

The question I didn't ask

When I got the offer to have a discussion with a barrister who specialises in matters of consent and revenge porn

My first thought was I wonder if she can tell me where the law stands on a situation I ended up in a few years ago

This thought stayed with me and became somewhat of an obsession I practised approaching the subject making a script out of words that I'd practise in the shower

I wondered if it was an inappropriate line of enquiry for the project

I wondered about asking if it would be ok to take up a bit more of her time after the filmed conversation

And I wondered if that would also be an inappropriate request

On the day on the conversation I felt nervous

The script I had been running in my head became heavy in my mouth and the idea of letting them out made my eyes feel hot

As soon as the zoom meeting started I knew I wouldn't ask

In the past my vice has been ketamine which is used as and for some people is only known for being a date rape drug

There 2 ways to take ketamine

1) small amounts give you a wobbly giggly feeling

for people who prescribe to this method the worst thing that can happen is to take too much and go down a k hole

where you can lose the understanding of where you are and even who you are reality is replaced by a world of your subconscious creation

2) is to aim straight for that k hole

and that is the very type of ketamine taker I was it might sound like a strange thing to want to do but I am of the opinion that it can be a beautiful thing

I would often mix it with other party drugs and it was not uncommon for me to have little to no recollection of a night out

The incident I want to talk about happened at the tail end of this time in my life

A time where I would freely and enthusiastically fill myself with a substance that made me unaware of my surroundings and unable to defend myself

And it happened in a way that has left me puzzling over the intent of the people involved and the rational way to assign blame

as the years have mounted up between the situation and the present

The guilt and shame have dripped away with the unsettling yet somehow self-assuring idea that actually I had little to nothing to do with the instigation or participation in the event of that night

I have little memories of the night in general just a few snippets seen through a hazy ketamine fuelled lens

The next day I felt hollow and guilt ridden I phoned the woman I loved to tell her that I had cheated on her

It's strange for me to get sexual attention from straight men as I am masculine presenting

So it was a unusual occurrence for me when a few days after the night I was told that two men were heard talking about me as if I was a competition

This was a second hand information when I got it and the person who told me cannot remember who told her

All I acutely remember about it is a very hazy memory of being kissed whilst on ketamine and waking up in bed with a man's arms around me I am wearing boxershorts and a t-shirt both my own

About a year or so later I was in a pub with the same crowd of people from the party and a woman who knows the man in question well made a joke about me having sex with him

I remember the fear I felt when she said that
That she might know more than me about it because he could have been talking about me as if I was a conquest

I said I can only remember a kiss so if she knows more she should tell me

She backed away from the conversation in a way that has left me always wondering if she knew nothing at all or if she had decided going down that path would open up a can of worms that she would rather leave closed

I have never approached the subject since and when she mentions him in passing I freeze a little inside

Although the night has followed me ever since I have never felt able to confront the man or even talk to other people who were at the party about it

I don't feel responsible anymore but I do not have the confidence to accuse him of anything

However a few years back I had a conversation with a doctor who works in a sexual health clinic that made me wonder where the law would actually stand on this specific event

I was told that

If you think you have had sex with someone and you can't remember it they have to treat it as an assault

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August 2020