

partners you tell me about!" Being neither a cynic nor an opportunist, I instead explain that this sort of punishment might have been meted out centuries ago but that today, syphilis is simply a manageable public health problem. Visibly relieved, he continues listing his sexual partners.

(NS)

Magnetic

She must send "Come on" signals everywhere she goes, even at work. A not unattractive teenager, her threshold for acceptance is nevertheless low. In a recent three-month period, she tells me that she reclines with about a dozen young men—the likely reason she winds up in our VD clinic. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Of infected people, chlamydia is most frequently diagnosed in adolescent women. Camellia is such a patient, and I'm presently interviewing her for sexual partner information. I recruit her for a study of enhanced interviewing techniques aimed at helping patients remember *all* of their sexual partners. In the standard part of the interview, she names only two partners, but after I start using a series of

experimental memory-prompting cues, she recalls nearly a dozen more.

Amazed at the effectiveness of different interviewing cues to jog her memory, Camellia excitedly exclaims: "OK, this is a good game!", "Oh my God! I can't believe all this stuff is coming back now!", and "This is really working!" She unabashedly details specific length-of-sexual-exposure features: "Two strokes, that's it!"; "I was humping all day"; "With him? Maybe three strokes"; "He was fine, but he stunk"; or "It was gross".

This impulsive adolescent met these men in diverse places: police checkpoints ("he was the policeman"), night clubs ("he works in the back"), restaurants ("he was my server"), among other, diverse, settings. After mentioning only half of the partners she ultimately recalls, she glances at my notes and gasps: "Oh my gosh, the list is that long?"

In some instances she can't remember their first names and, in a few cases, she doesn't even *know* their first names.

(PZM, DDB)

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IN THE SHADOW OF VENUS

*Vignettes from the
Venereal World*

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