IX coordinator informed you, the initial allegation was an anonymous complaint that a video that appeared to depict a student named you having sex with Cameron Clawson. According to the report, this video was shared online without your consent and knowledge. After follow up with Cameron, she confirmed this allegation and raised an additional allegation of sexual assault against you, which the Title IX Coordinator notified you. I know that you were contacted by the Title IX Coordinator who explained what supportive measures the College can offer and how the investigatory process works.

I want to ask you some questions about these events to have a better understanding these allegations.

I want to start with some general background questions before I get into some of the specific allegations that bring us here today.