

## A Questionable Man: Amy Hollywood

**VANESSA:** Hi Julia.

**JULIA:** Hi Vanessa.

**VANESSA:** How are you today?

**JULIA:** Well, I saw a rat on the subway and I screamed so it's not going great.

**VANESSA:** Did you scare other people when you screamed?

**JULIA:** Yeah, and this is not the first time this has happened to me. I always scream when I see rats and then I always scare people more than the rat scares them, but they feel as afraid as I feel afraid, so I feel like it's equalizing it.

**[MUSIC]**

**VANESSA:** I would just like our audience to know that she is so brave about so many other things.

**JULIA:** Snakes, spiders.

**VANESSA:** Yeah

**JULIA:** that's it.

**[AD BREAK]**

**VANESSA:** So what should we call today's episode?

**JULIA:** He's horrible.

**VANESSA:** Okay. I'm not going to disagree with you. Let's read?

**JULIA:** Yeah.

**[MUSIC]**

**JULIA:** Girlfriend, 18 year old woman, lied about her virginity to me, 20 year old man. My long distance girlfriend of eight months claimed she was a virgin since the beginning of our relationship without me even asking. During the relationship, she kept telling me things like how nice it was for me to be her first, how nobody saw her body before, how she never gave anyone

oral before me, etc. One day, I run into her ex's social media page and I find stuff there that makes me speculate that she was lying about being a virgin. I was really upset and I confronted her about it. She admitted that she had had sex with him multiple times. It really hurt and it almost made me want to just throw away everything that we had built, but I sympathized with her because...

**VANESSA:** ...her ex was very manipulative. He pressured her into having sex. She claimed that every time they had sex it was either because she was drunk or he threatened to break up with her. Ever since we talked about this, our relationship has been tough. I've been having a very hard time moving on and getting back to the way things were. My trust for her has been coming back because I know she did not lie about anything else other than that, but I still feel very uncomfortable with the idea of sex. The pain I feel is similar to the pain someone gets when their significant other cheats on them. Every time she mentions her body I remember how she lied about me being the first to see it, and I keep remembering similar lies she kept telling me for months. I don't know how to cope with this and move on. I still love her so much, but my view on her has changed and I can't seem to treat her the way I did anymore.

**[MUSIC]**

**JULIA:** Bad Man.

**VANESSA:** Okay. Say more. Because the way he's written this, it's that he's upset that she lied. It's not that he's upset that somebody else has like seen her naked before. If what he said was part of the reason I loved her was that she was a virgin and that she was pure, and I loved that I was the only one who had ever seen her naked, that meant so much to me, and now that that's not true, ugh, I would, I would be with you and be like Bad Man. But the fact that he feels lied to...

**JULIA:** Yeah...they were in a long distance relationship for eight months, it sounds like this was a really traumatic past experience for her, I don't feel like she owed it to him to tell him, and I wonder if.... She definitely lied, but I'm not sure she was wrong to lie. And I'm sure part of the reason she was saying all of these things to him is that she wishes it were true. And she's only 18, I'm sure she wishes all of those things were true and that this formerly loving relationship was the first time she'd ever been intimate with someone, and it wasn't when she was being manipulated into having sex. So I think he's not considering any of that. He's just thinking, I used to think that I was the first person to see you naked and now I'm not, and that's hard for me. But I don't, I don't care about that feeling that much.

**VANESSA:** So I agree with everything you said, like I, I am not mad at her, right? Like, and I don't...I don't think she's done anything wrong, but I think you can be hurt by someone and know that they didn't do anything wrong. I think you can say, I think you had really good reasons to lie to me, but I'm still really hurt that you lied to me. Right? Like things can hurt your feelings even if they're not wrong. He says her ex was very manipulative, he pressured her into having sex. Like he's saying, like, I understand why she did this, but it really hurt.

**JULIA:** But then he says, my view on her has changed. I can't treat her the same way anymore. I feel like that's so... beyond the...

**VANESSA:** It's an overreaction.

**JULIA:** I think it's an overreaction and I think it's...the point is that she was feeling scared and vulnerable and felt like she needed to lie about something scary that had happened to her in the past and that it really didn't have anything to do with him. And he's writing to us – [laughs] he's not writing to us. Um, he's writing because this is a problem that he's feeling and I wish that instead he was thinking about how to support his girlfriend since this is the first time she's been intimate with someone outside of a relationship that was manipulative and seemingly abusive. And it scares me that that's not where his mind is going. Like I w-- I wish that was where he was thinking.

**VANESSA:** Yeah, I guess I can't stop my gender bias here because I'm like putting myself in his shoes, which I guess I should be putting myself in her shoes. But I'm like if someone lied to me about the fact that they were a virgin, I'd be like, well, you can have all sorts of STDs that like I assumed we didn't have to worry about and that would make me feel unsafe if someone had told me that they were a virgin and they were not a virgin. But I guess he is not saying, and so now I feel unsafe, so I'm like projecting my own.... Like it would really bother me if I thought I was having sex with a virgin and it turned out that they had had sex.

**JULIA:** And would it bother you because you're no longer the first person to have seen them naked?

**VANESSA:** But he, he doesn't say that. He does not say, I can't believe I'm not the first one who saw her naked.

**JULIA:** Every time she mentions her body I remember how she lied about me being the first one to see it.

**VANESSA:** Yeah. That she lied.

**JULIA:** You keep talking about him being upset that she lied, but I'm not convinced she even lied because based on the circumstances that he describes with her ex boyfriend, her always being drunk.... Earlier I said this is probably what she wants to be true is that she wants to be a virgin, but I'm not even sure she's wrong to say that she is a virgin. If this is the first time where she's having consensual sexual experiences that she's excited about like maybe that is an appropriate time to say that she's a virgin. I think she would be totally within her rights to say that.

**VANESSA:** I have a lot of thoughts and feelings. So like I think that you are absolutely right that she, if she wants to think of herself as a virgin prior to having a positive sexual consensual experience like that is absolutely her right, because we have a lot of complicated, historical, ridiculous ideas about what virginity is and I think it is something that like every person should

be able to claim for themselves, right? Like the first time somebody who's gay gets to have sex with somebody who they're actually attracted to and not that like heteronormativity says that they were supposed to have sex with, right? Like that is a kind of loss of virginity and that is a different kind of special experience and I think that people should be able to say...claim whatever it is that they want about that. I just also am somebody who I'm like, but penetrative sex has medical implications and he is not bringing those concerns up here, but I would feel lied to if the implications for my body were medically different because I was given false information. Even if that false information was for really good emotional reasons, really valid reasons, I would be troubled by that lie, right? Like I would be like now we both need to go get STI testing because you were drunk and you don't know exactly what happened and I'm so sorry that happened to you, but it is a lie that changes the situation. This guy is a jerk that he's like, oh, it turns out that she'd given someone else a blow job before. Like who cares? But I think that this concept of virginity is nonsense and I think that medically we owe each other certain truths.

**JULIA:** So is there a medically accepted definition of a virgin? Like are all.... So are all lesbians who haven't had penis in vagina sex virgins?

**VANESSA:** I mean this whole situation is so messed up and entirely messed up against women. I was once doing a hospital visit as a chaplain to a young woman who's a lesbian. She was in so much pain and they wouldn't do a CT on her because they had to do a urine test first to make sure she wasn't pregnant. And she said, I'm a lesbian. And they said, it doesn't matter, we still have to do it. And she said, I've literally never had a penis like near me. And they were like, sorry, you are a woman of a certain-- you are fertile woman, and so we have to keep you in pain and do a pregnancy test. Like it was the wildest thing. And so I feel like we never believe women about their bodies. And it's like, oh your hymen was broken because you fell in a certain way, are you still a virgin? So I'm not sure. I feel like it's different from one doctor to the next. Like I feel like I really feel like a woman doctor in that moment would have been like, oh fine, let's just do the CT scan. I don't know. I just want to understand more about the history of virginity because this is annoying the hell out of me. On the one hand it feels like all this talk about virginity is just like another way that men and the Patriarchy and the medical establishment is trying to control women's bodies, and on the other hand I'm like well there are actual physical and medical implications. Like if you don't have penetrative sex with a penis then you shouldn't have to wait for your CT scan.

**[MUSIC]**

**JULIA:** I think there is someone who knows more about these definitions than we do and I think she is Harvard Divinity School Professor Amy Hollywood.

**VANESSA:** I agree. Also Amy's beautiful.

**JULIA:** I love Amy so much.

**[AD BREAK]**

**VANESSA:** Hello Amy.

**AMY:** Hi Vanessa.

**VANESSA:** Um, Amy, do you mind introducing yourself to everybody, like telling them your title and what you do for a living?

**AMY:** I'm happy to do that. I am the Elizabeth H Monrad professor of Christian studies at Harvard Divinity School and I teach the History of Christianity, History of Christian Thought and Philosophy, Religion, Religion and Gender. And...

**VANESSA:** ...you spend a lot of time with me.

**AMY:** And I spend a lot of time with you.

**VANESSA:** Most importantly. So Amy, we brought you into the studio today because you are an expert in like Christian medieval thought and history.

**AMY:** Okay, yes.

**VANESSA:** And my gut, although I don't know, is that our modern conceptions of virginity are based in large part due to medieval Christian thought and is like born out of certain things that were set up during that time.

**AMY:** Okay

**VANESSA:** I'm wondering what you can tell us about modern conceptions of virginity and their roots in the church.

**AMY:** Okay. So I think actually many of the modern conceptions of virginity come from early Christianity as much if not more than from medieval Christianity. Although it's the same, a shared set of conversations and, and even in the early Christian period and the medieval period, there was this idea that women in order to be holy or pure or capable of being in some kind of relationship with God, that they were more able to do that if their bodies were pure and that meant intact, like physically intact virginity. Uh, but the thing that's interesting is there were actually debates with people, there were debates about, okay, well if someone is raped and their hymen is not intact but their will was not part of the act, do they still count as virgin or not? And some people said yes and some people said no because the whole question of whether it was about your bodily intactness or whether it was about your intention in what you were doing, that was something that mostly men -- no, entirely men, excuse me -- were fighting about in terms of how they defined what counted as virginity.

**VANESSA:** And so my instinct as somebody who is very wary of the Patriarchy but actually has very little academic knowledge of this, is that one of the motivations for men wanting to control women's virginity in this way is a question of paternity, right? It's once your hymen isn't intact, you can get away with, you can sleep with a million men, we won't be able to physically tell. And then if you get pregnant,

**AMY:** we won't know who's baby it is. Yes. I, I think that in terms of the marriage market, which is probably the aptest way to call it, um, that's totally true. It was like, I need to know that you haven't ever been with anyone else so that any progeny, any children you have will be mine. I don't think that Kate Middleton had to do a virginity test, but Diana did. So they, so it's still a thing in royal families and royal, you know what I mean? In places that care about, deeply about the lineage and are we sure this is the right blood, even though they can do DNA testing and stuff now to be sure, but like the old, the older views are there. So yeah, I think that's totally right. And I think that that, that, that that kind of virginity where it's like virginity up until marriage was one thing that was about protecting lineage of the male dominant families. And then there was this added thing which is like, oh, and by the way, if you can stay that way forever, you'll get closer to God, you'll be holy. You know, there's a, there's a religious value placed upon. So the positive side of virginity for me in the Middle Ages is that women could get away from the whole patriarchal setup by being like, oh, I'm going to go in this convent over here with all these ladies and like not have sex and,

**VANESSA:** or have lesbian sex

**AMY:** or have lesbian sex. True. Um, and not be under the control-- I mean they still were under control of bishops and stuff, but like have relative autonomy compared to what married women had.

**VANESSA:** Yeah. And was virginity considered to help with male godliness? Like as a man did you have to stay a virgin in order to have better access to God?

**AMY:** Not as much. I mean it was, it was nice.... It was more chastity. It was more like, sow some wild oats and then, and then...

**VANESSA:** Commit

**AMY:** Devote yourself and commit. Um, virginity was a key aspect of the saintliness of women. For men. It was kind of a nice add on, but it wasn't essential.

**VANESSA:** And I really appreciate that distinction between virginity and chastity. Right?

**AMY:** Right.

**VANESSA:** Chastity is a choice and a vow that you make, but you can make it after you've had sex.

**AMY:** exactly

**VANESSA:** Whereas--

**AMY:** People made it when they were married, so married couples would like take vows of chastity together and enter convents and monasteries and live religious lives after sometimes after they'd had kids sometimes, you know, um, at various points in their, in their lives. And in the early Christian period that was in many people's minds the ideal form. Like you'd marry, you'd have some kids, and then you would take vows of chastity and live together as brother and sister or in convents or monasteries.

**VANESSA:** I actually think that sounds great.

**AMY:** [laughs] You're signing up for that plan?

**VANESSA:** Yeah. I'm like, I now snore, why should we share a room anymore? You go there. I'll go here. We'll like have dinner together every night.

**AMY:** So you're going for the chastity plan.

**VANESSA:** I guess so.

**AMY:** [laughs]

**[MUSIC]**

**VANESSA:** I also just want to focus in on this like body intact-ness, right?

**AMY:** Yeah.

**VANESSA:** Because like basically if a woman were to just like break her hymen from some sort of like sporting activity, that would have mattered to certain religious thinkers at the time as far as their purity. Even if they'd never had sex, if their hymen wasn't intact, then their ability to access God was compromised.

**AMY:** For some people, yeah. Um, but the kind of things that they would fight, debate about was there was a sacking of a city in Germany and these nuns were escaping from the convent and they were trying to get away from these marauding soldiers and some of them were raped. And so the question was like, well, are they still a virgin? And that that kind of thing became the subject of a big debate where people on one side were like, yes, there's still a virgin, because it was not, they resisted all the way. Um, and other people were like, no, the physical intactness is crucial to their virginity. And at this time, heaven had all these hierarchies. So you were closer to God, depending on how holy you were. So it wasn't like you're going to go to hell, it was like you're going to be a little lower down on the scale. Like you're gonna be a little further away from God because you won't have that physical intactness.

**VANESSA:** So Amy, how do you see those conceptions that were born in early and medieval Christianity, like bearing out in today's world? Or do you? Do you feel like we in this like progressive society have moved past all this?

**AMY:** No, I don't think we've moved past it all at all. And I think that one of the things that I see is this...almost, I want to say confusion, but that might be the wrong word between either you're supposed to be sexually active when you're, you know, 14 and otherwise there's something freakish about you or 16 or whatever age people think is the appropriate age, it varies. Um, so that the girl or the adolescent or the young woman who is a virgin feels like a freak if they have not had sex, um, within one framework. And um, and, and feels like there's something wrong with them that they have to explain or that they are so ashamed they wouldn't even talk about. So I think there's a kind of virginity that in a non religious context that people just don't even talk about because they're...because it's so embarrassing or it's seen as being so shameful or so abnormal

**VANESSA:** Yeah

**AMY:** To use the language. And then on the other hand you have -- and it's not just Christian communities, but those are the ones I know -- you have Christian communities that are really pushing a pro abstinence, pro virginity until marriage, pro, um, chastity if you happen to have fallen but we can get you back on the train, um, to, to goodness until marriage agenda. And it feels very much like, it feels even more stark and more...and more stringent and more unforgiving than some of the early Christian and medieval models and it's often, these things are often these Christian, some of these Christian movements are often very geared towards you belong to your daddy until you get married and then you will be given to your husband by your daddy. Um, and this involves, I don't know the names of the different groups but this involves groups where it's you, you have a father daughter dance and you dedicate yourself to virginity and you get a ring from your father that you wear and then you wear that until the time when you're going to be engaged to the person you will marry in a heterosexual bond,. So it's really taken the old patriarchal notions of if not the girl in her entirety, her sexuality belongs to Daddy and then belongs to whoever he gives it to in terms of the marriage. It's really, I find very disturbing.

**VANESSA:** Well, and I suspect I know the answer to this question,

**AMY:** Yeah

**VANESSA:** But just to be a fair interviewer, are there like similar practices for mothers and sons?

**AMY:** Not to my knowledge. I don't know of anything that's as widespread. There are some chastity clubs that include boys and girls, um, and others actually because it's also, it's also an interesting thing where it's crept into the LGBTQI community also as a like you can be all those things but also be, you know, in control of your sexuality. So, actually, and then the other thing is, um, the, this is a big thing both in white evangelical and conservative Christian communities and



in African American, um, conservative Christian communities, and probably in Asian American too I don't know. Um, I don't know how far it goes outside the United States, but in the United States it's a, a movement that cuts across racial lines.

**VANESSA:** Yeah. In Romance novels, virginity is really interesting because first of all, a lot of romance novels are obviously Regency Romance novels. And so there are these like political and economic forces at play that would like keep somebody at, keep a woman a virgin. Um, but almost entirely in regency romance the woman is a virgin and the man is a reforming rake who has had a lot of sex.

**AMY:** Right.

**VANESSA:** And like that is, I mean it's definitely the bulk of the Regency, uh, heterosexual novels that I've read. And then even in contemporary romance, it will often deal with a woman's virginity but almost never a man's virginity. And in fact, I think that, I would say a non-representative number of like 25 year olds in Romance novels and Contemporary Romance novels are still virgins

**AMY:** Right

**VANESSA:** And I think that it's about this like chosenness. It's like I've only ever been with one man. He is my true love that there is like a a romance for the fact that you've only ever been with one man.

**AMY:** I also think there's the, when you first were describing this situation, I thought of another reason, which is that the idea that women don't really want to have sex until they're overwhelmed by a passion and a love that just sweeps them off their feet. Just something in our representations of masculinity and femininity means, suggests or carries with it the idea that the, the intensity of the man's desires, if he just wants you after he's had all these other women, whereas with, for the woman, it's like, I wouldn't have anybody but now I'll have you. So the logic of what constitutes intensity of love or sexual desire is completely th- opposite for men and for women as it's represented within this popular imagination.

**[MUSIC]**

**VANESSA:** So Amy, the real reason we brought you in is so that I could read you a love advice question from Reddit and get your point of view.

**AMY:** Okay

**VANESSA:** And you know how much I love Julia Argy.

**AMY:** Yes.

**VANESSA:** She and I fought about this question.

**AMY:** Ah, interesting.

**VANESSA:** Okay, so I'm now going to read you this reddit question.

**AMY:** Okay.

**VANESSA:** My long distance girlfriend of eight months claimed she was a virgin since the beginning of the relationship without me even asking...

**[MUSIC]**

**VANESSA:** ...I don't know how to cope with this and move on. I still love her so much, but my view on her has changed and I can't seem to treat her in the way I did before.

**AMY:** I ran into his social media page? Suddenly like pictures of my girlfriend just kept popping up and I don't know where they came from. Yeah. Okay. So my initial thoughts are like this guy already didn't trust her and he's already looking and googling and trying to find out like what her backstory is, which doesn't feel like a great-- I mean we all do that, not surprising. Surprised it took eight months. Why eight months in did he suddenly um run into the ex boyfriend's social media page? The fact that he is online googling her ex boyfriend speaks to me of somebody who's kind of controlling and manipulative himself, at least potentially.

**VANESSA:** Really? I--

**AMY:** You don't just run into somebody's social media page.

**VANESSA:** No, but I go down rabbit holes where I'll like, I'll look if somebody

**AMY:** no I know

**VANESSA:** has posted old photos, new photos of their kid and then I'll see an ex girlfriend and I'm like, who did that person date in 2001? Like not because I care, but because I'm bored.

**AMY:** But there's a big difference about doing it when it's somebody that you don't care about

**VANESSA:** Totally, I'm just saying that

**AMY:** Versus doing it when it's somebody you actually do care about

**VANESSA:** Yeah. I'm just saying that like those things are about self-loathing, they can be about boredom.... I usually do those things out of self-loathing and self doubt. Not about doubting somebody else.

**AMY:** I can't separate those two things.

**VANESSA:** Oh okay.

**AMY:** I can't, I can't,

**VANESSA:** Fair enough

**AMY:** I can't pull apart.... I think a lot of controlling people are controlling because they're full of self-loathing and self-doubt. So I don't think that those are necessarily separate issues. And so, and I don't want to, I mean this sounds terrible. Sounds like I'm pathologizing this poor guy and I don't mean to, you know, who knows? Like it could be that that he--

**VANESSA:** No he says some really jerky things.

**AMY:** Yeah. Yeah. I mean, and it it it feels to me like this is a relationship that does not have a lot of a future to it because there's been too much lying and then too much ferrying out of the lies and distrust generated by that. But none of that has to do with whether she's a virgin or not for me. Do you know what I mean? It's not because she was a virgin or not a virgin. and I also can understand if, if what she's saying is true, why she would have felt really uncomfortable telling him what that story was. I totally get that. But, but there's a difference between not telling the story of what happened and having a fully concocted alternative narrative in which you're the first, you're the only, you're the one so, so something just feels off to me in terms of the way they're both thinking about sexuality and, but mainly, I mean it's not even about the sex for me it's more about the.... I mean it is of course because if she was abused and you know, yes but, but it also feels about, it feels like a lot of it's about honesty and dishonesty.

**VANESSA:** So I totally understand if you have gone through like a multi year relationship that was full of manipulation and sexual abuse, why you would want to imagine out loud about how your first feeling, uh, feelings of being in a healthy relationship would be your actual first experience. Right?

**AMY:** Right.

**VANESSA:** That you, to like create a counter narrative for yourself.

**AMY:** Right.

**VANESSA:** Where Julia and I disagree is that I come down on the right to feel betrayed by someone lying about their sexual history

**AMY:** Mhmm.

**VANESSA:** if you are having sex with them.

**AMY:** Right.

**VANESSA:** Because of protection choices.

**AMY:** Right.

**VANESSA:** Like informed consent means that you have all of the relevant information

**AMY:** right

**VANESSA:** And if you think someone is a virgin,--

**AMY:** Right there's all sorts of choices that could get made.

**VANESSA:** Yeah. And so like to me I'm like, I don't judge her for like what I would imagine to be the psychology of her choices. But I think that being adult enough to have sex means being adult enough to be honest about your sexual history.

**AMY:** And what was Julia's view?

**VANESSA:** In Julia's point of view, which I find really compelling and like hard to disagree with, is that this young woman felt like a virgin. She was like, I never had consensual sex. Like I and I, I think that everybody should be able to like narrate their own sexual history and like tell their own story in their own words. But it just materially matters to me that like medically it's not true. And then I feel like the old bishops being like, well, the nuns have been raped,

**AMY:** Right

**VANESSA:** Too late.

**AMY:** Right right right

**VANESSA:** They're sullied, which isn't how I feel obviously, but I just, I'm like a big believer in like fully informed consent and think that if you are in a sexual relationship with someone, you have the right to all of the sexual information that they have told you they have given you.

**AMY:** I mean, the thing that bothers me about the reddit piece or the, the question is the form of the question was not, I feel terrible for her that this happened to her. It wasn't I wish she had been able to tell me like what had actually happened and that points to some breakdown in our communication that is a worry for me. It's all about I feel sexually betrayed and that, I mean, that just to me reads like, this guy's kind of a jerk

**VANESSA:** Oh yeah.

**AMY:** And and

**VANESSA:** It's totally icky when he's like, every time I see her naked, I think of how somebody

**AMY:** yeah and it's

**VANESSA:** I'm like, gross

**AMY:** And the idea that it mattered so much to him. So, so in that sense, um, well I'm not, I'm not with either of you guys actually. Cause I, I mean I'm with Julia in the sense I think this guy's a jerk, but I-

**VANESSA:** I think the guy's a jerk

**AMY:** No, no, no, no. I know. Okay. We're all agreed he's a jerk. Um, but, but I also think that, I also think, I don't know, like there's something about her story, which I wish she could have shared with him, but I understand probably what she didn't, and it's not just because it was necessarily abusive, but this is the thing. So, so there's something about her story that I don't quite, I mean even the fact that she could go from this situation which she was manipulated, only had sex when she was drunk or threatened that he would break up with her, it's terrible situ-- horrible situation, to one where she has to say I'm virgin like that those are the two extremes in which she can imagine sexuality happening or in which they do happen for her like that's just a replication of the problem that we're talking about where women aren't allowed to have like an active curious sexuality that like fucks around some and then can also fall in love with somebody and have that be a relationship of a different sort than what went on before it. I'm not saying that's what she was doing,

**VANESSA:** Yeah yeah yeah,

**AMY:** It's obviously a much more difficult situation.

**VANESSA:** Well it was also I think speaks to the stigma of being an abuse victim. Right?

**AMY:** right

**VANESSA:** Like that you, you don't want to talk about your abuse in your new relationship and then like be-- right? Like there are all sorts of reasons including PTSD that you like, don't necessarily want to talk about abuse. So maybe this is where you and I are ending up that I think maybe I'll bring back to Julia and we'll see if she agrees.

**AMY:** Okay.

**VANESSA:** Is like I am projecting my own anxieties onto this guy. This guy has not said, and I'm really worried about health concerns

**AMY:** Right

**VANESSA:** Because we chose not to use a condom because she was a virgin.

**AMY:** Right, right, right.

**VANESSA:** And on the pill. And so everything was fine. Um, so I am projecting that concern onto him and his lack of concern for her seems to be about this like I thought I was with a virgin

**AMY:** Right

**VANESSA:** And I wasn't

**AMY:** Right.

**VANESSA:** Like whininess and that that

**AMY:** exactly

**VANESSA:** Is bad

**AMY:** Yeah, I mean, I think the thing I would add to it is health concerns matter, both mental health and physical health stuff and he doesn't talk about either.

**VANESSA:** Bad dude.

**AMY:** Questionable.

**VANESSA:** Questionable dude. Amy, thank you so much. You are brilliant as always, and just thank you so much for spending some time with us.

**b**You're welcome.

**[MUSIC]**

**VANESSA:** So Julia, what did you think of what our beloved Amy had to say?

**JULIA:** I was so glad to hear that you and I are reliving the discourse of medieval bishops.

**VANESSA:** Yes, and who knew that I was the more conservative bishop? Um talking it through, like thinking out loud with Amy and realizing that I was like hymen intactness is key, did make me feel real gross real quick. I still just stand by that I think that we always have the right to as much information to make proper medical decisions, but this guy super doesn't seem like he's worried about his health or her health

**JULIA:** And not only, not only he's not worried about health, but Amy brought up how it seemed like he was worried about other things in the relationship before to somehow ascertain from some social old social media photos that she had had sex, which once Amy brought that up, I was so interested as to what those photos could possibly look like.

**VANESSA:** I know when I was rereading it to Amy, that stuck out to me too. Like what social media appropriate photos of her and the ex would be online for her, him to be like, I guess they actually had sex

**JULIA:** Yeah, well just

**VANESSA:** Like intercourse like-- Like I don't know what those social media photos were of

**JULIA:** And I guess we'll never know.

**VANESSA:** I'm glad that Amy came in to bridge the divide in our friendship. I was worried we wouldn't come back from this, but we did. So do you think that we should keep the title of this episode he's horrible or should we rename it questionable man?

**JULIA:** I'm happy to change it to questionable man.

**VANESSA:** Oh, that's interesting because I've been convinced and I'm like, no, I'm okay with it being, he's horrible.

**JULIA:** I'm a people pleaser. If Amy what Amy wants I do.

**VANESSA:** Julia, what are you up to right now?

**JULIA:** You said you would take me swimming. Are you not taking me swimming?

**VANESSA:** No, I'm going to take you swimming. Let's go swimming. I just forgot.

**JULIA:** That's great. I just got a new swimsuit.

**VANESSA:** Great. I have an old swimsuit. Let's go.

**JULIA:** [laughs] Cowabunga!

**VANESSA:** This has been, Questionable Man, an episode of Hot and Bothered. Please go and support us on Patreon, it is the only way that we are able to make this podcast work. And your support means so much to us. If you go onto Patreon, you can get amazing perks, like romance reviews from Ariana and I. You can get stickers, you can get love advice answered by ME. You're welcome ahead of time. And you can get specially designed notebooks only available to our patrons. This episode was co-hosted by me, Vanessa Zolta and Julia Argy. Executive produced by Ariana Nedelman. You can follow us on Twitter and Instagram @therompod. Please leave us a review on iTunes. It is how people find out about us. And thank you so much to everybody who's already left iTunes reviews, especially to all of you who used fro-yo in your reviews. Brilliantly done. That includes Chris and San Jose, Madeline Anne, and Frilinzy, and many more who we will continue to thank. We are a co-production of Not Sorry Productions and Spoke Media. Our production team is Chelsea Ursin, Julia Argy, Bridgid Goggin, Nora Murphy, Janielle

Kastner, Caroline Hamilton, Jenna Hannum, Will Short, and Jonathan Villalobos. Our music is from Firstcom and by Nick Bole. Special thanks this week to the amazing Amy Hollywood who's the love of my life. Thanks and we'll talk to you next week.