

Consequences for Spending the Night

Shona transcript:

Girl: Tomboti iwe ndiwe wadzokera kwaana John. Zvinoreva kuti, ehe John ndiye wangu. Wakutobvuma kuti ehe ndinobvuma hangu kuita mukadzi waJohn. Nekuti ukanorara kumba.. pachivanhu ukarara kumba kwake musu umwechete watova mukadzi wake.

Boy: You are in for it.

Girl: Hapasisina tendeuko yekuti nekuti u tinobva tafungidzira kuti aa, muonero wacho ndewekuti zvoni wabva muhumhandara hwako iwewo musu iwowo. Kana wanga wakabva mumwe musu hazvichaziikanwi. But musu iwowo hapana pamamborara pamubhedha umwe uko akatarisa uko umwe akatarisa uko sevana vadiki.

Boy: Pane zvinenge zvarara zvichiitika.

Girl: Panofanira kunge patorine zvatoitika. Saka iwe hatichagoni kuzokuchengeta mumba semwana. Ehe, watoo mukadzi waJohn.

Boy: Zvakaoma

Girl: Ehe. Saka ukabvuma kudzokera kwawabva ndozvinobva zvatoitika. Ee. Vozongomirira kuti John achizouya kumba kwenyu kunoreva kuti mwana ndini ndinaye saka takudini..

Boy: Kunenge kwatove kutoroora uku?

Girl: Kwatoo kutorora

English translation:

Girl: Let's say you have returned to John's place. It means¹, "Yes, John is now mine." You will be in agreement saying, "I agree to be John's wife." Because if you sleep at his home... Traditionally, if you sleep at his home for one day, you become his wife.

Boy: You are in for it.

Girl: There is no reverse because we assume that... um... The perception is that you have lost your virginity on that day. Even if you had lost it on another day, they will not be

¹ the speaker meant to say you will be implying that

sure. But on that particular day there is no way that you can sleep in the same bed facing opposite sides like little children.

Boy: Something should have happened during the course of the night.

Girl: Something should have happened. So we can no longer take care of you as a child. You are now John's wife.

Boy: It is hard.

Girl: Yes. So if you agree to go back to where you will be coming from that is what happens. They [your parents] will be waiting for John to come and let them know that he has their daughter and now he is...

Boy: So he will be left with no choice but to marry.

Girl: He has to marry.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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