

The Wareham Family Part 7: Amy Wareham

Amy was diagnosed with Diabetes (Type 1) when she was 13 years old. She always had difficulty dealing with her disease. She fought constantly with her mother over her diet. She refused to eat all day but her mother would find her in the evenings bingeing on tubs of ice cream or chocolate. She would vomit after the binge. She would skip her insulin and eat more sugar because it helped her lose weight. She would be hospitalized a couple of times a year for high sugars. Amy blamed her eating issues on "irritable bowel syndrome," (which she read about on the internet), saying that she felt bloated when she ate and had diarrhea. She ignored her doctor who told her that her problems were more likely due to poor eating habits and poor glucose control. She also had 2 overdoses on insulin because she wanted to die because she was "too fat." She is 1.63 m (5'4") tall and since she was 15 she has kept her weight below 45 kg (100 lbs).

As she became older, she fought more and more with her mother. She began skipping school. When her mother tried to speak with her about it, she would say that she thought everyone was looking at her and she couldn't cope with the stress of having to take care of her diabetes and still succeed at school. She quit her usual activities, such as cheerleading, and took to sitting around the house in the day and leaving in the evening to spend time with friends. She started using marijuana when she was 15 and by the time she was 18 she had experimented with Ritalin, Oxycontin and Valium. She gets drunk weekly on vodka and diet Sprite.

Amy met her boyfriend Cody at one of the many parties she attended. He was a bit older (24) but she felt her understood her because he had his own mental health issues, as he was diagnosed with ADHD as a child. He had quit school in Grade 10 but was now studying to get his ABE while working part-time at a fast-food place. He had difficulty with reading and she felt great when he turned to her for help with his homework. She had sex before but he was the first boyfriend that she considered serious. At first he was very attentive to her. However, after a few months, she noticed he was more and more distracted. At times he would seem to answer a question that she didn't ask. One night they were talking about their past relationship history and she told him that she had been treated for gonorrhea. He became very angry and started telling her that she needed to be cleansed because an alien had obviously probed her. She became scared and ran home. At home she cut herself and wrote an entry in her blog describing her thoughts of suicide because her boyfriend didn't care any more. Somebody read it and called the police.